		MEDLINE (PubMed interface)	Embase (embase.com interface)	CENTRAL	CINAHL (EBSCOhost interface)	Web of Science	Scopus
		US oriented bibliographic database which includes all aspects of clinical medicine, biological sciences, education and technology	*European oriented bibliographic database that covers similar topic to MEDLINE and includes biomedical and pharmaceutical international journals.*	*Register of controlled trials as part of The Cochrane Library*	*Bibliographic database with emphasis on nursing and other paramedical professions*	*Bibliographic database in sciences, social sciences, arts and humanities*	*Bibliographic database in science, technology, medicine, social sciences, arts and humanities*
Boolean operators		OR; AND; NOT	OR; AND; NOT	OR; AND; NOT	OR; AND; NOT	OR; AND; NOT	OR; AND; AND NOT
Subject Headings (SH)	Name	Medical SH (MeSH)	Emtree Term	Medical SH (MeSH)	CINAHL headings	-	-
	Explode #	"x"[Mesh]	'x'/exp	[mh "x"]	MH "x+"		
	Not explode	"x"[Mesh:NoExp]	'x'/de	[mh ^"x"]	MH "x"		
Search of single word in …	title and abstract	"x" [TIAB] x [TIAB]	'x':ti,ab x:ti,ab	(x):ti,ab x :ti,ab	TI "x" OR AB "x" TI x OR AB x	-	TITLE-ABS(x)
	keywords	"x"[OT] x[OT]	'x':kw x:kw	(x):kw x:kw	-	-	KEY(x)
	title, abstract and keywords	"x"[TIAB] x[TIAB]	'x':ti,ab,kw x:ti,ab,kw	(x):ti,ab,kw x:ti,ab,kw	-	TS=("x") TS="x"	TITLE-ABS-KEY(x)
Search of phrase (combination of words next to each other) in …	title and abstract	"x y" [TIAB] x y [TIAB]	'x y':ti,ab	("x y"):ti,ab "x y":ab,ti	TI "x y" OR AB "x y"	-	TITLE-ABS({x y}) (exact phrase) TITLE-ABS("x y") (loose phrase)
	keywords	"x y"[OT] x y[OT]	'x y':kw	("x y"):kw "x y":kw	-	-	KEY({x y}) (exact phrase) KEY("x y") (loose phrase)
	title, abstract and keywords	"x y"[TIAB] x y [TIAB]	'x y':ti,ab,kw	("x y"):ti,ab,kw "x y":ti,ab,kw	-	TS=("x y") TS="x y"	TITLE-ABS-KEY({x y}) (exact phrase) TITLE-ABS-KEY("x y") (loose phrase)

		MEDLINE	Embase	CENTRAL	CINAHL	Web of Science	Scopus
Wildcard/ Truncation Operator^		y* (multiple)	y* (multiple characters) y? (single character) y$ (0/1 character)	y*(multiple characters) y? (single character, but not compatible with field labels such as :ab,ti)	y* (multiple characters) y? or y# (single character)	y* or y$ (multiple characters) y? (single character)	y* (0 or more characters anywhere in a word) y? (single character anywhere in a word)
Search of single word with wildcard operator in …	title and abstract	y* [TIAB]	y*:ti,ab y?:ti,ab y$:ti,ab	y*:ti,ab	TI "y*" OR AB "y*"; TI "y?"OR AB "y?"; TI "y#" OR AB "y#"	-	TITLE-ABS(y*) TITLE-ABS(y?)
	keywords	y*[OT]	y*:kw y?:kw y$:kw	y*:kw	-	-	KEY(y*) KEY(y?)
	title, abstract and keywords	y* [TIAB]	y*:ti,ab,kw y?:ti,ab,kw y$:ti,ab,kw	y*:ti,ab,kw	-	TS=("y*") TS="y*" TS=("y$") TS="y$" TS=("y?") TS="y?"	TITLE-ABS-KEY(y*) TITLE-ABS-KEY(y?)
Search of phrase (combination of words next to each other) with wildcard operator in …	title and abstract	x y*[TIAB]	'x y*':ti,ab 'x y?':ti,ab 'x y$':ti,ab	(x y*):ti,ab	TI "x y*"OR AB "x y*"	-	TITLE-ABS("x y*") TITLE-ABS("x y?")
	keywords	x y*[OT]	'x y*':kw 'x y?':kw 'x y$':kw	(x y*):kw	-	-	KEY("x y*") KEY("x y?")
	title, abstract and keywords	x y*[TIAB]	'x y*':ti,ab,kw 'x y?':ti,ab,kw 'x y$':ti,ab,kw	(x y*):ti,ab,kw	-	TS=("x y*") TS="x y*"	TITLE-ABS-KEY("x y*") TITLE-ABS-KEY("x y?")

		MEDLINE	Embase	CENTRAL	CINAHL	Web of Science	Scopus
Proximity operators		-	NEXT/n (same order); NEAR/n (words can appear in different order)	NEXT; NEXT/n; NEAR; NEAR/n	Nn; Wn	NEAR; NEAR/n; SAME	PRE/n (precedes by); W/n (within) (cannot be combined with Boolean operators AND and AND NOT)
Search of phrase (combination of words next to each other) with proximity operator in…	title and abstract	-	-	x NEXT/n y:ti,ab (x NEXT/n y):ti,ab x NEAR/n y:ti,ab (x NEAR/n y):ti,ab	TI x Nn y OR AB x Nn y TI x Wn y OR AB x Wn y	-	TITLE-ABS(x PRE/n y) TITLE-ABS(x W/n y)
	keywords	-	-	x NEXT/n y:kw (x NEXT/n y):kw x NEAR/n y:kw (x NEAR/n y):kw	-	-	KEY(x PRE/n y) KEY(x W/n y)
	title, abstract and keywords	-	-	x NEXT/n y:ti,ab,kw (x NEXT/n y):ti,ab,kw x NEAR/n y:ti,ab,kw (x NEAR/n y):ti,ab,kw	-	TS=(x NEAR y) TS=(x NEAR/n y) TS=(x SAME y)	TITLE-ABS-KEY(x PRE/n y) TITLE-ABS-KEY(x W/n y)

#: exploding a subject heading represents a search in all of the subject headings in its family hierarchy

x: represents a search term (which can be listed in the thesaurus in case of a subject heading)

n: number of words that can diverge between search terms

^: truncation indication represents picking up a single or multiple characters

y: represents a portion of the search term (can be obliged when searching with a wild card)