**Boolean Worksheet: A Medline/PubMed Search**

**Step 1: Choose databases** that suit your research question

**Sample Search**

**Sample Research Question:** Is there evidence that the use of a mobile phone while driving increases the incidence of accidents?

**Recommended Databases:**
- CINAHLPlus
- Medline (via PubMed or Ovid)
- PsycINFO
- Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews
- JBI (Joanna Briggs Institute) EBP Database
- Scopus
- Web of Science
- Embase
- ProQuest Central
- Dissertations and Theses Global
- Other_______________________________

For the sample search, we will start in PubMed

**Your Search**

**Your Research Question:**

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**Recommended Databases:**
- CINAHLPlus
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- Other_______________________________

**Step 2: Perform a simple keyword search**

Identify **keywords** that describe the important concepts in your research question.

**Sample Keywords:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concept 1</th>
<th>Concept 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>driving</td>
<td>mobile phone</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Connecting keywords with **AND** in the database search retrieves article citations that contain both terms.

**Your Keywords:**

AND

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**Step 3: Expand** your search with MeSH terms and other synonyms

From the initial search results, retrieve alternate terms/synonyms/MeSH subject terms for one or both concepts.

Combining these terms with OR expands the search to find citations with ANY of the added terms (Remember – OR retrieves MORE!)

Sample Synonyms:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concept 1</th>
<th>Concept 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(driving OR automobile driving)</td>
<td>(&quot;mobile phone&quot; OR &quot;text messaging&quot; OR texting OR &quot;cell phone&quot;)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A larger OR’d set of MeSH/keywords/synonyms may be recombinied with AND to narrow the search

**Step 4: Add limits to your results**

Most databases allow you to add “limits” or “filters” that restrict search results by characteristics such as type of study, type of article, date, time factors, age group, etc.

In your search, look for database ‘filters’, limits’ or ‘refinements’ to narrow your search.

You may want to consider how you can apply the following filters to best suit your research needs:

- **Article Type:**
- **Date:**
- **Language:**
- **Age Group:**

*Pro Tip: If you are looking for articles about a particular age group of patients, DON’T include terms like ‘pediatric’ or ‘elderly’ in your search. Instead, use the age group filter that is available in many databases*