SPORTDISCUS

ACCESS TO THE DATABASE

Because Ovid Technologies, Inc. provides Nova Southeastern University with a license to use SPORTDiscus, access to the database is exactly the same as access to Medline or any other database supplied to NSU by Ovid. As you have done with Medline, click on “Ovid” in the grid that you find in the Provider/Vendor section of the Electronic Library’s menu. See the arrow.

Find the “Select a Database” page in Ovid and click on SPORTDiscus. The database resides at the very bottom of the list.
SEARCHING THE DATABASE

The “Main Search Page” of SPORTDiscus is practically the same as the one that you saw in Medline. Notice, however, that this database’s go back to 1949. In Medline, the earliest records originate in 1962. You will see the first topic, “Anterior Cruciate Ligament” already entered in the “Query Box.” As usual, click on the “Perform Search” button to execute the search.

On the “Mapping Display” page, you will find the topic already selected. Notice that there is no focusing mechanism. Your choice is either to “explode” on the term or not. It is better not to explode. As usual, to go on, you need to click on the “Continue” button.

On the following screen, you will see the next topic, “Therapy,” already entered into the query box.
Because there are so many permutations of the term “Therapy,” the search engine lists them all for you, so that you may choose the one that comes closest to the concept you have in mind. In this case, only the generic term is on target, as “Gestalt Therapy,” or any of the others have nothing to do with repairing a torn ligament. Notice that both “Therapy” as a controlled vocabulary word and “Therapy” as a natural language word have been selected in order to make sure that all possibilities have been covered.
THE “OR” BOOLEAN OPERATOR

There are quite a few terms that signify the concept of “Therapy.” In medicine, for example, “Management” means basically the same thing, as does “Therapeutics.” To make certain that you do not leave out pertinent information, information that might appear under a different word, you should include synonymous terms. Thus, “Management” has been entered into the query box. “Therapeutics” should also be searched, but for purposes of this presentation one synonym is sufficient to make the point. See below.

This time, as you see below on the “Mapping Display,” the search engine assumes that you mean “Management” as a business concept. Make sure to remove the check mark to the left of “Administration,” as this concept is not what you have in mind at all. Just stick to the generic “Management,” this time as a “Keyword.”
After executing the search, you will see all of the terms for the current search in the “Search History” grid on the “Main Search Page. The next step is to create a set of records that contain either “Therapy” or “Management” or both. This is achieved by using the Boolean “OR” operator between the sets with the synonymous terms. See the query box below.

Now combine the first set of records, namely, “Anterior Cruciate Ligament,” with the new set, the fourth set, containing both “Therapy” and “Management.” The syntax can be seen below in the fifth set displayed in the “Search History” grid.

Another way of getting the same results, but with one less step, is to combine both the “AND” and the “OR” operators in on search statement. You can see the syntax in the query box below. See the bottom arrow.
In the illustration below, you can see that the results are the same, using either the one syntax or the other.

![SPORTDiscus search interface](image)

All other functions: saving to disk, emailing, printing, and the like are exactly the same in SPORTDiscus as in any other database in the Ovid group.