Embase

Brown Bag Workshops 2015
USU Learning Resource Center
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**Who can I contact for Help?**

Contact the LRC via email: lrc.ref@usuhs.edu or phone: 301-295-3398.

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What is Embase?

Embase, a database owned by the Elsevier Corporation, is available through the LRC’s website. It contains over 29 million records for biomedical literature from over 8,500 journals from 1947 to the present. Embase includes all of MEDLINE with an additional 2,800+ journals not covered in MEDLINE. In addition, Embase includes over 1.75 million conference abstracts from 5,500 conferences since 2009.

Embase highlights:

• An excellent resource for researchers looking for articles with an international focus.
• Drug and disease search tools that offer specialized features specific to this type of searching, e.g., adverse drug reaction or drug combination.
• Like MEDLINE’s MeSH vocabulary, Embase uses the Emtree controlled vocabulary to index articles.

Accessing Embase

From the LRC website, http://www.lrc.usuhs.edu, sign in with your LRC username/password. Click on the Embase icon under Featured Resources.

Search Modes

Quick Search

Use Quick Search (the default search mode) to enter search terms and click Search. As you type, matching Emtree terms (page Error! Bookmark not defined.) appear. If you wish, you can select the terms as they are suggested.

• The Search as broadly as possible... box is checked by default. This mapping feature expands your term to include Emtree vocabulary and keywords.
• Use Boolean operators AND, OR, NOT (all caps) to combine search terms. Otherwise, all terms will be ANDed together.
• All Years is the default. Uncheck this box to enter your desired date range.

Once you click Search, Embase employs the automatic mapping feature to run you search, see below how Embase transformed the search strategy:
Additional Search Modes

Embase offers additional search modes to help you develop complex search strategies or conduct sophisticated drug, disease, and device searches.

Advanced Search

Use Advanced Search mode to construct more complex search strategies.

Use the tabs under the search box to limit by date, specific fields, language, gender, age, etc. The following tabs can be particularly useful in helping you refine or narrow your retrieval:

- **The Mapping tab** (default) allows you to control how Embase maps terms in Emtree, see page 10. A nice feature is that Embase will search your text as Emtree terms and in all fields (e.g., free text).
- **Use Quick Limits** to turn on the more commonly selected limits, e.g., English, Humans, etc.
- **The EBM tab** allows you to limit retrieval to Cochrane Reviews, Systematic Reviews, Controlled Clinical Trials, RCTs, or Meta-Analyses.
- **Use the Sources tab** to limit to Embase only records, or MEDLINE. Please note: This option can be helpful when you want to retrieve articles unique to Embase.
Drug Search

Use **Drug Search** to retrieve all information related to a specific drug or group of drugs. Please note: PubMed does not offer a comparable level of sophistication for conducting drug searches.

From this search mode, the following tabs are available:

- **Drug Fields** allows you to narrow your search to locate specific drug manufacturers (e.g., Pfizer) or to search by drug trade names (e.g., Tylenol).
- The **Drug subheadings** tab allows you to narrow by a specific aspect, e.g., Adverse drug reaction or Drug toxicity.
- Use the **Routes** tab to limit your drug search by the route of administration, e.g., Transdermal drug administration. There are nearly 50 options.

Disease Search

Use the **Disease Search** mode to retrieve articles that focus on a specific aspect of a disease, such as diagnosis, etiology, or prevention. The **Disease subheadings** tab offers fourteen options.
**Device Search**

Use the **Device Search** mode lets you focus your search on particular device, e.g., knee prosthesis. Note: PubMed does not offer this level of sophistication for conducting medical device searches.

Under this search mode, the following tabs are available:

- **The Device fields** tab allows you to narrow search to a manufacturer or trade name.
- **Device subheadings** retrieve articles that focus on adverse effects, comparisons, economics, or clinical trials.

**Article**

The **Article Search** mode is a quick search method for locating a single citation. This fill in the blank form allows you to enter the information you have, e.g., article title, author name, journal title, etc.
Search Tips

Boolean Operators (AND, OR, NOT)

- Use Boolean operators AND, OR and NOT to search the terms as you want.
  - Example: army OR navy OR marines OR veterans
  - Example: (army OR navy OR marines) AND (tbi OR traumatic brain injury)

Proximity Searching

Use proximity operators to search for words or phrases at any specified distance from each other.

- **NEAR/*n*: Searches for terms which are 'n' words of each other, in either direction, e.g., medical near/2 school retrieves: medical and dental school as well as nursing school and medical students.
- **NEXT/*n*: Searches for terms within 'n' words of each other in the order specified, e.g., hip next/3 prosthesis retrieves hip or knee prosthesis, hip resurfacing, prosthesis failure, etc.
  - The larger the number, e.g., near/5 or next/5, the larger the number of results, which can reduce the relevance of your retrieval.

Phrase Searching

- To force Embase to search for your terms as a phrase, enter them in single or double quotes, e.g., “heart attack” or ‘knee replacement’.

