Embase is an electronic database which indexes approximately 30 million records including articles from more than 8,500 journals. It is European in origin, indexes articles published since 1974 and is updated monthly. The subject coverage in Embase is particularly strong in the areas of drug and pharmaceutical research, pharmacology and toxicology.

The aim of this workbook is to help you to find references on Medline and Embase. After working through this sheet you should be able to:

- Sign on to Embase and Medline
- Search by keyword, subject, author and journal
- Display references in different formats
- Combine and limit searches
- Select and email references
- Find full-text journal articles
- Check availability of references

Always read these notes and the screen carefully as you work through the exercises.

Comments and queries: If you have any queries following the workshop, or any suggestions for how it could be improved please contact the Medical Sciences Liaison Team, ext. 87550, or e-mail: medliaison@ncl.ac.uk
Exercise 1  Access Embase via the Ovid interface

1.1  To login to Embase

Go to the University Library homepage at:

http://www.ncl.ac.uk/library/

Click on Databases, e-journals, e-books in the Subject support box on the left hand side of the page

Choose Ovid from the databases listed.

Choose accessing the database ‘on campus connection’.

Select the Embase database which covers 1996 to present, e.g. Embase (1996 to 2018 week (latest) by clicking on in the box to the left and click on OK.
Exercise 2—Searching Embase

Let’s carry out a simple search on Embase:

What information has been published about the diabetes mellitus in the last few years?

2.1 Search

Click in the search box to begin.

Type the words diabetes mellitus then click on Search

Embase matches (maps) this term to its list of subject headings.

Click on diabetes mellitus

Embase now shows you the tree structure of the subject index, with broader and narrower terms. We want articles on all aspects of the gastrointestinal tract so we want to include all the narrower terms in our search. Embase calls this exploding

2.2 Exploding a search term

Ensure that there is a tick in the box next to diabetes mellitus and also click in the box to the right, under the Explode heading.

Now click on Continue

Next you are offered a list of subheadings to add to, or qualify, your search.

You can add the ones you want by clicking in the appropriate boxes.

We want all references, so click the box next to Include All Subheadings, then Continue

You are returned to the original search screen and the results of your first search appear in the Search History window.

Embase uses a shorthand in the Search History box to show you how you performed this search. The exp shows that you exploded the term, and the / at the end shows you included all subheadings.
Exercise 3  Focusing your search term

Sometimes you will want to carry out a search and restrict it to find articles in which your topic is a key element. Subject headings in Embase can be major or minor - **Focus** restricts your search to articles where your search terms are "major".

What information has been published specifically on insulin?

3.1  Search by phrase

Click in the search box and type **insulin** and then click on **Search**

This maps directly to the Subject Heading **insulin**

Click on **insulin**

Scroll down the page to where **insulin** is highlighted.

You will see that there are no narrower terms in this subject tree so you do not need to explode the search. If there were narrower terms, they would be indented and listed underneath.

Ensure that the box to the left of **insulin** is selected, and click in the box under **Focus** to restrict our search to references where insulin is the main focus of the article.

Scroll up and click on **Continue**

Include All Subheadings in your search and **Continue**

You will be returned to the main search page.

The * in front of **insulin** shows that you focused your search.
Exercise 4  Search by keyword

Sometimes subject searching does not work satisfactorily as Embase cannot ‘map’ your search to something useful. This is when a Keyword search should be used.

What has been published recently on windsurfing?

4.1 Keyword Search

Enter the term **windsurfing** and **Search**

Embase is unable to map this to a useful Subject Heading.

Scroll down to the end of the list of subjects and you will see **windsurfing.mp**. **Search as Keyword**

Click on the box next to this to perform a keyword search.

Click on **Continue** at the top of the screen.

Embase will now look for this term in the titles and abstracts of the references contained on the database

You are returned to the Search History screen where you will see the results of your search.

4.2 Truncating a keyword

At the **Main Search Page** enter the term **windsurf$** and search for this as a keyword.

This search will find articles containing the term windsurf, windsurfs, windsurfer and windsurfing.

Complete the search as you did in the exercise above.

How has this affected the results of your search?

This is called **truncation**, and the dollar sign ($) or the asterisk (*) are the **truncation operators** in Embase.
Exercise 5  Limiting your search

You may wish to limit your search to include factors other than subject, for instance, by publication date, document type or language.

Let's limit the range of the previous search to articles published since 2001 in English.

5.1 Limiting your search

Click on the Limits underneath the search box.

Click on Additional Limits to see other options.

Your latest search is at the bottom of the search list. It is highlighted in a darker colour, indicating that this is the active search.

Click in the box next to English Language

Change the publication years to 2001 to 2018

Click on Limit A Search

What effect has this had on your search results?
Exercise 6  Displaying references in different formats

You can change the display format for the references you have found.

6.1 Displaying references

Scroll down to see list of references found in your previous search,

We will look at them in more detail.

Choose one of the references which is shown to have an abstract.

Click on Complete Reference to the right of the article details.

The details of the reference are now displayed including an abstract or summary of the content of the article and all the keywords and subject headings used to index it.

You will see a Find@Newcastle icon to the right and this will automatically take you to the full-text of the article if the University Library subscribes to an electronic version.

We will look at this in a later exercise.

Click on the Back to Search Results tab to return to the main search page.
Exercise 7  Combining Searches

In order to perform searches you need to break the research question down into searchable element.

Let’s take this question:

Have any original articles been published on the use of statins in the management or therapy of high blood pressure?

