

## What is Basic Search?

Extensive research with librarians, information managers, and end users has told us that different types of searchers use different styles of searching. That's why Ovid designed OvidSP with a variety of search modes that researchers can choose from, depending on how they like to search and the type of information they need.

Basic Search employs Natural Language Processing (NLP), which was designed to retrieve the most relevant results possible from a simple, complete search query. NLP takes a simple search query without the need for syntax rules, search conventions, or complicated and redundant search strategies, and returns the most appropriate, relevant results available.

Basic Search goes beyond standard keyword searching, with the use of lexicons that are able to both verify spelling as well as expand terms on the original search query by using "Include Related Terms". (Note, too, that Basic Search was created with the future in mind. Ovid will continue to enhance Basic Search with additional content-specific lexicons to make results more relevant in various subject categories).

**Understanding Basic Search** includes sample scenarios of who uses Basic Search and when, as well as information on recommended search query types, best practices, and more.

- Who Uses Basic Search?..... Page 1 - 6
- Search Query Types..... Page 8
- What is 'Include Related Terms'?..... Page 8
- How Does Relevancy Ranking Work?..... Page 9
- Best Practices..... Page 9

## Who Uses Basic Search?

### 1. All user types who want to receive relevant results quickly:

These include novice or advanced users who want to instantly generate a list of relevant results that are in any way related to their search query.

#### Example:

A nursing instructor needs to review with ICU nurses how to insert a PICC line. A search of multiple ebooks and the Ovid Nursing database generates an extensive list of book passages and chapters, as well as bibliographic citations where this specific technique is discussed and illustrated.

1. From the database selection screen, select **Books@Ovid** and **Ovid Nursing Database**.
2. In Basic Search, enter a simple search query: **how to insert a picc line**.
3. Make sure to check the boxes for **Check Spelling** and **Include Related Terms**.
4. Click **Search**.

The screenshot shows the search interface for the Ovid Nursing Database, Books@Ovid. The 'Basic Search' tab is selected. The search query 'how to insert a picc line' is entered in the search box. Below the search box, the 'Check Spelling' and 'Include Related Terms' checkboxes are checked, while 'Universal Search' is unchecked. A 'Search' button is visible to the right of the search box. Below the search options, there is a 'Limits' section with a 'Click to expand' link.

5. Search results are ranked by relevance and include book chapters and bibliographic records.

OvidSP  
 Customize Display | Reset Display | How Relevancy is Calculated  
 View All Abstracts:  Sort By: SCORE Results Per Page: 10

Results of your search: **how to insert a picc line (Including Related Terms)**

Viewing 1-10 of 518 Results Next Page >

Go to #:  GO >

[Remove Duplicates](#)

---

**Score: ★★★★★**

1. *Ovid Nursing Database* Linck DA, Donze A, Hamvas A. **Neonatal peripherally inserted central catheter team. Evolution and outcomes of a bedside-nurse-designed program.** [Evaluation Studies. Journal Article. Research Support, Non-U.S. Gov't] *Advances in Neonatal Care*. 7(1):22-9, 2007 Feb.  
 UI: 17536330  
 AN: 17536330

**Authors Full Name**  
 Linck, Deborah A. Donze, Ann. Hamvas, Aaron.

- Abstract
- Complete Reference
- Ovid Full Text
- Full Text
- Library Holdings
- Document Delivery
- Bibliographic Links
- Internet Resources

---

**Score: ★★★★★**

2. *Books@Ovid Source: Handbook of Geriatric Nursing Care* (2nd Edition)  
**Publisher:** Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2003  
**Chapter:** PERIPHERALLY INSERTED CENTRAL VENOUS CATHETER INSERTION AND CARE  
**Passage:** To **insert** a **PICC** Note: Most regulating Boards require at least 8 hours of class time and three successful **PICC** insertions under the guidance of a preceptor before a nurse is considered **PICC** competent. Select the insertion site, and place the tourniquet on the patient's arm. Assess the antecubital fossa. If the patient will be receiving blood or blood products through the **PICC line**, use at least an 18G catheter.  
[Purchase Print Copy](#)

