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Academic Browsing and Scientific Literature Search

Experiment 9 - Practical Notes

Name: _____ Roll no.: _____ Date: _____

Aim

To record a reproducible academic search and assess retrieved evidence.

Principle

A useful search combines concepts and records the database, date, query and filters. Search results, abstracts and complete research reports provide different levels of information; a high position in results is not proof of quality.

Requirements

- Browser, PubMed or another approved scientific database and an academic question.
- Search log and two accessible primary research records.

Procedure

1. Define concepts

Choose a question such as how a formulation affects dissolution and identify terms/synonyms for each concept.

2. Build query

Combine alternatives with OR and distinct concepts with AND. Use parentheses to preserve grouping.

3. Run and inspect

Review search details and any automatic term mapping. Quoted phrases can change how terms are interpreted, so check warnings/results.

4. Use filters

Apply relevant date or article-type filters carefully and record them. Some filters can exclude useful records.

5. Assess papers

Read title, abstract and available full text; identify methods, results, limitations and whether the report directly answers the question.

6. Save log

Record date, database, exact query, filters and identifiers/titles of selected papers. Do not copy an abstract as your own summary.

Fundamentals of Computer Operations

Observations and Record

Search record	Entry
Question / database / date	_____
Exact query / filters	_____
Selected paper identifier / relevance	_____
Method / finding / limitation	_____

Worked Example

The numbers below are illustrative; enter your own observations in the record.

- An illustrative starting query is ("drug dissolution" OR "dissolution rate") AND formulation. Inspect the database's search translation and refine it rather than assuming the phrase is indexed exactly as typed.

Result

Save the completed practice work with a clear name, reopen it to verify the result and record the checks performed. Submit only through the instructor-approved destination.

Precautions

- Use dummy academic data and a dedicated practice folder; do not edit production pharmacy records or use real patient information.
- Check the actual application/version and local settings. Menu names and formula separators can vary between programs.
- Keep an editable copy and verify the saved/exported file rather than relying only on the on-screen appearance.

Viva Questions and Answers

1. What does OR do?

It joins alternative terms for a concept.

2. What does AND do?

It requires the combined concepts in the search logic.

3. Why record the search date?

Database coverage and results can change over time.

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