There are several elements to this question and it is good practice to break it down into those elements before you begin your search. The table below shows how you might do that:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject 1</th>
<th>statins</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subject 2</td>
<td>High blood pressure—management and therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publication type</td>
<td>Original articles (not reviews)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7.1  Subject searches

Search for your first subject, statins

Select the appropriate Subject Heading, and Explode if necessary.

(Hint: use the Scope note ( ) to see if this term is used for your search words).

Now search for the second subject high blood pressure. Explode if necessary.

Click on Continue.

Stop at the list of Subheadings, you need to include the idea of 'management and/or therapy' in your search—pick three subheadings which look like they cover this concept.

Click in the box next to your chosen subheadings and Continue

The results of this search will appear in the Search History.
7.2 Combining searches

You need to combine your two searches together to find articles where both subjects appear.

Find your last two searches from the list and click in the boxes alongside each search. Click on the appropriate combine button at the bottom of the box – And or Or to combine. You will need **AND** for this search.

7.3 Limit search to original articles

In order to locate original articles you will need to identify and eliminate the review articles from your search results.

Limit this search to **reviews. You will need to go into Additional Limits and choose the publication type Review.**

Remove these review articles from the results of this search by typing in the search box, the set number of your penultimate search followed by **not**, followed by the number of your last search, e.g. **8 not 9**, this will eliminate the review articles from your search results.

**Scroll down** to see if the results are relevant to the question.
Exercise 8  Combining keyword and Subject Searching in Embase

Keyword searching is often very useful for proper names, such as drug and therapeutic terms.

Has anything been published on the use of **Dermagraft** in the treatment of **diabetic foot ulcers**?

8.1 Search

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject 1</th>
<th>Dermagraft</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subject 2</td>
<td>Diabetic foot ulcers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>2000-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publication type</td>
<td>None specified</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Begin by searching for **Dermagraft**

Embase is unable to map this to a helpful, specific **Subject Heading**

Scroll down the list of subjects and you will see **dermagraft.mp** (Search as Keyword)

Select this and **Continue** (Embase will now look for the exact word in the title, abstract, heading word, trade name and manufacturer name fields).

Then search for **diabetic foot ulcers**
(Hint: if you are unsure which subject heading is the most appropriate, look at the **Scope Note** (ℹ️) to the right hand side of the term.

Select the **Subject Heading** you think will be most useful, **Explode** and **Focus** if necessary, include all subheadings.

**Combine** these searches.

Don’t forget to apply the date limit!
Exercise 9  Selecting and emailing records

You will need to be able to select references you are interested in and email them to yourself

9.1  Display and mark records

Scroll down to see the results of the last search. Tick the box to the left of the references you want to email. Click four references for the purposes of this exercise.

9.2  Emailing references

Click on Email in the toolbar at the top of the results.

In the To: box type in your email address

Tick one of the boxes from the Select Fields to Display drop-down menu in order to include the information that you want.

Tick the box at the bottom of the screen to Include Search History

Click on Send Email

Scroll up to the top of the page.
Exercise 10  Searching by author and journal title

This exercise shows you how to search for references by a known author (or joint author) or for articles in a known journal.

What articles has **Prof MD Rawlins** had published in the **British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology** since 2000?

10.1  Search by author

Above the search box, click the **Author** button.

Enter **Rawlins MD** and click on **Search**

At the list of authors, select the one you want (it is the first, which is already ticked), and click the **Search for selected terms** box.

10.2  Search by journal

Click the **Journal** button above the search box.

Enter the journal title, **British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology** and click **Search**

Tick in the box next to your title and click the **Search for selected terms** box.

10.3  Combine the searches

Combine the journal results with the previous search for the author MD Rawlins using **AND**.

Now limit the results of the search to **2000** to **2016**

From the results, what is the title of Prof Rawlins' 2004 paper?
Exercise 11   Locating documents

You will need to find out whether the reference you require is held in Newcastle University Library in print and/or via electronic journal subscriptions. This feature is called Find@Newcastle and links you directly into the electronic journal article, where available, or into the Library catalogue.

11.1 Electronic journal collection

The following reference should appear in your search results of your previous search.


Click on the link for this reference.

You will see from the next screen that this article is available in full text via PubMed Central. Click on PubMed Central to go to the journal.

Navigate to the article using the year, volume, issue and page information above. Click on the PDF link to download the full text article.

According to the discussion, how many large observational studies were used to show important differences in the risk of UGI bleeding between individual NANSAIDs?
Exercise 12  Locating clinical trials on Embase

Embase gives especially good coverage of drug literature and is therefore a good database to search for clinical trials in this area.

Let's try this question:

Have any clinical trials been carried out on Donepezil as a treatment for alzheimer disease since 2004?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject 1</th>
<th>Alzheimer disease</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subject 2</td>
<td>Donepezil - clinical trial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publication date</td>
<td>2004-2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12.1 Search

Begin by searching for Alzheimer disease

Now search for Donepezil, when you reach the Subheading Display screen select Clinical Trial

Combine the results and apply the year limit.

How many clinical trials have you found?
Exercise 13  Try a search of your own

Now construct your own search and break it down into its component parts

13.1 What is your question?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Now break your question down into its main elements using the boxes below

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject 1</th>
<th>Subject 2</th>
<th>Population group</th>
<th>Publication language</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Publication date</th>
<th>Publication type</th>
<th>Other limits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Now try doing a search, using Combining and Limiting as practised earlier

Logging off

From the main search page click on the **Logoff** icon in the top right hand corner.

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