- Complete Reference
- Ovid Full Text
- Document Delivery

6. Click on the book chapter search result to view the full text.

Books@Ovid Title Search TOC Results Display

[View Copyright Statement](#) | [Purchase Print Copy](#)  
**Handbook of Geriatric Nursing Care**  
 > Table of Contents > PERIPHERALLY INSERTED CENTRAL VENOUS CATHETER INSERTION AND CARE > Implementation > To insert a PICC

Search:     Check Spelling

- To insert a PICC
- To administer drugs
- To change the dressing
- To remove a PICC
- Complications
- Patient teaching
- Documentation
- [+] PERITONEAL DIALYSIS
- [+] PERITONITIS
- [+] PET THERAPY
- [+] PERITONEAL EFFUSION AND

### To insert a PICC

Note: Most regulating Boards require at least 8 hours of class time and three successful **PICC** insertions under the guidance of a preceptor before a nurse is considered **PICC** competent.

- Select the insertion site, and place the tourniquet on the patient's arm. Assess the antecubital fossa.
- If the patient will be receiving blood or blood products through the **PICC line**, use at least an 18G catheter.
- Remove the tourniquet.
- Determine catheter tip placement or the spot at which the catheter tip will rest after insertion. For placement in the subclavian vein, use the nonsterile measuring tape to measure the distance from the insertion site to the shoulder and from the shoulder to the sternal notch.
- For placement in the superior vena cava, measure the distance from the insertion site to the shoulder and from the shoulder to the sternal notch. Then add 3" (7.6 cm).
- Have the patient lie in a supine position with his arm at a 90-degree angle to his body. Place a linen-saver pad under his arm.
- Open the **PICC** tray and drop the rest of the sterile items onto the sterile field.

## 2. Power/advanced users who want to make sure they've captured all of the available relevant results:

Because Basic Search uses synonyms from a natural language lexicon, it uses any terms worthy of inclusion in the search. Users begin with Advanced Ovid Search; then perform a Basic Search to "beef up" the Advanced Ovid Search, generating results that may be peripherally related to the research, but still relevant. The comprehensiveness of doing both an Advanced Search, with its precision control, and a Basic Search enables the user to expand the search scope to a complete set of results.

### Example:

A medical librarian at a large teaching hospital receives a question from a second-year resident asking for the latest literature on treating adenovirus hemorrhagic cystitis after allogeneic marrow transplant. She performs the search in EMBASE® because of its comprehensive scope and pharmacological strength.

1. From the OvidSP database selection screen, select **EMBASE**.
2. Perform an initial search in Advanced Search mode.

<input type="checkbox"/>	# ▲	Searches	Results	Search Type	Display
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	exp Adenovirus/	12084	Advanced	DISPLAY
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	Hemorrhagic Cystitis/	1399	Advanced	DISPLAY
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	allogenic bone marrow transplantation/	5251	Advanced	DISPLAY
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	1 and 2 and 3	12	Advanced	DISPLAY
<input type="checkbox"/>	5	<b>current treatment for adenovirus hemorrhagic cystitis after allogeneic marrow transplant {Including Related Terms}</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>Basic</b>	DISPLAY

3. Note that 12 results are generated from an Advanced Search.

OvidSP

Customize Display | Reset Display

View All Abstracts:  Sort By: - Results Per Page: 25

Results of your search: 1 and 2 and 3

Viewing 1-12 of 12 Results

Your Recent Searches [+]

1. Mori T., Yamada Y., Aisa Y., Uemura T., Ishida A., Ikeda Y., Okamoto S. **Cold agglutinin disease associated with adenovirus infection after allogeneic bone marrow transplantation** [2]. [Journal: Letter] *Bone Marrow Transplantation*. 36(3)(pp 263-264), 2005. Date of Publication: Aug 2005.

