

OvidSP Frequently Asked Questions

Updated August 5, 2008

Q: *What is OvidSP?*

A: OvidSP is Ovid's precise, intuitive search and discovery platform. OvidSP simplifies the search process without losing the precision that satisfies complex, fast searches. All of OvidSP's features and functionality are designed based on direct feedback from our customers and their end-users.

Natural language searching across journals, books, and databases, enhanced search modes, additional functionality in the results display, and search aids are among the key features of OvidSP.

Q: *When was OvidSP released?*

A: OvidSP was originally released in October 2007. The current version was released in August 2008.

Q: *Is the interface available in languages besides English?*

A: Yes. The OvidSP interface is available in English, French, German or Spanish.

General Questions: Searching

Q: *What are OvidSP's features?*

A: OvidSP makes searching easier, faster, and more intuitive.

- **Free Text/Natural Language Processing (NLP):** Users can enter free text in the form of a complete question into the Basic Search box. No knowledge of command-line syntax is required. OvidSP parses the search string using a natural language processing technology. A key feature in OvidSP is the ability to search all resources—journals, books, databases—simultaneously using NLP.
- **Check Spelling:** OvidSP alerts users when a search term is misspelled so it can be corrected and desired results found more quickly.
- **Results Ranked by Relevance:** When conducting a search in Basic Search mode, OvidSP returns results in order of their relevance to the user's search query.
- **Boolean Support:** Users can conduct searches with Boolean operators, including AND, OR, NOT, and both the asterisk (*) wildcard and dollar (\$) wildcard character.
- **Command-Line Searches:** Users can use the "Advanced Ovid Search" or "SilverPlatter Search" tab for command-line searching or choose Basic Search for natural-language searches.
- **Search Modes -** Links at the top of the screen allow users to select their preferred search mode quickly, including:
 - **Basic Search:** Free text/natural language search.
 - **Find Citation:** A fielded search mode in which users enter values for particular fields, including digital object identifiers (DOIs) and unique identifiers (like PubMed IDs) to find a specific citation.
 - **Search Tools:** Single-click access to subject search tools, including map term, tree, permuted index, scope notes, explode, subheadings, classification codes, and more.
 - **Search Fields:** Users click this tab to search all available database fields, including Abstracts, Author Name, ISSN, and much more.

- Multi-Field Search: Combine search terms using multiple search fields in one step.
- Advanced Ovid Search / SilverPlatter Search: Search using traditional Ovid Gateway or SilverPlatter command-line searching.□
 - Thesauri
 - Subject headings
 - Find Citation
 - Term mapping
 - Find Similar
 - Index browsing
 - Limits
 - Fielded Searching
 - Command-line searching

Q: *Can you set up the Basic Search screen to default to having the limits open?*

A: Yes. To do so, contact Ovid Customer Support.

Q: *In Basic Search, can you search multiple terms on one line like PubMed?*

A: Yes, OvidSP's Basic Search lets users search multiple terms.

Q: *Why can't I see all the links on the Main Search Page all the time?*

A: OvidSP tab displays are determined by two factors:

- 1) Site configuration
- 2) Availability of the search mode to the resource(s) selected for the session. For example, the Search Tools tab is not available in Journals@Ovid. The Search Tools and Find Citation tabs are not available in Books@Ovid.

General Questions: Results Management, Search History and Workflow Tools

Q: *What options are offered in Search Results Display and Results Management?*

A:

- **Sorting Results:** OvidSP sorts results records in an intuitive, easy-to-use pull-down box that sorts results quickly based on available database fields.
- **Relevancy Ranking:** In the Basic Search mode, OvidSP ranks results from any database by relevancy of the user's search. Ovid uses a star ranking: 5 stars highlight the most relevant results. This is the same relevancy ranking system that was previously only available in Books@Ovid.
- **Annotate Results:** OvidSP lets users create, view, and edit annotations that appear as electronic "yellow sticky notes" that stay with their results.
- **Inline Abstracts:** Users can expand or collapse citation abstracts for efficient viewing of records in the search results display.
- **Similar Articles:** When available, OvidSP includes a Similar Articles link in a record's complete reference display.
- **Multi-file De-Duplication:** Users will be able to de-duplicate multi-file results.
- **Search History box:** Can now be placed either above or below the Search box for easier viewing.

Q: *What are OvidSP Search Aids?*

A:

- **Search Transparency:** OvidSP's Search Aid shows what was done to retrieve results from a search, displaying synonyms and spelling variants.
- **Narrow or Broaden Terms:** OvidSP Search Aid allows users to narrow their search by subject, author, or journal or to broaden a search by including related terms.
- **Author/Journal Suggestions:** OvidSP Search Aid offers the top author and journal matches based upon the frequency with which each appears in results.
- **Alerts:** OvidSP lets users set up Auto Alerts and eTOC alerts by means of RSS or e-mail delivery.

