

# Introduction to Searching

## Planning Your Search

### 1. Try to rephrase your topic as a specific, focused question

(You won't be searching using the whole sentence, but it will help you focus).

Imagine you have been asked to write a paper that answers the following question:

***e.g. Which methods of physiotherapy will help to recover function in a 65-year old with heart disease?***

### 2. Breakdown the question into its major components/topics or key words.

(You will search each topic individually in advanced search)

Use **PICO** to help (you may not need all 4 elements of your search).

<b>P</b>	<b>Patient or Problem</b> – e.g. condition, disease, age etc.	Heart disease
<b>I</b>	<b>Intervention</b> – e.g. therapeutic, diagnostic, managerial	Physiotherapy
<b>C</b>	<b>Comparison</b> – e.g. alternative treatment, therapy or intervention, no intervention	No physiotherapy
<b>O</b>	<b>Outcome(s)</b> – e.g. clinical outcomes (morbidity, mortality etc.), patient outcomes (quality of life etc.), provider outcomes (service improvement etc.),	Recovery of function

### 3. Alternative words

Think of synonyms for your search terms, e.g.

- Heart disease OR coronary disease OR heart attack OR myocardial infarction OR cardiac problem OR atrial fibrillation
- Physiotherapy OR physical therapy OR exercise
- Recovery of function OR functional recovery OR level of activity OR mobility

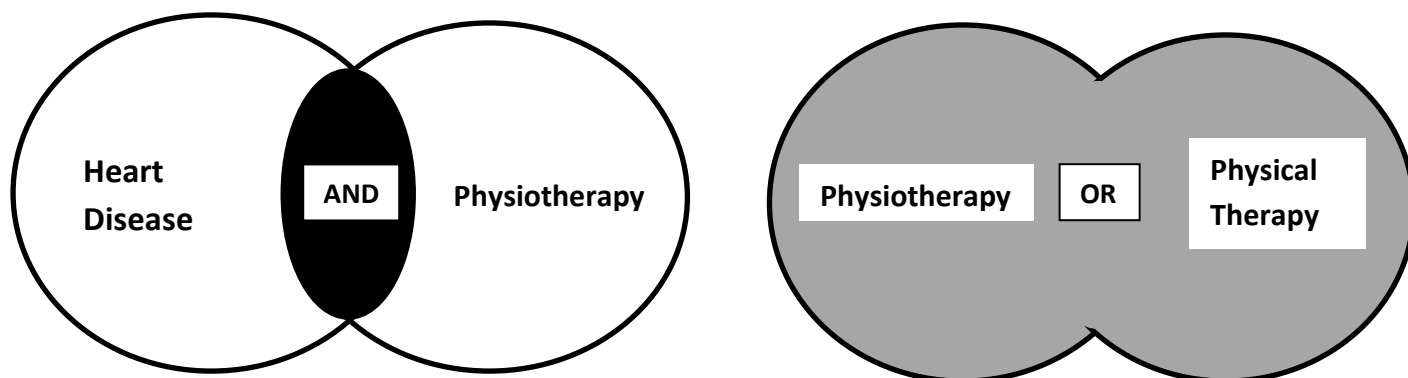
### 4. Select a database at <https://www.uhdblibrary.co.uk/e-resources>

e.g. Ovid (includes Medline, Embase, Emcare, HMIC, AMED), EBSCOhost (includes CINAHL, Medline), ProQuest (includes PsycInfo, BNI, Medline).

There is also PubMed, The Cochrane Library and TRIP Database.

## Conducting Your Search

## 5. Using Boolean Terms; AND, OR



- **AND** – this focuses a search, and decreases the number of results, e.g. heart disease AND physiotherapy
- **OR** – this widens a search, and increases the number of results, e.g. physiotherapy OR physical therapy

## 6. Apply limits

e.g. Age range: 60+, English Language, Gender, Study Type etc.

## Search Tips

- **Exact phrase**

Use quotation marks “ ” if you want words to appear next to each other in an exact phrase, e.g. “**advanced nurse practitioner**” “**complex regional pain syndrome**”

- **Truncation**

Shortening a word to retrieve multiple words

e.g. **develop\*** will find **develop, developing, developed, development, developmental etc.**

e.g. **manag\*** will find **manage, managing, management, etc.**

- **Using Adjacent**

Retrieves records with your terms in any order, within a specified number of words from each other, e.g. **ADJ3** means the words are (max) **3 words apart**.

- e.g. **cancer ADJ3 cells; activity ADJ3 level;**

- **Brackets ( )**

This is one way to combine results using both **AND** and **OR**.

- e.g. **(heart OR cardiac OR myocardial) AND disease**
- e.g. **(kidney OR renal) AND dialysis**

## Appraising Your Results

## 7. Appraise the evidence found.

A useful tool is CASP: <http://www.casp-uk.net/>