Find Similar Find Citing Articles

- Complete Reference
- Ovid Full Text
- Full Text
- Library Holdings
- Document Delivery
- Bibliographic Links
- Internet Resources

2. Fioriti D., Degener A.M., Mischitelli M., Videtta M., Arancio A., Sica S., Sora F., Pietropaolo V. **BKV infection and hemorrhagic cystitis after allogeneic bone marrow transplant**. [Journal: Article] *International Journal of Immunopathology and Pharmacology*. 18(2)(pp 309-316), 2005. Date of Publication: Apr 2005.

View Abstract

Find Similar Find Citing Articles

- Abstract
- Complete Reference
- Library Holdings
- Document Delivery
- Bibliographic Links
- Internet Resources

4. Enter a complete query in Basic Search – **current treatment for adenovirus hemorrhagic cystitis after allogeneic marrow transplant**.
5. Make sure to check the boxes for **Check Spelling** and **Include Related Terms**.
6. Click **Search**.

7. Notice that there are more than 500 results.

OvidSP  
 Customize Display | Reset Display  
 View All Abstracts:  Sort By: SCORE Results Per Page: 25

Results of your search: **current treatment for adenovirus hemorrhagic cystitis after allogeneic marrow transplant (Including Related Terms)**

Viewing 1-25 of 503 Results  
 Your Recent Searches [+]  
 Next Page >>

Go to #:  go >>

**Score: ★★★★★**

1. Miyamura K., Hamaguchi M., Taji H., Kanie T., Kohno A., Tanimoto M., Saito H., Kojima S., Matsuyama T., Kitaori K., Nagafuji K., Sato T., Kodera Y.  
**Successful ribavirin therapy for severe adenovirus hemorrhagic cystitis after allogeneic marrow transplant from close HLA donors rather than distant donors.** [Journal: Article] *Bone Marrow Transplantation*. 25(5)(pp 545-548), 2000. Date of Publication: 2000.

- Abstract
- Complete Reference
- Full Text
- Library Holdings
- Document Delivery
- Bibliographic Links
- Internet Resources

---

**Score: ★★★★★**

2. Fioriti D., Degener A.M., Mischitelli M., Videtta M., Arancio A., Sica S., Sora F., Pietropaolo V. **BKV infection and hemorrhagic cystitis after allogeneic bone marrow transplant.** [Journal: Article] *International Journal of Immunopathology and Pharmacology*. 18(2)(pp 309-316), 2005. Date of Publication: Apr 2005.

- Abstract
- Complete Reference
- Library Holdings
- Document Delivery
- Bibliographic Links
- Internet Resources

### 3. Power/advanced users working in an area of research they might be unfamiliar with:

In this case, users start out in Basic Search, entering a basic query in everyday language, then use the **Complete Reference** link to uncover Subject Headings or controlled vocabulary terms they can then use in a precision Advanced Ovid Search.

#### Example:

A drug development team is working on a new arthritis drug and is in the early stages of due diligence and basic research on existing competing products, specifically methotrexate. A junior member of the team does an initial Basic Search in EMBASE.

1. From the OvidSP database selection screen, select **EMBASE**.
2. Start in Basic Search mode, entering the following query in everyday language: **side effects of long term use of methotrexate for arthritis**.
3. Make sure to check the boxes for **Check Spelling** and **Include Related Terms**.
4. Click **Search**.

**Search** EMBASE 1996 to 2009 Week 07

Basic Search | Find Citation | Search Tools | Search Fields | Advanced Ovid Search | Multi-Field Search

Enter your topic or question in ordinary English.

