Objective

- OT Search, produced by the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), is a database of occupational therapy literature designed to make it easier for the novice searcher to find information by indexing only occupational therapy (OT)-related materials. The objective is to gain a better understanding of where the OT literature is indexed and the usefulness of OT Search compared to other databases.

Figure 1. OT Search Search Screen

Methods

- Looked at the journals indexed in OT Search (see Figure 2).
- Disregarded AOTA Section Quarterlies since very specialized.
- Used Serials Directory (database of bibliographic information and current pricing of popular magazines, journals and other periodicals) to see where journals were indexed.
- Note: Several journals listed in OT Search have changed names over time. Some of the titles listed may be preceding titles for current OT journals.
- Journals indexed in more than 75 indices.
- Chose databases to search
  - Reviewed the list of indexes to see which contained the most number of journals in the OT Search list.
  - Of the top 6
    - 3 were bibliographic databases with abstracts, indexing and links to full text when available (CINAHL, EMBASE, PsycINFO).
    - 3 were citation-only databases with no subject headings, abstracts or full text. Not comparable to OT Search so disregarding these (Current Citations, OCLC ArticleFirst, OCLC ContentsFirst).
  - Included MEDLINE since it is widely used.
  - OT Search brought the total number of databases to 5.
- Chose journals to use
  - Examined those journal titles with an * indicating only selected articles were indexed in OT Search.
  - Of these saw which journals were in all of the databases going to use (CINAHL, EMBASE, PsycINFO, MEDLINE and of course OT Search).
  - Did same for those journal titles without the *.
- Journals used:
  - Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*
  - Canadian Journal of Occupational Therapy
  - Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation*
  - Scandinavian Journal of Rehabilitation Medicine

Results

- Searched the 4 journals in the 5 databases from 2005 back to 1980.
- Entered into an Excel spreadsheet the number of hits found for each journal in each database for each year (see Figure 3).

Figure 3. Sample of Spreadsheet Indicating Number of Articles Indexed in a Particular Year

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Conclusions

- Figure 3 shows instances where the number of citations for a particular journal may vary from one database to another. It is, therefore, always a good idea to search more than one database when doing a comprehensive occupational therapy literature search.
- OT Search also links the user to a set of predefined searches, doctoral dissertations, and lists of rehabilitation organizations and databases (see Figures 4, 5, and 6).
- This additional information makes OT Search an information portal and, therefore, a unique resource for the OT professional.

Figure 4. Component of OT Search

Further Research

- Investigate reason for disparities between indices.
- Examine the criteria for indexing a journal in OT Search and the other databases.
- Search other years before 1980.
- Do searches for more journals, particularly American Journal of Occupational Therapy since it is published by AOTA, the producers of OT Search.