

Sherif Ovid Enhancement Group meeting 2024

17th July 2024 – held virtually

Attendees

Wolters Kluwer: Rani Southern-Darbar, Tarja Huttunen, Michael Fanning, Maurice Clementi, Nick Whittaker, Leticia Nani Silva, Honor Penman, Jo Delderfield

Sherif Ovid Enhancement Group: Delyth Morris (Chair), Helen Fulbright, Samantha Johnson, Alison Ashmore

Apologies

Mauro Castillo García-Mauriño

Pre-submitted questions

Point of thanks

Pass on thanks/congrats to Ovid for the new custom export feature – incredible for working NHS staff who want just a simple PDF or Excel etc.

Question 1:

What (if any) AI developments do Ovid have planned or are currently working on for Medline and/or your other databases? Students are becoming more familiar with using AI technology and it is becoming more evident in other searching platforms. While Ovid databases remain gold standard for undertaking comprehensive searches for evidence reviews, it is becoming more difficult to justify teaching them to undergraduate students who, when in clinical practice, aren't likely to be searching for information in this way.

Pre submitted response:

MC: Wolters Kluwer/Ovid is fully aware of the demand for this new technology and the positive impact in our Ovid users experience in the industry and we're already working on potential improvements and developments on this functionality, although, at this point, we can't really share any progress or status. We will keep the Sherif group punctually informed about any news or progress.

Notes from meeting:

It was noted that students are aware of AI and looking for potential shortcuts/time saving. This is UGs and PGRs. Ovid acknowledged that it's a conversation coming from end users and they are starting to expect to see AI as a feature. Semantic search capabilities/AI are now available within Ovid Discovery. Ovid Discovery previously used traditional keyword searching/Boolean but new developments enable users to retrieve articles that contain the right keywords and more pertinent results. The AI enabled consideration of meaning and context of user enquiry. This new semantic search engine uses AI to grasp nuance. When entering a natural language query, it will understand context and intent and give the most relevant results. It also supports a summarise tool which will synthesise the results and provide a comprehensive summary, including citations. Feedback on the product has been positive.

Noted that they were not able to comment on plans to introduce AI functionality within Ovid databases.

Question 2:

I don't know how much WK have started working on AI integration but if they are, I thought I would share my thoughts on what I think might be useful. So far, the AI research assistants I've seen from vendors have been focused on creating an easy way to find information which is backed up with the content curation of an academic DB. Essentially Chat GPT but you know the sources should be reliable. I've not been very impressed with any I've seen so far as they seem very susceptible to variation of results based on minor changes to input text, so you can ask the same question with slight variation in the phrase you use and get totally different recommendations for relevant articles.

I would like to see someone develop an AI that actually stepped users through carrying out a proper DB search, perhaps giving feedback on their research questions and highlighting if it is too broad or contains too many concepts, then it helps a user to correctly identify their search concepts and suggest key words and synonyms for them, mapping them to subject terms and checking if they want to explode/focus etc. then correctly combines everything with appropriate Boolean operators, and truncation/wildcards/adjacency searching etc. The end result should be a proper reproducible search strategy that could be used in a systematic review. At the end, it might also sort the results by relevancy, using the original research question as the basis for this.

The obvious draw back being that if this worked as intended, we may all be out of a job, but I feel the focus on simple chat bots is mis-placed.

Pre submitted response:

MC: Very interesting feedback indeed!

We would like to hear from the wider group about their thoughts on this topic; what are your expectations, what are others doing? This feedback can be shared internally with our WK/Ovid developers for consideration and further analysis.

NW: I agree that relying on chatbots in their current state isn't the way forward. I'll ask around in the Ovid dev meetings to see if we could develop an AI that helps to perform database searches as mentioned above.

Notes from meeting:

There was much discussion in relation to AI including:

- Questions raised about how librarians/information specialists feel about AI – optimistic or fearful? It was noted that there is a mixture of both but there is still a role for librarians for example in prompt engineering
- Noted that Ovid Coaching could be a better fit in response to this query rather than developing something with AI. Are we trying to use AI when we already have something else?
- If we are moving into a world where AI does the search for the user, why do we need an AI tool to talk the user through how to design the search? Also, walking users through the process will hugely depend on variables such as are they doing a SR or RR? What size is the team? What is their capacity? What field codes are they hoping to search? Also it would be difficult to ensure that it is producing a robust search.

