

## COMDISDOME

COMDISDOME is a bibliographic database covering the communications disorders literature, with focus on speech-language pathology and audiology. The database helps in quickly identifying and connecting to reliable information from multiple sources, including journal articles and books. It is produced and published by M/s Proquest, a US-based global information-content and technology company serving the information needs of millions of researchers around the world. The database covers literature in the field of communication disorders published world over since 1950. ComDisDome will help users to stay current on the latest findings and trends in communications disorders research, improve patient communication and education, write research reports and grants, and locate and communicate with researchers in the field.

### **Subject Coverage**

The database covers the following topics on communication disorders: audiologic management, audiology, augmentative and alternative communication (AAC), communication mechanism and systems, electroneurography (ENoG), hearing assessment, hearing conservation, hearing impairment, hearing science, pediatric audiology, professional issues, rehabilitative audiology, speech/articulation, speech-language pathology.

### **Update Frequency**

The database is updated monthly with approximately 400 records added per update.

### **Database Help**

Every COMDISDOME page includes a Help (?) icon in the upper right corner. The Help is context-sensitive, meaning that the help topic that displays when we click the link or icon will be relevant to the page we are on.

## Database Selection

The COMDISDOME is one among the many databases published by M/s Proquest. The Proquest provides a common search interface for all its databases and searching can be conducted in individual databases or multiple databases in related fields simultaneously depending on Institutional subscription to the databases.

## Searching

The database offers the following types of searching:

### a. Basic Search

The basic search facility is provided on the home page of the database. The user can enter one or more words and click **Search** to get the results.

**Searching Anywhere:** The database will look for the search terms in all fields such as Author, Title, Journal Title and Abstract of all the documents and then retrieve results.

**Boolean Searching:** When more than one word is entered, say for example, *Hearing Impairment*, the database will look for documents that contain both the terms *Hearing* and *Impairment* in all the fields. Thus by default, it supports the Boolean operator **AND**. There is no need of joining the terms using the operator. The database also supports the Boolean operators **OR** to find any one of the search terms and **NOT** to exclude the given search term, however, unlike AND which is implicit, the OR and NOT operators have to be used along with the search terms to retrieve the results. The Boolean operators can be used in either lowercase or uppercase.

**Search Fields:** The Search Fields are the discrete bit of indexed information about individual documents represented by field codes in brackets such as Abstract(AB), Author (AU), Document Title (TI) and Publication Title (PUB). The search fields can be used to create very precise searches. For example, **AU(savithri)** will retrieve only documents where **savithri** appears in the author field. Similarly, **AU(savithri) and TI(speech perception)** will retrieve only documents with **speech perception** in the title and **savithri** as the author.

**Phrase Searching:** The phrase searching can be made by putting the terms in double quotes. E.g. the phrase “Speech-Language Pathology”.

**Limiters/Filters:** The **Basic Search** can be limited/filtered using Full text, Peer reviewed, Source Type, Publication Date, Publication Title, Document Type, Subject, Language and Database.

**Punctuation Characters:** The database ignores punctuation characters such as periods and colons in the search terms.

**Stop words:** When processing the search, some databases ignore very common words, known as stop words, in the search query like articles (a, an, the) and prepositions (from, with, of). These databases will only search for those words only in Phrase Searching. The COMDISDOME does not recognize any such stop words.

**Special Characters:** The database uses some **Special Characters** which are used in the context of specific kinds of searching. The major Special Characters used are: (a) Greater than (>) and less than (<) symbols used for date of publication searching (b) Brackets and Parentheses i.e. ‘( ’ and ‘)’ which are used to build 'nested' queries. **Eg.** : cow AND (dog OR cat).

**Wildcards and Truncation:** We can use wildcards (?) and truncation (\*) when looking for documents that contain spelling variants, or words that begin with the same character string.

**Publication Search:** Search for a particular publication title. Search within available issues, and within individual issues. Then, browse issue contents.

#### b. **Advanced Search**

The Advanced Search option permits searching the database using one or more terms in different search fields such as Author, Document title and Subject heading or in anywhere in the document. It also facilitates combing the terms from different fields using Boolean operators. In addition, the Advanced Search option permits limiting of the search by Publication Date, Peer-Review, Source Type, Publication Type, and Language.

Also, multiple fields can be searched at once by using field codes separated by commas.

For example:

- **AB,TI(dyslexia)** - retrieve documents that have **dyslexia** in the title, or documents that have dyslexia in the abstract.
- **AB,TI(aphasia or language disorders)** - retrieve documents that contain either **aphasia** or **language disorders** in the abstract, or in the title.

c. **Command Line Search**

This is by building search statements in a search box using search fields and operators. To perform a command line search, prefix the term(s) with field name abbreviations and enter them directly into the search box. For example: AU(Kant) and PUB(Audiol\*).

d. **Thesaurus Based Searching**

A thesaurus is an alphabetical listing of all the subject terms in a single database, used to classify and organize information for that database. The thesaurus shows relationships between terms such as synonymous or related terms, and hierarchical arrangements such as broader terms, or narrower terms. The COMDISDOME databases uses MeSH as the thesaurus to assign subject headings to documents in the database.

### **My Research**

This is a place where the user can save, manage, and organize the things you find or create in ProQuest-including documents, searches, search alerts, RSS feeds, and more. Although you can use your My Research area without having a My Research account, there are many benefits and reasons for creating one.

### **Search Results**

After a user enters a search, the database will return a list of matching documents called Search Results. By default, documents that ProQuest determines are most relevant to your search terms display at the top of the list.

**Re-running Previous Search:** The database records each search that a user conducts during his current session. This search history is presented on the **Recent Searches** page. However, the recent searches are not automatically saved beyond the current database

session. To make them available for future sessions, the user should save them to a **My Research account**.

**Search Expansion:** By default, the database evaluates the terms in the search query to also look for US/UK spelling variants, comparatives (smaller, bigger), superlatives (smallest, biggest), and plurals. This behaviour is called '**search expansion**' and helps in discovering relevant results that we otherwise miss.

**Search Within:** This option permits for searching further among the current search results. Thus, the user can narrow down the results.

**Related Searches:** In response to a search, in addition to returning a results list, the database automatically evaluates the search terms to provide subjects relevant to one's search. The subjects display as links in a box titled Related searches above the results list.

**Alert Creation:** Create alert option permits the user to define an automated email alert that let him know when new documents that match his current search are available in the database. Alert emails will include links to view the documents. Alert can also be created by subscribing to the RSS feed provided by the database.

**Result View:** Items in the search **results** list are available in two views: **Brief view** and **Detailed view**.

**Cite:** Create a formatted citation for each selected item in your preferred citation style. You can then email, print, or download the citations. You can also copy and paste the citations into a Word or other document.

**Email:** Email selected items to yourself and others. You can specify the level of available document detail (Citation, abstract, indexing, Full text, etc.) you want to send, as well as selecting a citation format.

**Saving the Selected Documents:** The documents selected from the search results **will** be saved to the My Research folder ( default ) or they can be saved or exported in to various formats and then saved onto the computer.

**Document Preview:** This option permits to view the abstract of the documents in the search results in a pop-up display box.