Learn to search Dentistry & Oral Sciences Source

Dentistry & Oral Sciences Source contains more than 200 dental and oral health journals, as well as some full text books, and some unique material which is not indexed in PubMed.

Step 1:
Begin with a basic logic grid

A logic grid is an easy way to plan and organize your Dentistry & Oral Sciences Source (DOSS) search strategy. Once you have created a basic grid you can easily customise it to suit DOSS by applying DOSS subject headings and field codes.

Start with this step by step guide to create a basic logic grid for your topic.

Step 2:
Find Dentistry & Oral Sciences Source Subject Headings

Subject Headings are the controlled vocabulary used to index all of the articles in DOSS. Once you have identified suitable Subject Headings for your topic you can very quickly locate specific, highly relevant results. Try to find at least one relevant heading for each concept in your logic grid.

1. Go to Dentistry & Oral Sciences Source

2. Click on Subjects (at the top of screen)

3. Enter your chosen keywords into the Browsing box, select Relevancy Ranked, then click Browse. In the following example I want to find the correct subject heading for tooth decay:
4. Notice that the correct subject heading in Doss for tooth decay is **Dental caries:**

![Screenshot of Doss interface showing subject headings]

You may also see some other subject headings in the list which will be useful for your topic.

5. Click on a subject heading to display details:

![Screenshot of Doss interface showing detailed subject headings]

Notice that Secondary caries (Dentistry) is a narrower heading, and Dental pathology is a broader heading. When you eventually run your full search in DOSS, you can decide whether or not to include the narrower forms of the heading.

Note that truncation symbols cannot be used on Subject Headings, however it is fine to enclose phrases in quotation marks.
Step 2: Apply field codes to your search terms

Applying field codes to each of the terms in your logic grid is a powerful way to focus your search results. They enable precision searching by telling the database where you would like each of the terms to be searched.

In Dentistry & Oral Sciences Source field codes are applied at the beginning of each word or phrase, in upper case letters, followed by a space. For example, the search below in DOSS will retrieve any papers which are indexed with the official Dental Caries subject heading, as well as any papers which have either dental caries or tooth decay in the titles.

DE “dental caries” OR TI “dental caries” OR TI “tooth decay”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field Code</th>
<th>Used for</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TI</td>
<td>Searching for words in titles</td>
<td>TI “tooth decay”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB</td>
<td>Searching for words in both titles and abstracts</td>
<td>AB “tooth decay”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DE</td>
<td>Searching for DOSS Subject Headings</td>
<td>DE “dental caries”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Visit the [DOSS search help page](#) for a full list of field codes

Step 3: Putting it all together

1. Begin with your basic logic grid:

For Example: Here is a basic logic grid which includes phrase searching and truncation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tooth decay</th>
<th>fluoride</th>
<th>children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“tooth decay” OR “dental caries” OR “dental decay” OR “dental plaque” OR cavities</td>
<td>fluoride</td>
<td>Child*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Basic logic grid tips:

- Include British vs American spelling variations (Example: behavior OR behaviour)
- Include one-word vs two-word variations (Example: healthcare OR "health care")
2. **Add DOSS Subject Headings to your search:**

Below you can see that Subject Headings have now been added to each column:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tooth decay</th>
<th>fluoride</th>
<th>children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DE “dental caries” OR DE “SECONDARY caries (Dentistry)” OR “tooth decay” OR “dental caries” OR “dental decay” OR “dental plaque” OR Cavit*</td>
<td>DE fluorides OR DE water fluoridation OR DE “PREVENTIVE dentistry” OR fluoride</td>
<td>DE children OR Child*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DOSS Subject Heading tips:**

- Headings must be entered exactly as they appear in the DOSS browser, with no truncation
- If you want to include all of the narrower headings in your logic grid, tick the box to the left of the heading in the browser. Tick the **Explode** box, then click **Add**

The search box at the top of the screen will now display all of the headings with field codes applied. Simply copy and paste them into your logic grid, to save typing:

3. **Apply field codes:**

Next, have a look at your keywords and decide where you want to search for those words. In the logic grid below, all of the keywords and phrases will be searched for in article titles and abstracts.
### Step 4: Run the completed search in DOSS

1. Click on **New Search** (top left of the screen)
2. Paste the first column of your logic grid into the first search box.
3. Paste the second column of your grid into the second box. Repeat for any additional columns.

Notice the **AND** between each search line. This means that each of the results returned will include **one or more term** from the first line, **and** one or more term from the second line **and** one or more term from the third line.

1. Now click **Search** to view the combined results:
Applying Limits

Once you are happy with your search, you may want to apply limits such as Date or Language. These limits can be seen in the panel on the left of the search results screen:

Contact Us
For further support or questions, please email the Liaison Librarians for Health & Medical Sciences Vikki Langton and Robert Franchini at: fhms.librarians@adelaide.edu.au