UH Libraries
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

2023

Searching the Health Literature 101

Health Sciences Libraries:

Fall Webinars

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Agenda

Choosing appropriate databases

Using PICO

Generating keywords

Identifying subject terms

Boolean operators

Working with results

Looking forward

PsycInfo
Alternate Name(s): APA PsycInfo

APA PsycInfo, American Psychological Association's (APA) renowned resource for abstracts of scholarly journal articles, book chapters, books, and dissertations, is the largest resource devoted to peer-reviewed literature in behavioral science and mental health. It contains approximately 3 million citations and summaries dating as far back as the 1600s with DOIs for over 1.4 million records. Journal coverage, which spans from the 1800s to present, includes international material selected from around 2,400 periodicals in dozens of languages.

PsycTests
Alternate Name(s): APA PsycTests

APA PsycTests serves as a repository for the full text of psychological tests and measures, as well as a rich source of structured information about the tests. A wide variety of test types are included in the database, including achievement and aptitude tests, intelligence tests, tests of cognitive functioning, occupational tests, personality tests, and so on. In-depth indexing of the tests and related information allows users to quickly identify the availability of tests in a certain area and to find helpful information for research and studies

PsycTherapy
Alternate Name(s): APA PsycTherapy

APA PsycTherapy is a database of streaming psychotherapy demonstrations featuring some of the most renowned therapists in North America working with participants on a host of therapeutic topics. It allows viewers to go straight to the heart of clinical practice with demonstrations of psychotherapy done by today's leading practitioners. It is a resource for teaching and training in psychotherapy practice and for education about psychology.

PubMed Popular
Alternate Name(s): MEDLINE (PubMed)

PubMed® comprises more than 30 million citations for biomedical literature from MEDLINE, life science journals, and online books.

Choosing Appropriate Databases

Will vary by question.

The classics:

✦ PubMed - Everything health & medical
✦ Embase - That, plus international, drugs, devices
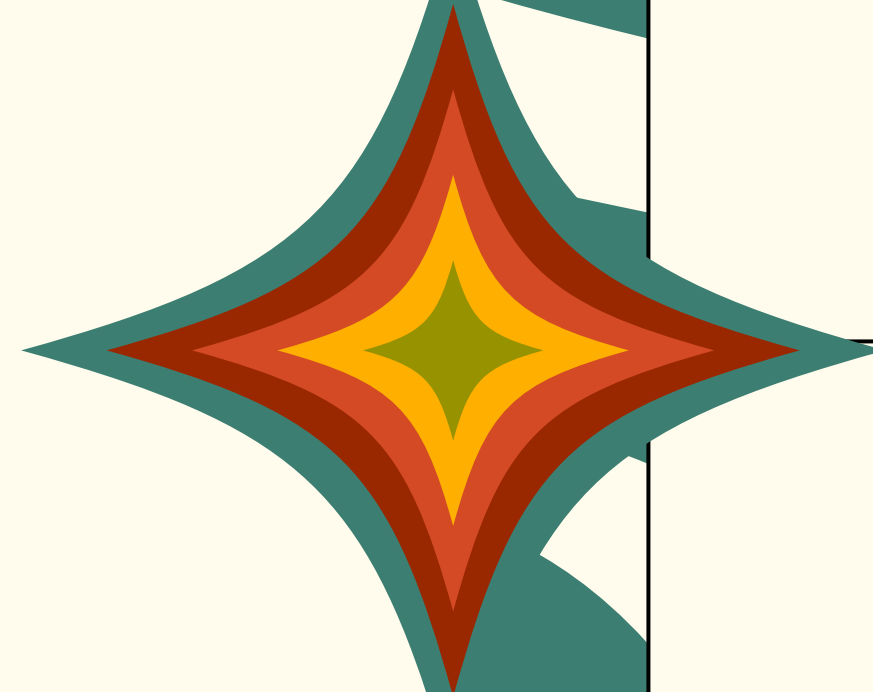✦ CINAHL - Nursing and allied health