Check Spelling  Include Related Terms  Universal Search

▶ Limits (Click to expand)

5. Click on **Complete Reference** in the second citation...

Customize Display | Reset Display | How Relevancy is Calculated View All Abstracts:  Sort By: SCORE Results Per Page: 10

Results of your search: **side effects of long term use of methotrexate for arthritis (Including Related Terms)**

Viewing 1-10 of 509 Results [Next Page >](#)

Go to #:  [GO >](#)

**Search Aid**

**Your search**

*Search terms used:*

- side effects
- adverse effect
- adverse effects
- adverse reaction
- adverse reactions
- ▶ side effect
- untoward effect
- untoward effects
- adverse drug experience
- adverse drug experiences
- ▶ adverse drug reaction
- adverse drug reactions
- drug experience report
- drug experience reports
- toxic reaction
- toxic reactions
- toxic effect
- toxic effects
- ▶ complication
- complications
- undesired effect
- undesired effects

**Score: ★★★★★**

1. Kinder A.J., Hassell A.B., Brand J., Brownfield A., Grove M., Shadforth M.F. **The treatment of inflammatory arthritis with methotrexate in clinical practice: Treatment duration and incidence of adverse drug reactions.** [Journal: Article] *Rheumatology*. 44(1)(pp 61-66), 2005. Date of Publication: Jan 2005.

[View Abstract](#)

[Find Similar](#) [Find Citing Articles](#)

---

**Score: ★★★★★**

2. Swierkot J., Szechinski J. **Side effects of methotrexate treatment in patients with rheumatoid arthritis.** [Journal: Article] *Advances in Clinical and Experimental Medicine*. 17(4)(pp 387-394), 2008. Date of Publication: July/August 2008.

**Publisher**  
Wroclaw University of Medicine

[View Abstract](#)

[Find Similar](#) [Find Citing Articles](#)

- Abstract
- **Complete Reference**
- Ovid Full Text
- Full Text
- Library Holdings
- Document Delivery
- Bibliographic Links
- Internet Resources

...to reveal a list of Subject Headings and controlled vocabulary terms.

**Result 2.** **Side effects of methotrexate treatment in patients with rheumatoid arthritis**

Swierkot J., Szechinski J.

[Find Similar](#) [Find Citing Articles](#)

*Link to...*

- Abstract
- Library Holdings
- Document Delivery
- Bibliographic Links
- Internet Resources

---

<b>Score</b>	★★★★★
<b>Accession Number</b>	2008465435
<b>Authors</b>	<a href="#">Swierkot J., Szechinski J.</a>
<b>Institution</b>	(Swierkot, Szechinski) Department of Rheumatology and Internal Medicine, Silesian Piasts University of Medicine, Wroclaw, Poland. (Swierkot) Wroclawska 36A, 55-012 Zerniki Wroclawskie, Poland.
<b>Correspondence Address</b>	J. Swierkot, Wroclawska 36A, 55-012 Zerniki Wroclawskie, Poland. E-mail: jurekswierkot0@poczta.onet.pl
<b>Country of Publication</b>	Poland
<b>Title</b>	<b>Side effects of methotrexate treatment in patients with rheumatoid arthritis.</b>
<b>Source</b>	Advances in Clinical and Experimental Medicine. 17(4)(pp 387-394), 2008. Date of Publication: July/August 2008.
<b>Publisher</b>	Wroclaw University of Medicine
<b>Subject Headings</b>	<a href="#">Abdominal Pain</a> / <a href="#">si</a> <a href="#">[Side Effect]</a> <a href="#">Acute Leukemia</a> / <a href="#">si</a> <a href="#">[Side Effect]</a> <a href="#">Adult</a> <a href="#">Age Distribution</a> <a href="#">Aged</a> <a href="#">Alopecia</a> / <a href="#">si</a> <a href="#">[Side Effect]</a> <a href="#">Anemia</a> / <a href="#">si</a> <a href="#">[Side Effect]</a> <a href="#">Article</a> <a href="#">Blood Oxygen Tension</a> <a href="#">Blood Toxicity</a> / <a href="#">si</a> <a href="#">[Side Effect]</a> <a href="#">Breast Cancer</a> / <a href="#">si</a> <a href="#">[Side Effect]</a> <a href="#">Bronchitis</a> / <a href="#">si</a> <a href="#">[Side Effect]</a> <a href="#">Clinical Examination</a> <a href="#">Controlled Study</a>

- Note, too, how methotrexate is also listed in the Subject Headings list. You can use these terms as search terms in Advanced Search mode.

