

OvidSP Frequently Asked Questions

Updated August 17, 2009

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 2009.

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 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.
- **Search Options:** Users can use the "Advanced Ovid Search" 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:** Search using 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 is best used when entering an entire question or statement for the search query. For more information on Basic Search, please visit our resource center at resourcecenter.ovid.com.

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.

Q: *What are eTOCs?*

A: OvidSP's eTOCs (electronic tables of contents) track and alert users to newly loaded journal issues. When a user subscribes to an eTOC RSS feed, the feed automatically populates your RSS reader with recently loaded table of contents for the subscribed journal. When a user subscribes to an eTOC via email, the table of contents of recently loaded journals will be delivered via email.

Q: *How does deduplication work?*

A: Select a search statement from the Search History and click the Remove Duplicates button. You may also select preferences for which de-duplicated results to keep, as well as review the duplicate results.

Q: *Do you provide cover images?*

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

Q: *Must the journal cover images remain open or can they be closed?*

A: Journal cover images can be closed by clicking the Close Cover link on the journal's Table of Contents page and by clicking the Hide Cover link on the Full Text display page. On the Table of Contents page, administrators can universally display or not display covers for all users. If displayed, the user may choose to have the cover opened or closed, and the setting will remain the default when a new session is opened. On the Full Text page, each user can show or hide covers according to his/her preferences. However, the setting will always default to show the cover when a new session is opened.

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 annotations 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 3/SUSHI compliant usage statistics for administrative viewing.

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.

Universal Search

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: *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 2.x +

Q: What version of RSS does OvidSP support?

A: OvidSP supports RSS 2.0.

Q: Does OvidSP support Safari for the Macintosh?

A: OvidSP does not currently 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.