DISCOVER as a research tool

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Objectives

- Following this session you will be able to:
  - Develop an effective search strategy to use with DISCOVER
  - Utilise the extra features of DISCOVER
  - Effectively manage references within DISCOVER
What is DISCOVER?

• Tool which searches multiple resources at the same time [http://libanswers.liverpool.ac.uk/a.php?gid=112&qid=159053](http://libanswers.liverpool.ac.uk/a.php?gid=112&qid=159053)

• Extra features

• Easy to manage references

It doesn’t search everything but it can be a good place to start

• Use the Subject Guides for subject-specific resources [http://libguides.liv.ac.uk/home](http://libguides.liv.ac.uk/home)
Available@Liverpool limiter

- The default is Available@Liverpool
Before you start – stop!

- Few minutes planning saves time later
- Is your research question clear?
- Appropriate keywords?
  - Select concepts/keywords from question
  - A databases will retrieve exactly the words you type
Keywords

- The effect of domestic violence on women’s mental health

- Domestic Violence

- Partner abuse
  - OR
  - Family violence

- Women
  - Female
    - OR
    - Girl
    - OR
    - Woman

- Mental Health
  - Mental wellbeing
    - OR
    - Mental illness
Combining keywords

- women **AND** “domestic violence” narrows search
- woman **OR** female expands search
- health **NOT** physical refines search
Refining your search strategy

• **Phrase search**: finds words in that order next to each other: “*domestic violence*”

• **Truncation**: a symbol that enables a search for words with variable endings: *Child*  
  - child, children, childhood, childish, childlike...

• **Wildcard**: a symbol that replaces a single letter within a word to find variations: *Wom?n*  
  - woman, women
Proximity operators

- Used to find one word near to another word in a sentence or paragraph

- There may be different ways to say the same thing:
  1. “Penicillin allergy”
  2. Allergy to penicillin

- Using proximity operators increases the number of results

  - N2 (within 2 words of each other) N3 (3 words) etc
    - “penicillin allergy” = 2,868 results
    - penicillin N2 allergy = 3,463 results
    - penicillin N2 allerg* = 5,128 results (Jan 17)

- **Penicillin W6 allergy** finds words within 6 words of each other, in the order you entered them

A phrase search for 1 would not find 2
Searching

- Use the Advanced Search and Search History to build a more complex search

- Click on the DISCOVER icon to get started

[demo search]
Saving searches in Discover -1

• Before you start searching create an account and login

• Search then tick the box alongside search that you want to save and click Save Search/Alerts
Saving searches in Discover-2

- The screen will refresh and the save box will appear.
- Name the search and add a description to remind you what it is about then click save.
Saving searches in Discover - 3

- When you want to reopen the saved search: Login and click on My Folder or Retrieve Searches.
- Click on the Retrieve saved search below the search you want to run.
• Your search will then appear and you can continue to develop it or rerun it as it is.
Your Turn!
Thank You

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Liaison Librarians