Question 3:

Please please please – folders for saved searches 😊

Pre submitted response:

MC: It doesn't look like this functionality has been included in our development roadmap. We'll raise it with colleagues and apply some pressure.

Question 4:

Are there any plans to add a map to subject heading feature for Ovid EconLit? What's the best way to find subject headings for EconLit?

Pre submitted response:

MC: I'm unsure if this is possible. We will check with the Product Manager and report back.

Post meeting response:

What we receive from the publisher (AEA -Am. Economic Assoc.) does not allow us to implement a proper thesaurus and thus we cannot do the mapping to a thesaurus as we do in other databases.

Every Subject heading has a "Subject code" or [JEL code](#). The codes are in the CC (subject codes) field and the SH field which indexes both type of codes as well as the human readable texts.

So a way to search using the subject heading is by first finding the correct "Subject headings" or "Subject codes". You can do this by a simple discovery search, searching the HW heading words field, the SH field, or browse the SH index. Especially if you know the start word of the subject heading or JEL term browsing the index can be used, e.g.

Record with Subject heading code:

012345678

macroeconomic theory.sh.

Postings: 6

macroeconomic theory general.sh.

Postings: 3966

Subject Headings

Macroeconomic Theory (0230)
Economic Fluctuations Economic Fluctuations, Theory (1312)
Fiscal Theory, empirical studies illustrating fiscal theory (3212)
National Taxation and Subsidies (3230)

Record with JEL code:

0123456789AB

business taxes and subsidies including sales and value added vat.sh.

Postings: 14898

Subject Headings

Operations Research; Statistical Decision Theory (C44)
Business Taxes and Subsidies including sales and value-added (VAT) (H25)
Railroads and Other Surface Transportation (L92)
Industry Studies; Utilities and Transportation; Government Policy (L98)
Economic Development: Urban, Rural, Regional, and Transportation Analysis; Housing; Infrastructure (O18)
Socialist and Transitional Economies: Urban, Rural, and Regional Economics (P25)
Transportation: Demand, Supply, and Congestion; Travel Time; Safety and Accidents; Transportation Noise (R41)

Econlit <1886 to July 18, 2024>

#	Searches	Results	Type
1	(macroeconomic theory general or macroeconomic theory).sh.	3972	Advanced
2	"0230".sh.	3972	Advanced
3	"0230".cc.	3972	Advanced
4	"business taxes and subsidies including sales and value added vat".sh.	14898	Advanced
5	h25.cc.	14898	Advanced
6	h25.sh.	14898	Advanced

For EconLit you probably want to recommend to also add general Keyword search (MP) as not all records have subject heading. Most of those record that do not have subject heading are “working papers”. About half of the Working Papers lack subject headings.

Finally, there also is the KW Keyword field, which puzzles me as that field also seem to have numeric codes but I don’t understand the logic there. Anyway, that field does not look useful at all, I suggest you stay away from it in training.

Question 5:

Are all of the scope notes on HMIC empty? And are there any plans to add scope notes for HMIC?

Pre submitted response:

MC: Same as above, this is one for the Product Manager. We will check and report back.

Post meeting response:

About HMIC, we can only provide what we receive and we do not receive scope note as in texts describing the subject headings. Other databases may do that, the HMIC IP apparently does not.

Question 6:

On PsycINFO there is a subject heading Post-COVID-19 Conditions/. In the term finder, Long COVID/ appears in the listing and finds the exact same records as Post-COVID Conditions/ (both find 230 in total) why is this please? And why does Long COVID.sh. find 0 records? Also, Long Covid/ appears in the TermFinder as does Post-COVID-19 Conditions/, which is confusing.

Pre submitted response:

JD: This question was previously sent to Support and has been escalated internally. I will chase this as we are still waiting on an answer.

Notes from meeting:

RS-D to chase.

Question 7:

What is everything included in Ovid MEDLINE® ALL please? The description of the contents for various segments on <https://ospguides.ovid.com/OSPguides/medline.htm> doesn’t list everything that applies to ALL.

Pre submitted response:

NW: Detailed information about MEDLINE All can be found here:
<https://wkhlrp.my.site.com/ovidsupport/s/article/MEDLINE-ALL-FAQ>

Question 8:

In the term finder on Ovid MEDLINE, Some Unified Medical Language System (UMLS) terms appear for certain search terms. I am aware these come from the NLM but do these continue to be produced? Should we search these? Are these old? I don’t really understand these.