[Cyclosporin A / cb \[Drug Combination\]](#)  
[Cyclosporin A / dt \[Drug Therapy\]](#)  
[Diuretic Agent / ae \[Adverse Drug Reaction\]](#)  
[Diuretic Agent / cb \[Drug Combination\]](#)  
[Diuretic Agent / dt \[Drug Therapy\]](#)  
[Folic Acid / dt \[Drug Therapy\]](#)  
[Infliximab / ae \[Adverse Drug Reaction\]](#)  
[Infliximab / cb \[Drug Combination\]](#)  
[Infliximab / dt \[Drug Therapy\]](#)  
[Leflunomide / ae \[Adverse Drug Reaction\]](#)  
[Leflunomide / cb \[Drug Combination\]](#)  
[Leflunomide / dt \[Drug Therapy\]](#)  
[\\*Methotrexate / ae \[Adverse Drug Reaction\]](#)  
[\\*Methotrexate / cb \[Drug Combination\]](#)  
[\\*Methotrexate / do \[Drug Dose\]](#)  
[\\*Methotrexate / dt \[Drug Therapy\]](#)  
[Nonsteroid Antiinflammatory Agent / ae \[Adverse Drug Reaction\]](#)  
[Nonsteroid Antiinflammatory Agent / dt \[Drug Therapy\]](#)

#### 4. All types of users searching a specific database that they're unfamiliar with:

Basic Search is ideal if you don't know how a specific database works. Similar to the above scenario, clicking the **Complete Reference** link displays the specific index terms or Subject Headings for that database. You can then use those terms in Advanced Ovid Search, Basic Search, or any other OvidSP search mode.

#### Example:

A graduate student in agriculture is contributing to a paper for an academic publication. He's at the initial stages of his research and his faculty advisor has suggested he search in AGRICOLA, but he's unfamiliar with the database structure. So he runs a "quick and relevant" search in Basic Search to find out the index terms and Subject Headings.

- From the OvidSP database selection screen, select **AGRICOLA**.
- Enter the query in everyday language – **effect of fungicide seed treatment combinations**.
- Make sure to check the boxes for **Check Spelling** and **Include Related Terms**.
- Click **Search**.

Search		AGRICOLA 1970 to January 2009			
<b>Basic Search</b>	Find Citation	Search Tools	Search Fields	Advanced Ovid Search	Multi-Field Search
Enter your topic or question in ordinary English.	<input type="text" value="effects of fungicide seed treatment combinations"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check Spelling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Include Related Terms	<input type="checkbox"/> Universal Search	<input type="button" value="Search &gt;&gt;"/>
▶ <b>Limits</b> (Click to expand)					

- Once the search results are generated, view the **Search Aid** to see the list of thesaurus terms for the AGRICOLA database. You can also click on **Thesaurus** in Search Aid to display the exact section of the thesaurus related to a specific term.
- In addition, click on **Complete Reference** in a search result to display a citation's Subject Headings and controlled vocabulary terms.

**OvidSP**  
 Customize Display | Reset Display | How Relevancy is Calculated  
 View All Abstracts:  Sort By: SCORE Results Per Page: 10

Results of your search: **EFFECT OF FUNGICIDE SEED TREATMENT COMBINATIONS (Including Limited Related Terms)**

Viewing 1-10 of 566 Results [Next Page >](#)

Go to #:  [GO >](#)

**Search Aid**

**Your search**  
 Search terms used:  
 fungicide  
 ▼ fungicides  
     **Thesaurus**

seed  
 seds  
 ▼ seeds  
     **Thesaurus**  
     treatment  
     therapeutic aspects  
     disease management  
     combinations  
     additive  
     addition

**Narrow search**  
 Narrow your results by:

**Score: ★★★★★**

1. Lawrence, K.S. Schrimsher, D. Norris, B. **EFFECT OF SELECTED FUNGICIDE SEED TREATMENT COMBINATIONS ON COTTON SEEDLING DISEASE IN NORTH ALABAMA, 2007** [Journal Article. State, Provincial, Territorial, etc. Government Publication] *Research report series. 2008 Mar., no. 32. p. 41.*  
**AN:** IND44135744.