Also consider:

✦ Is your topic interdisciplinary? Scopus
✦ Looking for the best way to teach something? Education Source
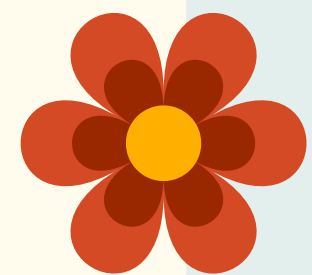✦ Examining behavioral science/mental health? PsycInfo
✦ Grey literature
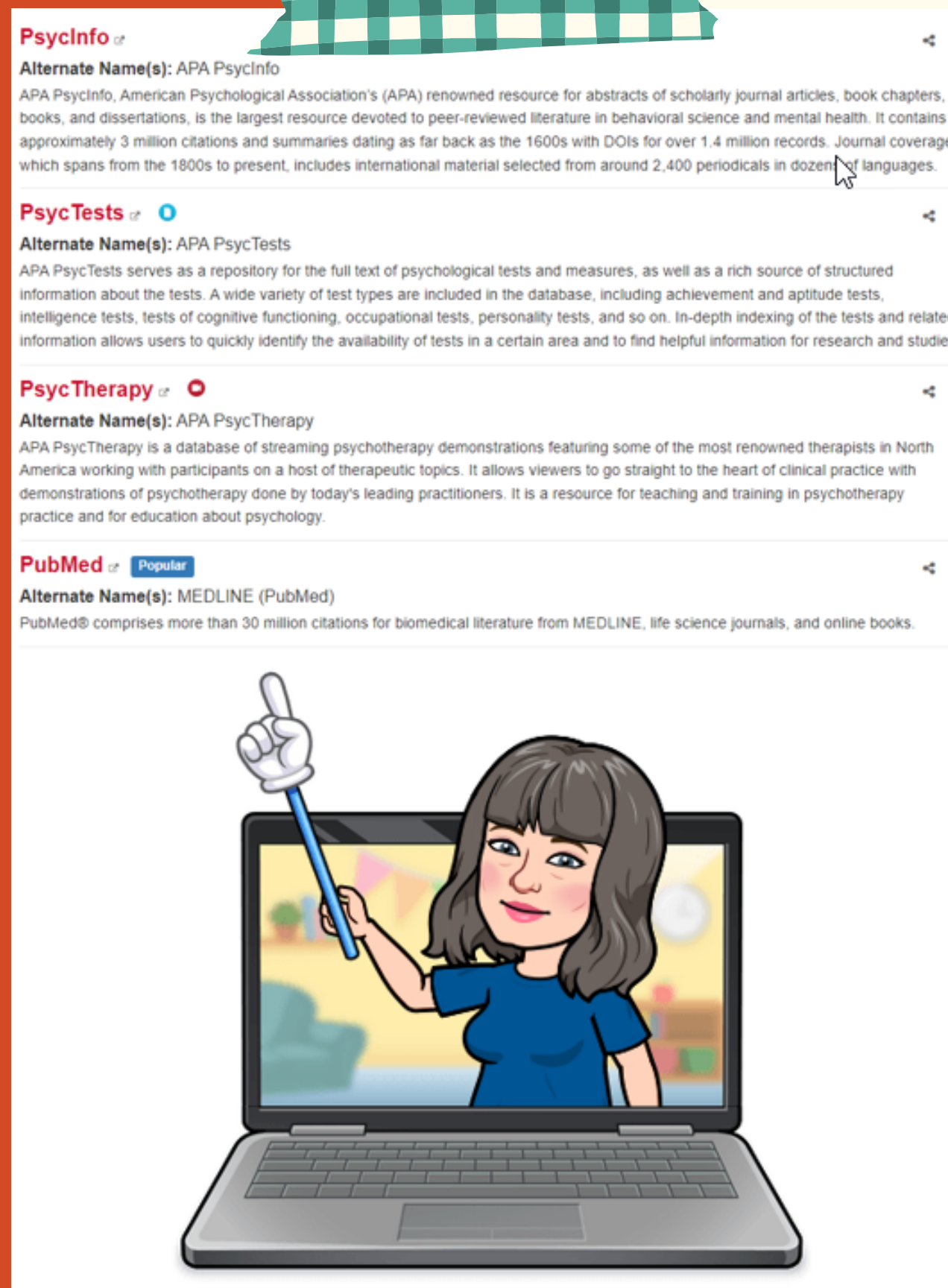
Using PICO

