8 step guide to searching OvidSP

1. Content
OvidSP provides access to a range of biomedical and health-related bibliographic databases, including: AGRIS; EMBASE; Global Health; HMIC; IPA; Maternity & Infant Care; Medline; and PsycINFO.

2. Planning your search
Break down your search question into keywords. Consider using PICO (Patient, Intervention, Comparison, Outcome) for clinical queries or ECLIPS (Expectations; Client Group; Location; Impact; Professionals Involved; Service) for service development queries as a way to do this.
You also need to choose the most appropriate database(s) for your search; see the ‘Key databases for...’ user guides for more information: http://www.kcl.ac.uk/library/help/guides.aspx

3. Access the databases
Use your King’s College London username and password to log in.
Go to the Databases link on the library homepage http://www.kcl.ac.uk/library/
Enter the name of a database from the list in section 1, or type ‘Ovid’. Click on the relevant link to one of the databases on the OvidSP platform. Log in using your King’s College London username and password. Click on ‘Continue’ and then select one of the databases listed – ticking more than one database at this stage will limit the effectiveness of your search. Remember to pay attention to the date ranges offered for each database.

4. The search screen
The default search method with King’s College London accounts is Advanced Ovid search with mapping to thesaurus subject terms. Whichever database you access, the search screen will look very similar to the one below:
5. Search history

From Search History you can delete, combine, save searches, and display results.

6. Combining searches

Tick the boxes of the lines of the searches you wish to combine (e.g. 1 and 2) and then select AND or OR using the logic below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Search</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>stress OR anxiety</td>
<td>Documents that discuss either stress or anxiety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stress AND anxiety</td>
<td>Documents that discuss only both stress and anxiety</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. Displaying, filtering, and exporting your search results.

- At the top of the results list you then use the icons to work with these results i.e. to print, email or export (including to Word, PDF, bibliographic software such as RefWorks or EndNote) and add to MyProjects (where you can store results on specific topics).

8. Further information and advice

Library Services offers regular and tailored training sessions in database searching, searching for systematic reviews and bibliographic reference management software. See:

http://www.kcl.ac.uk/library/subjectsupport/trainingforyoursubject.aspx