**Complete Reference**  
 **Library Holdings**  
 **Document Delivery**  
 **Internet Resources**

---

**Score: ★★★★★**

2. Batson, William E. Caceres, Jacobo. Carvajal, Rafaela. **Evaluation of selected seed treatment fungicides and combinations for kenaf stand establishment** [Book. State, Provincial, Territorial, etc. Government Publication. Bibliographies] [*Mississippi State, Miss. : Mississippi Agricultural & Forestry Experiment Station, [2000]. Research report / Mississippi Agricultural & Forestry Experiment Station ; vol. 22, no. 10.*]  
**AN:** CAT11091344.

Now you know the terms to use in an Advanced Search.

**OvidSP**  
 How Relevancy is Calculated  
 Results of your search: **EFFECT OF FUNGICIDE SEED TREATMENT COMBINATIONS (Including Limited Related Terms)**

Viewing #1 of 566 Results [Return to results](#) [Next Page >](#)

Go to #:  [GO >](#)

**Search Aid**

**Your search**  
 Search terms used:  
 fungicide  
 ► fungicides  
     seed  
     seds  
 ► seeds  
     treatment  
     therapeutic aspects  
     disease management  
     combinations  
     additive  
     addition

**Narrow search**  
 Narrow your results by:  
 ► Subjects  
 ► Authors  
 ► Journals

**Result 1.** **EFFECT OF SELECTED FUNGICIDE SEED TREATMENT COMBINATIONS ON COTTON SEEDLING DISEASE IN NORTH ALABAMA, 2007** Link to...

Lawrence, K.S., Schrimsher, D., Norris, B. 
 **Library Holdings**  
 **Document Delivery**  
 **Internet Resources**

---

**Score** ★★★★★

**Accession Number** IND44135744.

**Author** [Lawrence, K.S. Schrimsher, D. Norris, B.](#)

**Title** EFFECT OF SELECTED **FUNGICIDE SEED TREATMENT COMBINATIONS** ON COTTON **SEED**LING DISEASE IN NORTH ALABAMA, 2007

**Source** Research report series. 2008 Mar., no. 32. p. 41.

**ISSN** 1072-074X

**Subject Headings** [Gossypium hirsutum](#), [seed cotton](#), [seedlings](#), [fungal diseases of plants](#), [fungicides](#), [seed treatment](#), [disease control](#), [crop yield](#), [Alabama](#).

**Category Code** [Plant Diseases \(Fungal\) \[F831\]](#), [Plant Production \(Field Crops\) \[F120\]](#).

**Publication Type** Journal Article. State, Provincial, Territorial, etc. Government Publication.

**Language** English.

**HAL Location** S541.5.A2R47.

**Electronic Location** <http://www.ag.auburn.edu/aaes/communications/researchreports/07cottonrr.pdf> Available from publisher's Web

## What types of search queries work in Basic Search?

Generally speaking, three types of queries work best when using Basic Search:

1. **Group of terms: a concise expression of a concept**  
Childhood obesity in America
2. **Full query: a question or phrase stated in plain English**  
What are the most effective treatments for childhood obesity?
3. **Copy and paste a title: a variation of one or both of the other query types**  
Efficacy of maintenance treatment approaches for childhood overweight

Basic Search will take the search criteria (as in the examples above) and filter out words that are deemed to be irrelevant, or “noise” words. With these words removed, OvidSP can identify concepts and validated terms to search for.

