SPORTDiscus

SPORTDiscus is a database of literature for sport and sports medicine studies with full-text from many respected journals. Providing extensive coverage in the areas of fitness, health and sport studies.

Connecting to SPORTDiscus with Full Text

Go to the Library homepage at: http://www.ncl.ac.uk/library/

Click Databases from the Subject Support box. SPORTDiscus is available from EBSCO so from the list of commonly-used databases, click EBSCO. Select EBSCOHOST Web. Scroll down to SPORTDiscus with Full Text (make sure you chose full text option) click on it.

Search Techniques

If you have more than one word to search for, you can use AND, OR and NOT to find results containing:

- one word AND another word
- one word OR another word
- one word but NOT another

**Tip for using AND, OR, NOT:**
exercise AND running will find records which contain both words somewhere
exercise OR running will find records containing either of the words (or both)
exercise NOT running will find records containing 'exercise' but not 'running'

Suppose you were searching for articles that contain the word 'exercise' and either 'running' or 'jogging'.

In the Search boxes type Exercise AND Running OR Jogging

**Question 1**: How many result did you find?
Subject Searching

Clear your previous search. Without changing the field option try a search for “Achilles Tendon Rupture” and note the result.

Now change the field option to SU: Subjects (Descriptors) and try the search again. The >100 results returned are likely to be the most relevant articles, however others that you have missed could have been useful.

Using Truncation

You can use symbols (‘truncation/wildcards’) to enable you to search for multiple word with a single search term. The most common wildcard is * (an asterisk), which can be used to represent any number of letters.

Suppose you were searching for articles about heart rate and exercise

Perform a topic search for “heart rate” AND exercise

Note the number of results.

Perform a topic search for “heart rate” AND exercis*

Question 2: Has the number of results increased, decreased or stayed the same?

The * wildcard character can stand for any number of letters, allowing a single term to represent several related words. Searching for exercis* locates results containing any word beginning with ‘exercise, exercises, exercising etc.

Grouping terms together using Parentheses

In SPORTDiscus parentheses can also be used to control a search query. Without parentheses, a search is executed from left to right. Words that you enclose in parentheses are searched first. Why is this important? Parentheses allow you to control and define the way the search will be executed. The left phrase in parentheses is searched first; then based upon those results the second phrase in parentheses is searched.
Search for: heart rate or exercise and endurance training or treadmill
Search for : (heart rate or exercise) and (endurance training or treadmill)

In the first example, the search will retrieve everything on "heart rate" as well as references to the terms "exercise" and "endurance training", and everything on "treadmill".

In the second example, we have used the parentheses to control our query to only find articles about heart rate or exercise that reference endurance training or treadmill.

**Question 3**: How would you use parentheses to search for articles on lactate threshold in runners or cyclists?

**Limiting searches**

You can use the refining options on the left of the results page to limit your search. Limit your last search to Academic Journal articles from 2000 to the present.

Click on Search History just below the search boxes to see how your searches have developed.

**Now try a search of your own**

Thinking carefully about what you’re looking for and using AND, OR, NOT, brackets, quotation marks, wildcards, limits, refining options (and other techniques) in the same search, you can get better control of the search results you get.
Help

There is a lot of on-line help available with SPORTDiscuss. To access it, click on the Help option on the Main Search Page.

Answers

Question 1 – 23807 (tbc)
Question 2 – Increased
Question 3 – lactate threshold AND (runner* OR cyclist*)

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