Q: *What are eTOCs?*

A: OvidSP's eTOCs (electronic table of contents) track and alert users to changes in a specific journal's table-of-contents. When a user subscribes to an eTOC RSS feed, it is added to the Common Feed List. The feed automatically downloads updated information to your computer.

Q: *How does deduplication work?*

A: Select a search statement from the Search History and click the Remove Duplicates button.

Q: *Do you provide cover images?*

A: Yes, where available, OvidSP displays Journal and Book covers.

Q: *Once I annotate a search result record, can I edit it?*

A: Yes, users can edit or delete any of their own annotations, but not the annotations of others.

Q: *Will Ovid work with EndNote so that OvidSP is a filter available to be imported by the software?*

A: Yes.

Q: *Can you export annotated records to EndNote?*

A: Yes. The ability to export to EndNote is supported.

Q: *Can I use diacritics in Annotations?*

A: Yes. OvidSP's annotation functionality supports the use of unicode characters.

Q: *What does OvidSP offer for Managing Accounts and Reporting tools?*

A:

- **Session Recovery:** Users can recover a session based on the Personal Identification Number (PIN).
- **Shibboleth and Athens Compliance:** OvidSP supports both Shibboleth and Athens authentication.
- **Usage Statistics Reporting:** OvidSP tallies COUNTER 2 compliant usage statistics for administrative viewing.

Q: *Has the Admin Tool been updated now with OvidSP?*

A: No. The Administration tool will be updated in a future release of OvidSP.

Q: *In a session recovery, is the whole session or just the last search recovered?*

A: OvidSP's session recovery retrieves all search statements in their original order.

NEW FUNCTIONALITY - August 2008

Q: What is My Projects?

A: My Projects is a convenient, new workspace where you can store and manage searches, results, images, full text and more.

Q: Do I need a personal account to use My Projects?

A: No, you do not need a personal account to use My Projects. However, to take advantage of the full benefit of the My Projects feature set, use of personal accounts is encouraged. Contact Ovid Customer Support to discuss setup options for your institution.

Q: What is Ovid Universal Search™?

A: Ovid Universal Search is Ovid's exclusive cross-platform search solution that retrieves results from all of your subscribed holdings and displays them within OvidSP. You can then review, analyze and organize results, and use OvidSP's search refinement and workflow tools

Q: How does Ovid Universal Search work?

A: Use Ovid Universal Search to search all of your subscribed content wherever it resides — on OvidSP, PubMed, other paid platforms, and your OPAC. Then use OvidSP's workflow tools to refine and manage all content retrieved from Ovid and non-Ovid sources on one single platform.

Q: Can I save results I discover when using Ovid Universal Search?

A: Yes. You can assemble and organize saved searches, articles, images, and other content retrieved through Ovid Universal Search into your My Projects workspace.

Q: Is Ovid Universal Search included with OvidSP?

A: No. The Ovid Universal Search feature is not part of the standard OvidSP system setup. For information on setting up a trial account for your institution, contact your Ovid Account Representative or support@ovid.com.

TRAINING

Q: Will Ovid provide training materials?

A: Yes. Ovid's professional staff can provide site administrators with WebEx training sessions; some of the sessions will be open to users. In addition, we provide updated Quick Reference Guides. Please check the [OvidSP Resource Center](#) for updates on these materials and the pre-registration for all online WebEx training sessions.

Q: How can I update all of my customized Ovid training material?

A: To support your on-site training, we have fact sheets, screenshots, online tutorials, and other materials available on the [OvidSP Resource Center](#).

TECHNICAL

Q: Are there any specific browser or technical requirements for OvidSP?

A: OvidSP is designed to work well at 1024x768 or higher. We support the following browsers:

- IE 6.x
- IE 7.x
- Firefox 1.5+
- Firefox 2.x
- Netscape 8.1+

Q: What version of RSS does OvidSP support?

A: OvidSP supports RSS 2.0.

Q: Does OvidSP support Safari for the Macintosh?

A: OvidSP will not support Safari. However, a future release will support Safari.

Q: What other browser capabilities do I need for OvidSP?

A:

- Configure pop-up blockers to allow popups from *.ovid.com.
- Install a plug-in for viewing PDF files.
- Enable your system to view video/mpeg, video/mov, video/avi, audio/wav, and other common multimedia file formats.

FOR SILVERPLATTER CUSTOMERS TRANSITIONING TO OVIDSP

Q: What is the status of the SilverPlatter platform?

A: The SilverPlatter platform will be available until Q1 2009. SilverPlatter customers must work with Ovid Customer Support to plan and schedule transition details. Begin the process by contacting your sales representative to arrange for a trial to OvidSP at your site.

Q: Will command-line searches in OvidSP work the same way they did in Ovid SilverPlatter?

A: Yes, use the "SilverPlatter Search" tab for command-line searches.

Q: Will anything happen to any of my customizations like jumpstarts or Auto Alerts?

A: No. Ovid Customer Support will seamlessly transition customized accounts upon migration to OvidSP.