PICO is a tool to help us move from a question in sentence form to terms we can search in a database.

P	Patient, Population, Problem
I	Intervention, Independent Variable
C	Control, Comparison
O	Outcome

PICO ✦✦✦ Example

Do **interprofessional education (IPE) activities** improve health professions students' attitudes toward interprofessional collaboration?

»

Keywords
What do you call this object?

Keywords are terms that represent the main concepts you want to research.

Consider:

✦ Synonyms
✦ Spelling variations
✦ Umbrella vs. specific terms
✦ Acronyms

PICO

Moving from PICO to keywords - Do interprofessional education (IPE) activities improve health professions students' attitudes toward interprofessional collaboration?

Patient, Population, Problem	Intervention, Independent Variable	Control, Comparison	Outcome

PICO

Moving from PICO to keywords - Do interprofessional education (IPE) activities improve health professions students' attitudes toward interprofessional collaboration?

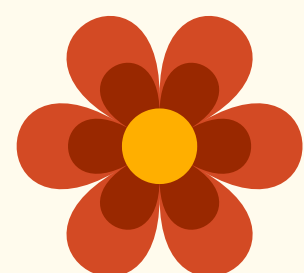| Patient, Population, Problem	Intervention, Independent Variable	Control, Comparison	Outcome
health professions students	interprofessional education		interprofessional collaboration
medical students	IPE		attitudes
nursing students	interprofessional learning		collaboration
optometry students			
pharmacy students			

MeSH

Emtree

SUBJECT TERMS

MeSH (Medical Subject Headings) is the NLM controlled vocabulary thesaurus used for indexing articles for PubMed.

"Anti-Bacterial Agents"[Mesh]
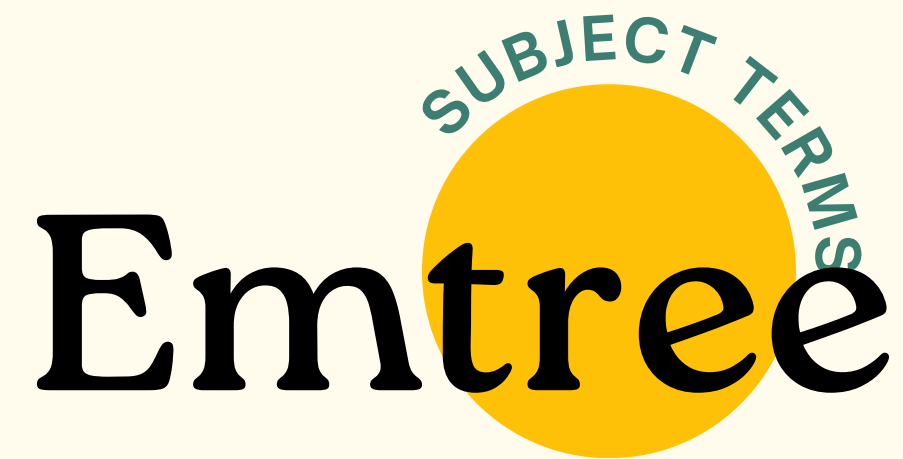
Emtree is Elsevier's authoritative life science thesaurus used in Embase.

