

# Tip Sheet – Ovid MedLine

## Suggested Field Tags:

One of the ways that key word searches can be narrowed in databases when running a comprehensive and systematic search is through the use of field tags – most commonly those associated with title, abstract, and key words. The specific field tags that can/should be used differ by database. **In Ovid MedLine, we recommend ab,kf,kw,ti**, which searches the title, abstract, keyword, and keyword heading.

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

1 Resource selected | Hide | Change

Ovid MEDLINE(R) and Epub Ahead of Print, In-Process, In-Data-Review & Other Non-Indexed Citations, Daily and Versions(R) 1946 to November 24, 2021

(search terms) ab,kf,kw,ti. Search Display Indexes >

My Fields All Fields Clear Selected

af All Fields  ab: Abstract  al: Abstract Label  id: Article Identifier

## Proximity Operators:

Proximity operators in databases allow you to search for one word/phrase within a certain proximity to another word. For example, you could use a proximity operator to find the word systematic *within two words of* the word protocol. Proximity operators are best used to create relationships or associations between words that cannot be accomplished through phrase searching and other search functions. **In Ovid MedLine, the proximity operator is adj#.**

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

1 Resource selected | Hide | Change

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(search term 1) adj2 (search term 2) Search Display Indexes >

My Fields All Fields Clear Selected

af All Fields  ab: Abstract  al: Abstract Label  id: Article Identifier

## Updating a Search:

When you need to update a search that you have previously performed, best practice is to use database commands that *capture the records entered into the database* after the date of the last search run where such commands are available. Due to a lag between an items publication and its inclusion in the database, entry date is not always the same as publication date, making it a less precise search option that should only be used in cases where the database is not able to distinguish between the two. **In Ovid MedLine, the command for updating a search is limit (search #) to ed=YYMMDD.**

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

1 Resource selected | Hide | Change

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Enter keyword or phrase (\* or \$ for truncation)  Keyword  Author  Title  Journal

limit 1 to ed=20210101-20211125 Search Expand Term Finder >

▼ Limits (close)  Include Multimedia  Map Term to Subject Heading

## Database Quirks:

- If your search term includes the word use, you must put quotations around it – “use” - or the full search line or it will not run the search
- You have to be in the Search Fields search box to run text word and proximity searching; use Advanced Search for Mesh terms.