Functionality Matrix

Functionality	Ovid	EBSCO	ProQuest
Boolean operators	And / or button choices Type "not" into the search bar if using (e.g. **2 NOT 1**) Option: **or/1-4** as shortcut to 1 or 2 or 3 or 4	And / Or button choices from Search History And / Or / Not choices from drop-down menu on Advanced Search	No button options – need to type in your And/Or/Not combinations into the search box Search could be written either: **1 and 2** is the same as **S1 and s2**.
Default field code	.mp. This is database specific. In Medline: mp=title, abstract, original title, name of substance word, subject heading word, floating sub-heading word, keyword heading word, organism supplementary concept word, protocol supplementary concept word, rare disease supplementary concept word, unique identifier, synonyms Myocardial infarction.mp.	All fields myocardial infarction	All fields "myocardial infarction"
Phrase searching	Default phrase searching without ""	Default phrase searching without ""	Must use "" for phrase searching: "word word"

Truncation & wildcard			
Truncate with any number of character	* or $ nurs* (nurse nurses nursing etc) nurs$ (nurse nurses nursing etc)	* nurs* (nurse, nurses, nursing etc)	* nurs* (nurse nurses nursing etc) MAX 5 CHARACTERS
Wild card with 1 or 0 characters	? wom?n finds woman or women p?ediatrics finds paediatrics or pediatrics	? wom?n finds woman or women. # p#ediatrics finds paediatrics or pediatrics	? or * Wom*n finds woman or women Wom?n finds woman or women ? OR [*1] Nurse*1 (nurse nurses)
Common field codes			
Title/Abstract	Heart attack**.ti,ab.**	**TI** (heart attack) or **AB** (heart attack) Field codes have to be in CAPITAL LETTERS, Booleans do not	**ti**(heart attack) OR **ab**(heart attack) or **TI,AB**(HEART ATTACK)
author	Patel**.au.**	**AU** patel	**au**(patel)
Proximity			
Near within (either direction)	adjX adj5 would mean "four words or less"	nX n5 would mean "five words or less"	near/X near/5 would mean "five words or less"
Next to (in order)	adj	wX w5 would mean "five words or less"	pre/X or p/X pre/5 would mean "five words or less"
Display	● Chronological – default ● Can sort by any field (e.g. database, author, entry date, journal etc) but does not list relevance as an option except in Basic search	● Date newest – default ● Date oldest ● Source ● Relevance This can be set in your preferences	● Relevance ● Oldest first ● Most recent first
Subject headings	*Examples use Medline's MeSH*		

standard	Schizophrenia /	(MH "Schizophrenia+")	MAINSUBJECT.EXACT("Schizophrenia")
Exploded	Exp Schizophrenia /	(MH " Schizophrenia +")	MAINSUBJECT.EXACT.EXPLODE("Schizophrenia")
Focused	* Schizophrenia /	(MM " Schizophrenia ")	MJMAINSUBJECT.EXACT("Schizophrenia (Disorganized Type)")
Exploded *and* focused	Exp *Schizophrenia /	(MM " Schizophrenia +")	MJMAINSUBJECT.EXACT.EXPLODE("Schizophrenia")
Extra subject heading functionality	"Term Finder" (in Medline only) gives access to controlled vocabulary, definitions and related terms from Unified Medical Languages System (UMLS).	"Apply equivalent subjects" (in Advanced Search) uses mapped vocabulary terms to expand the search, when a search term matches a known concept.	
Export functionality	1000 per set (first set 1-1000, second set 1001-2000, etc)	Can export full set of hits up to 25,000	Would recommend batches of up to 500 at a time. Clear folder to export second set of 501-1000.
Export formats	Microsoft Word, PDF, txt, Microsoft Excel, EndNote, RefWorks, RIS, XML.	RIS, XML, BibTeX, EndNote, RefWorks, Reference Manager, Zotero, CSV.	RefWorks, RIS, PDF, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Word, txt.
TIPS: Copy paste not working?	Check that you're using straight quote marks – so " " rather than ""	Full set export will arrive in an email as a zip file containing RIS file	

More resources comparing database interface: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6148622/ (Table 1) and https://www.quest.scot.nhs.uk/hc/en-gb/articles/360001762018-Database-search-interface-comparison-guide