Search Tips for Ovid databases (CAB Abstracts, FSTA, Agricola, Agris, Medline...)

Do not use Basic Search, which is too simple and not suitable for serious literature search in the databases. Instead use the Advanced Ovid Search.

Operators in Advanced Ovid Search

**OR**
Searching for: *swine or pig* will retrieve references to journal articles or books containing either the word *swine* or the word *pig* (or both words).

**AND**
Searching for: *salmonella and cattle* will retrieve references containing both the word *salmonella* and the word *cattle*

**NOT**
Searching for: *pig NOT guinea pig* will retrieve references only with *pig* but the word *guinea pig* is excluded from the results.

**Parentheses ( )**
Searching for: *salmonella and (swine or pig)* will retrieve references containing the word *salmonella* and either the word *swine* or the word *pig* or both words.

**ADJn (n is a number between 1 and 99)**
Searching for: *obesity adj2 sugar* will retrieve references containing *obesity* within 2 words of *sugar* (in any order).
Searching for: *obesity adj3 sugar* will retrieve references containing *obesity* within 3 words of *sugar* (in any order).

**Phrases**
Searching for: *organic acids* will retrieve references containing the words *organic* and *acids* next to each other (i.e. as a phrase).

**Truncation – wildcards**

* ? = 0-1 character
Searching for: *flavo?r* will retrieve references containing the word *flavor* or the word *flavour*
Searching for: *pig?* will retrieve references containing the word *pig* or the word *pigs.*

* * = 0-more characters
Searching for: *pig* will retrieve references containing the word *pig*, *pigs*, *piggery*, *piggeries*, *piglet*, *piglets*, *pigeon or pigeons* etc.
Search limits

Limit a search to title, heading words or to other search field

If the Title button is selected, searching for *swine or pigs* will only retrieve references containing the word *swine* or the word *pigs* in the title of the article.

Searching for: *(swine or pigs).ti* will retrieve the same references as if you selected the Title button

Searching for: *(swine or pigs).ti,hw* will retrieve references containing the word *swine* or the word *pigs* in the title (TI) and/or the heading words (HW) of the article.

If search number 2 was: *swine or pigs*, searching for: *2.ti* will retrieve references containing the word *swine* or the word *pigs* in the title of the article.

Search Tools

Search Tools provides different lists of subject headings, thesaurus, index.

Use Search Tools to find search terms, synonyms, similar terms and related terms.

Change database

Click Change to choose other Ovid databases and click Run search to rerun the previous search in one or more databases at once.

Remove duplicates

When searching in multiple databases simultaneously, it is possible to remove duplicates by clicking Deduplicate. Unfortunately, not all duplicates are removed.