ORIGINAL QUERY	FILTERED WORDS	VALIDATED TERMS
childhood obesity in America	in	childhood, obesity, America
What are the most effective treatments for childhood obesity?	what, are, the, most, for	treatments, childhood, obesity
efficacy of maintenance treatment approaches for childhood overweight	of, approaches, for	efficacy, maintenance, treatment, childhood, overweight

## What is 'Include Related Terms'?

One of the ways that OvidSP’s Basic Search extracts accurate results is by allowing the researcher to expand upon the original search criteria with word variations, strong synonyms, and acronyms. This powerful strategy removes the need for the redundant searching of like terms. For instance, from our above example, we can see the validated terms from the original search criteria and the expanded search terms for which OvidSP searches:

VALIDATED TERMS	EXPANDED TERMS
treatments	treatment, therapy, palliative, relieve, ameliorate, alleviate, therapeutic, relief, therapies, therapeutics, amelioration, relieving, alleviated, alleviation, alleviating, ameliorates, relieves, alleviates, reliefs, management, intervention, cure, treated
childhood	childhood, childhoods, child, children, kid, kids
obesity	adiposes, adiposis, adiposities, adiposity, obesities, overweight, overweightes

## How Does OvidSP's Relevancy Ranking Work?

Researchers who are accustomed to command-line searching are used to seeing results that match their search criteria exactly. While this can be an effective approach, in some instances it leads to an enormous number of results and, in many cases, does not always deliver relevant results. This can require a number of additional searches in order to target desired content.

In contrast, Basic Search was designed to retrieve the most relevant results, not all results. The way in which OvidSP achieves this is by evaluating certain criteria:

- Count:** **How many search concepts appear in the result**  
Basic Search assigns the highest relevancy to results that include all of the validated terms within the original search criteria. For example, a passage that includes the terms "treatments" "childhood" and "obesity" will have a more profound ranking than a passage that only includes "treatments" and "obesity".
- Importance:** **How rare the terms are in the database**  
Terms that are rare are given greater weight than more common terms.
- Prominence:** **Where terms appear in a result**  
Terms that occur in the title of a citation or chapter are given greater weight than those that occur in descriptor fields or section headings, while those that occur in abstracts or full text are given even less weight.
- Frequency:** **How often the concepts appear in the passage (frequency criteria applies only to books)**  
Concepts that appear a number of times within a passage gain higher ranking than if they appear seldom within the passage.

## Best Practices

To make the most of OvidSP's Basic Search, follow the tips below:

- **Be mindful of search query types** – There are three types of searches that work best:
  1. Group of terms: a concise expression of a concept
  2. Full query: a question or phrase stated in plain, everyday English (free text)
  3. Copy and paste a title: a variation of one or both of the above query types
- **Using "Include Related Terms"** – When you select "Include Related Terms", OvidSP will expand upon the entered search criteria by including synonyms, acronyms, and variants of the original term(s).
- **State queries concisely** - For example, "noise" words detract from the concept: **really big ekg changes in highly advanced hypokalemia**. Instead, keep it simple: **ekg changes in hypokalemia**.
- **Use nouns more than verbs** - Nouns are the natural home for concepts. They are easy to identify and have less ambiguity. There is research supporting the idea that search quality is high when the strategy extracts noun phrases from queries and OvidSP has adopted that approach.
- **Do not force phrasing** - Imposing quotation marks, parenthesis, or hyphens within a query causes OvidSP to not consider possible expansions. For example in the search **weather related migraine**, if you force a hyphen in the phrase **weather-related**, you lose all expansions on the word **weather** because OvidSP perceives the hyphenated phrase as a single term that has no possible expansions.
- **Select "Check Spelling"** - Use the Basic Search spell checker to avoid common spelling errors. In addition, Basic Search provides a spell checking option that checks your spelling against all terms in the lexicon and the database.