Wildcards & Truncation

- **Asterisk (*)**: Use to stand in for a variable number of characters. For example, cancer* would retrieve cancer, cancerous or cancers.
- **Question Mark (?)**: Use to stand in for one variable character. For example, wom?n retrieves woman or women; and catheter? retrieves catheter or catheters but not catheterization.

*Note*: Phrase searching and wildcard searching cannot be combined. Additionally, use of wildcards turns off the automatic mapping feature.
Viewing and Working with Results

Search Results

Once you click search, Embase will run your search and display the Search Results page. Results are displayed in publication date order with 25 items per page.

• Use **Sort by** to change the order to a **relevance** ranking or by the date articles were added.

• To change the number of items displayed per page, you will need to scroll to the bottom of the screen and increase **Records per page** up to 200 per page.

• Use the checkboxes to select items as you scroll through the results. Alternatively, click **Select number of items** to select the entire search results or another range.
  
  ⇒ Once you have selected items, select **View, Print, Export, Email**, or **Add to Clipboard**. Please note: The Order option is not available at this time.
  
  ⇒ Use **Add to Clipboard** to put the citations in the temporary folder. Once you are done, click **Tools**, and select **Clipboard**. The same views, print, export or email options are available.

• Each record indicates which database it is from (Embase and/or MEDLINE), the abstract, index terms, and full text if available.

  ⇒ Use the **title** to view the full record.

  ⇒ If the full text link is not available, click on the USU icon to search the LRC collection.

  ⇒ The **Cited by** link (next to journal title, volume, issue and page numbers) shows how many times an article has been cited in the SCOPUS database.
Results Filters
The Results Filters allow you to narrow or refine your results. To view the options under each filter, click on the filter or use Expand all.

- Each limit will display the number of results within your current search.
  - Use the checkbox to select and click Apply. To remove, click the checkbox again and click Apply.

History
The History area provides a record of searches conducted during a single session. To view your searches, click Expand/Collapse. Each search, identified with a search number, displays the search strategy and search results.

- To view results from a previous search, click on the results number, e.g., 634.
- To edit or set up an email alert, hover over the search to expand options. Note: To set up an email alert, you will need to create an Embase account (it's free).
- Also use the checkboxes to Combine searches using AND or OR, e.g., #7 or #8.
  - Use the Advanced option to manually enter search numbers and combine using parentheses along with the Boolean operators AND, OR, and NOT.
- Hover over a search to edit or set up an Email alert.
**Browse**

**Emtree (Browse)**

Emtree uses a hierarchically structured, controlled vocabulary called Emtree to index articles and conference abstracts. The Emtree thesaurus is very similar to PubMed’s MeSH, containing many of the same terms and hierarchy structure.

In **Advanced Search**, use the **Mapping** tab to map terms to Emtree as well as include all synonyms associated with the mapped term. Alternatively, you can use **Browse>Emtree** to build a search strategy.

- Since terms are arranged hierarchically, your search automatically includes narrower terms, e.g., a search for *behavior therapy* includes the narrower term, *virtual reality exposure therapy*. The default is to automatically “explode”; simply uncheck the box to turn off this feature.

- You may also narrow your results to where the term is the major focus of the article, such as *aromatherapy*. A search on this Emtree term will retrieve over 1,200 records. However, when limited as the **major focus**, the results are a little over 400 records.

![Browse Emtree](image)

- From this screen, enter a single topic in the search box and click **Find Term**. The database will return the best matches for the term entered as well as their position in relation to other Emtree terms.

- Click on the desired term to view in the Emtree hierarchical structure. You may remain with the suggested entry or select a broader or narrower term.

![Browse Emtree](image)

⇒ The **Explosion** box is checked to automatically include terms appearing below it in the hierarchy (e.g., esophagus speech, facilitated communication, and speech therapy). Uncheck the box if you don’t want this feature turned on.
⇒ Check the **Major Focus** box to have term be a core concept of the article.
⇒ Use **Add to Query Builder** to combine several terms and build a search strategy.
⇒ Select **Take this query to Advanced Search** will let you add additional limits available in the Advanced Search mode, (page 4).

**Journals**

Only journals that are indexed for Embase are listed. Please note: Journals that are unique to MEDLINE are not listed.

Use this feature to search within a specific journal and/or issue. Access the journal search feature by selecting **Browse** on the top menu and then **Journals**.

**Authors**

Use the author feature to search for publications by a specific author. Access the author search feature under **Browse** on the top menu and then select **Authors**.

Enter the last name of the author followed by a space and their initial(s) separated by periods. Select **Find**, check off the author you want to search for and select **Go**.
Tools

Under the Tools tab, you can:

- Access the **Clipboard** from your current session. In addition, from the Clipboard you can select all or select items and Save to Clipboard.

- The **Saved Clipboard, Saved Searches**, and **Email Alerts** are features that require you to have an Embase account.
  
  ⇒ To register for a free Embase account, click Register (top right on blue bar) and complete the registration process.
  
  ⇒ To learn more about these features, go the LRC website’s LibGuides on *Creating Saved Searches & Auto Email Alerts: Embase* <http://usuhs.libguides.com/emailalerts>