Pre submitted response:

MC: This is the information we have:

<https://tools.ovid.com/ovidemailresource/article.php?id=21>

UMLS does come from the NLM and I believe that the service still operational and updated:

<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/research/umls/index.html>

We are making good progress developing a Term Finder feature for Ovid EMBASE and we expect to have it released before the end of the year.

Question 9:

If editing a saved search strategy, only a few changes are accepted (about 7 or 8) before the system stops responding and I have to log in again. Is this a known issue and if so, are there any plans to fix it?

Pre submitted response:

NW: This is a known issue, which will be fixed in the next Ovid release (1.20.02).

Question 10:

Do Ovid have any plans to start allowing special characters in passwords? This would increase security.

Pre submitted response:

MC: We will escalate this internally as a suggestion.

Question 11:

Ovid Evidence-Based Medicine Reviews (Ovid EBMR) allowed you to search multiple sources simultaneously (e.g. MEDLINE, MEDLINE In-Process, MEDLINE Epub Ahead of Print, Embase, CDSR and CENTRAL). The question is whether, for multifile/romper searches, Ovid EBMR automatically identifies the equivalent MeSH or Thesauri terms entered, if either are present in the search string or if the searcher would have to look up and identify both manually? Is it quicker with Ovid EMBR? I'm thinking especially about studying design filters (e.g. RCTs) and exclusion filters

Pre submitted response:

JD: To be discussed in the meeting.

Notes from meeting:

For each database to work in a romper search, you need to tailor the search for the particular database. **MF** to provide document demonstrated in meeting and to be cc'd into response to the enquirer. Coaching session can be offered.

Question 12 (submitted shortly before meeting so pre submitted response not possible):

One issue that we experience is the quality of Ovid Social Policy and Practice records. I think this is likely a data quality issue coming from the suppliers of the references, but we wonder if Ovid might be able to improve this.

The particular problems come from references exported to EndNote not having the correct reference type, and incomplete data being pulled through. Fixing the records so that they can be output as part of our literature searching service can be very time consuming.

I've raised this with Rani before, but I've failed to get round to providing examples (as she requested). Not sure if this is something the group has raised previously.

Working in Public Health grey literature is very important to the searches we run, and SPP is a very useful source of this, but the quality of the records is very frustrating.

Notes from meeting:

RS-D aware of this and looking into it. **RS-D** to chase.

Any additional questions or comments raised:

- Note of thanks to Ovid for customisation work with Alison Ashmore and her institution
- Noted that raising issues with Ovid is sometimes requiring back and forth and break down in communication when providing explanations. Feedback to be shared with product manager
- Request for overlap between Ovid Embase and Embase.com – **RS-D** to chase

Updates/major projects:

OvidGO! and the development of Focused Searches (Jo Delderfield, Maurice Clementi, Michael Fanning)

OvidGO! is available as part of normal subscription and is available here:

<https://tools.ovid.com/ovidgo>

The platform has been developed internally and came about from the growing need from customers suffering from lack of time and information overload (learning how to use databases and keeping up to date on functionality). Users also noted struggling to find the information they needed on the training pages. OvidGO! was designed to focus on noise reduction, for those who are time poor and need the right answer quickly.

OvidGO! is made up of 3 modules – skills videos, focused searches, and a link to Ovid Coaching. The skills videos are a linear curriculum of pathways, broken down by product. The videos can be embedded within a VLE. Focused searches can display and/or launch filters. Includes both search filters developed by Ovid but also working together with others. All the searches have the option to undertake actions, see background information and citation information. This includes supplemental information showing what they did and why they did it.

Attendees noted that they didn't know about this product and discussed where it might be better signposted, suggestions including My Workspace or just generally more integrated into database platforms.

Noted that it was useful that the search filters were being reviewed and that it notes when they've been reviewed.

Ovid Coaching (Rani Southern-Darbar)

Ovid Coaching is available. Complete the form with requirements for coaching and a session will be set up with someone from Ovid. Specialists available to have specific trainers for specific requirements, therefore having the most relevant person for the enquiry. This has been a successful service so far.

Ovid Synthesis (Leticia Nani Silva)

Ovid Synthesis is one of their first launches in this field. It's a project management tool which visualises what stage of the project everyone is at, who's collaborating, which projects you're prioritising etc. It provides a high level oversight of projects including reviews or quality improvement projects. Templates are provided which can be customised. It synthesises evidence in one place.

Date of next meeting

TBC