exp antibiotic agent/

Boolean Operators

AND
- Narrows your search - Fewer results
- Use between different concepts

OR
- Expands your search - More results
- Use within one concept (synonyms)

NOT
- Excludes things from your search - Fewer results
- Use sparingly - May accidentally exclude relevant results
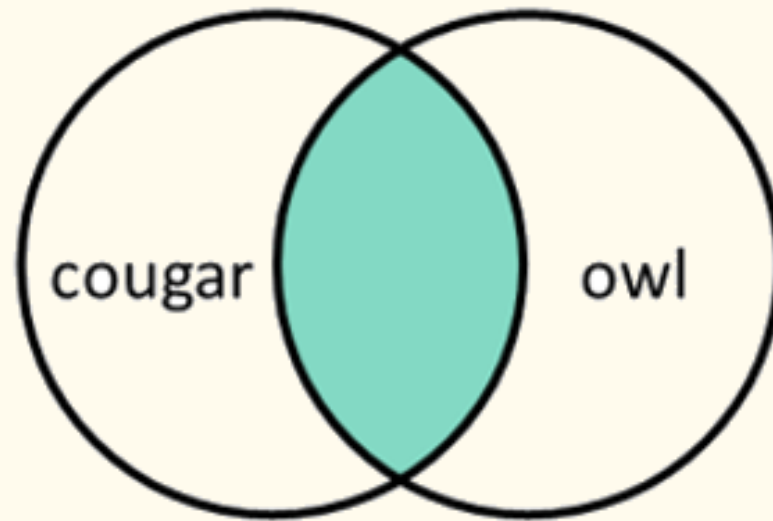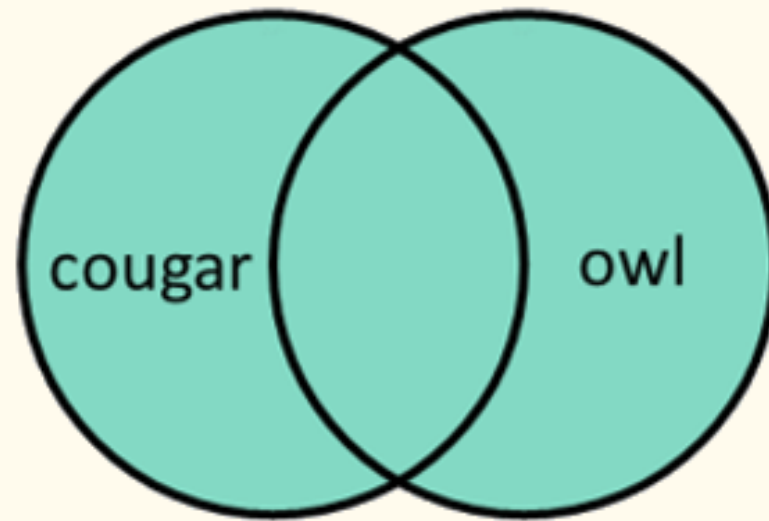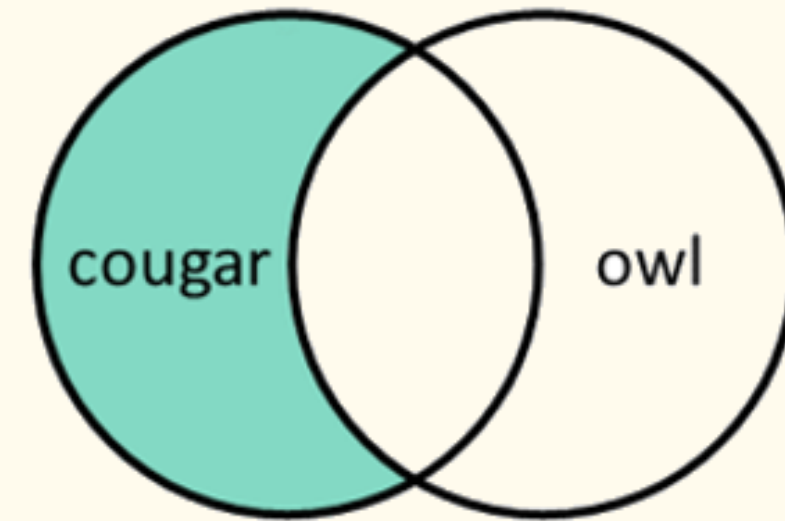
Putting it Together
Example

