**Off-Grid Searching – The Third Way?**

An automated grid can do searches, just using the terms you select from it. This is a quick way to create and run different search strategies.

- **Try it out?**
  - It’s used for complex library searches & for training. **Feedback has been very positive.** Users quickly grasp it.

**Overview:**

- Searches often start with terms on a grid. Eg: PICO. Combining these with Boolean logic creates the search strings.
- However, this process can be hard for new searchers and time-consuming for experienced ones. **...but what if you could search selected terms directly from the initial grid?**

### New Basic Search Grid:

**Boolean operators are automatic**

Terms in same column linked with OR
Whole columns linked with AND

**Selected terms are included in search:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selected Terms</th>
<th>Patient</th>
<th>Intervention</th>
<th>Comparison</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension</td>
<td>aspirin</td>
<td>red wine</td>
<td>heart attack</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>high blood pressure</td>
<td>NSAIDS</td>
<td>polyphenols</td>
<td>myocardial infarction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Orange Terms Selected**

(Hypertension AND aspirin AND polyphenols AND myocardial infarction)

**Blue Terms Selected**

(high blood pressure AND NSAIDS AND heart attack)

This is a very quick way to explore different combinations of terms on multiple sites.

### Advanced Search Grid:

**Now add modified sets of terms**

This expands the possibilities. Using for example:

- **Double quotes**
  - To focus on phrases or remove stemming

- **Fields**
  - To search in specific parts of the records

PubMed codes used as labels, but are automatically adapted for other sites

**Keywords**

With PubMed codes, used as before

Create additional columns of filter terms

**Orange Terms Selected**

((Hypertension OR "high blood pressure") AND (aspirin OR NSAIDS) AND (red wine OR polyphenols) AND (heart attack OR myocardial infarction))

**Blue Terms Selected**

Hypertension[MeSH]
Anti-Inflammatory Agents, Non-Steroidal[MeSH]

**Purple Terms Selected**

Hypertension[MeSH]

This expands the possibilities. Using for example:

- **Only the term(s) selected by the user get searched at any one time.** The grid can be larger.

**Double quotes**

To focus on phrases or remove stemming

**Fields**

To search in specific parts of the records

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With PubMed codes, used as before

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Create additional columns of filter terms

**References**

1. **Search Whiteboard** is on: [http://exeterhealth.libguides.com/searching/Resources](http://exeterhealth.libguides.com/searching/Resources)