

Finding qualitative literature on dementia in MEDLINE, EMBASE, PsycINFO and CINAHL: assessment of three qualitative search filters

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Objectives

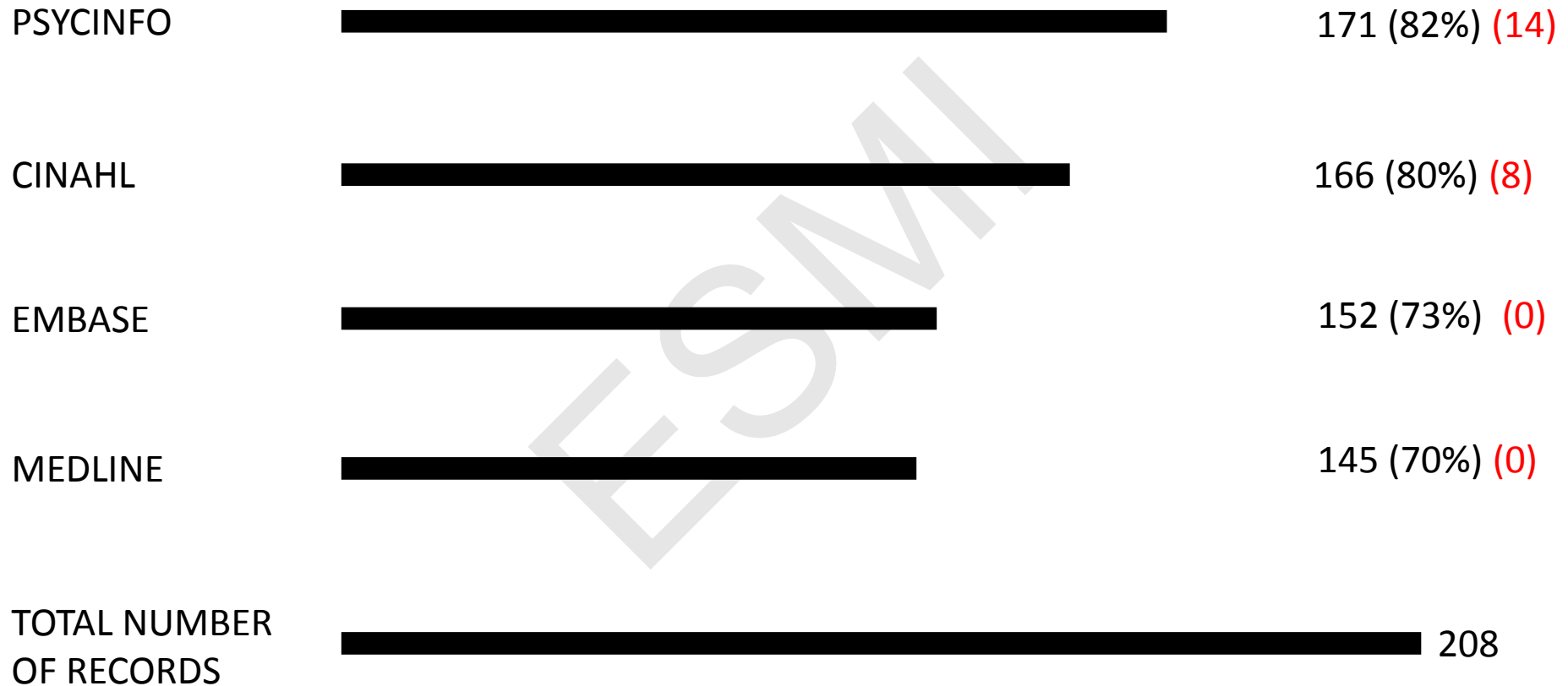
1. To investigate whether qualitative search filters help with finding qualitative research in dementia.
2. To find out which filter works best in terms of effectiveness and ease of use.
3. To examine the effectiveness of three qualitative filters on four major databases (MEDLINE, EMBASE, PsycINFO and CINAHL).
4. To identify which databases yield the best return of qualitative dementia literature.

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Strategies	Description	Source
Thesaurus terms (subject headings)	N/A	Individual databases
Free text terms	Simple free text	University of Texas School of Public Health http://libguides.sph.uth.tmc.edu/ovid_medline_filters
Broad terms (combination of headings/free text)	Findings.af OR Interviews/ OR Interview*.af OR Qualitative.af Interview*.af. OR Experience*.af. OR qualitative.tw.	Shaw RL, Booth A, Sutton AJ, Miller T, Smith JA, Young B, et al. Finding qualitative research: an evaluation of search strategies. BMC Med Res Methodol. 2004;4:5. Wong SS, Wilczynski NL, Haynes RB. Developing optimal search strategies for detecting clinically relevant qualitative studies in MEDLINE. Stud Health Technol Inform. 2004;107(Pt 1):311-6.

Coverage of qualitative studies from test set on databases



Number in red shows number of unique records per database

RESULTS

Search strategy	<u>MEDLINE</u> (145)	<u>EMBASE</u> (152)	<u>PSYCINFO</u> (171)	<u>CINAHL</u> (166)
Thesaurus terms	46% 3767	68% 10604	7% 515	96% 7533
Simple free text	69% 2629	69% 3510	67% 2428	22% 602
Complex free text	80% 17886	78% 23086	82% 14133	72% 10810
Broad (Shaw)	93% 25968	93% 33709	99% 26236	95% 9731
Broad (Wong)	94% 6071	93% 9692	97% 13522	93% 9169

Numbers in red denote no. of retrieved records when strategies were combined with dementia terms

Conclusions

1. Adds to the body of evidence that simple search strategies are as effective as complex ones for finding qualitative research.
2. May be feasible to search for qualitative literature in dementia using CINAHL and PsycINFO only
3. Qualitative subject headings in CINAHL are highly effective for finding qualitative dementia literature.

THANK YOU

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