Do **interprofessional education (IPE) activities** improve **health professions students'** attitudes toward interprofessional collaboration?

Patient, Population, Problem	Intervention, Independent Variable	Control, Comparison	Outcome
health professions students	interprofessional education		interprofessional collaboration
medical students	IPE		attitudes
nursing students	interprofessional learning		collaboration
optometry students			
pharmacy students			

(health professions students OR medical students OR nursing students OR optometry students OR pharmacy students) AND (interprofessional education OR IPE OR interprofessional learning) AND (interprofessional collaboration OR attitudes OR collaboration)

Working with Results

You executed your search... now what?

Use database limits / filters. These are almost universally located on the left side of the results list.

- Date
- Methodology
- Publication type
- Language
- Subject, Journal, Author, etc.

Adjust the display

- Sort by relevance, date, author...
- Number of results shown per page
- View summaries or abstracts

Save / export results

- Email to yourself (or a friend)
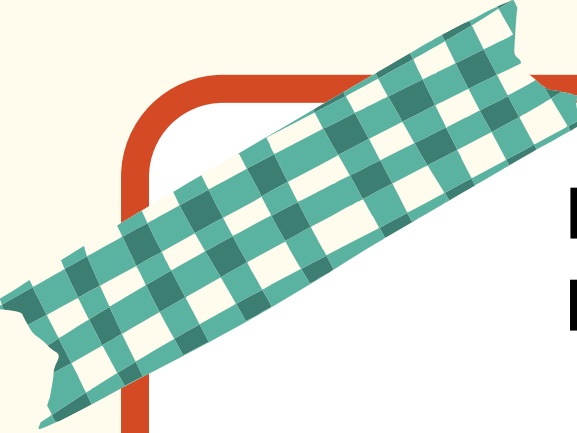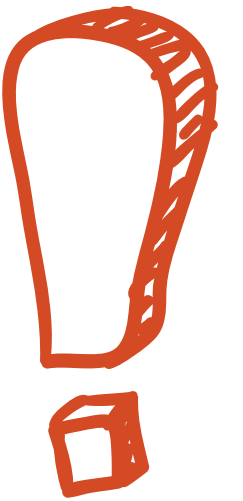- Export to a citation manager
- Use the "cite" button

Access
Full Text

Access databases through the library website or approved link.

A-Z list of databases:
https://guides.lib.uh.edu/az.php

PubMed: https://libraries.uh.edu/pubmed

Look for the "UH Find this Item" button:

UH Find This Item

Login with your Cougarnet when prompted

Use InterLibrary Loan (ILL) if we don't have it

We can typically get you a PDF pretty quickly
Don't pay for articles!
Can also be used for print materials

Resources
Slide

UH Libraries - https://libraries.uh.edu/

A-Z list of databases: https://guides.lib.uh.edu/az.php

UH PubMed link: https://libraries.uh.edu/pubmed

Citation Management tools:
https://guides.lib.uh.edu/citationmanagement

InterLibrary Loan (ILL): https://libraries.uh.edu/borrow/interlibrary-loan/

Health Sciences Library webinar recordings:
https://hdl.handle.net/10657/8896

Please join us for our upcoming webinars:

Thursday, October 5, 2023, 12-1 pm
PubMed 101

Thursday, November 9, 2023, 12-1 pm
Embase 101

Thank you! Questions?