Constructing a systematic search:

Doing a **systematic search** in the databases differs from a standard search:

- Use both Subject Headings and KeyWords
- Use your completed Logic Grid as a guide

This example is going to use the Medline database, but the same method applies in CINAHL (the interface just looks different). It will use the example question and the Logic Grid detailed in the HLTH1306 Search Smart Guide

Are e-cigarettes as effective as nicotine patches in assisting smokers to quit smoking?

**Logic Grid:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>P</th>
<th>I</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>O</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SMOKERS</td>
<td>E-CIGARETTES</td>
<td>NICOTINE PATCHES</td>
<td>QUIT SMOKING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking/</td>
<td>Electronic Cigarettes/</td>
<td>Tobacco Use</td>
<td>Smoking Cessation/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobacco Use/</td>
<td></td>
<td>Use Cessation Products</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Subject Headings**

- Smoking/
- Tobacco Use/

**KeyWords**

- Smoker
- Smoking
- Smokers
- Tobacco users
- Tobacco addicts

- Electronic cigarettes
- Nicotine patch
- Nicotine replacement therapy
- ENDS
- Personal vaporiser
- Electronic nicotine delivery system

- Quitting smoking
- Smoking cessation
- Stopping smoking

**1. Combine with OR**

**2. Combine with AND**
Open Medline from the link in your HLTH1306 Search Smart Guide, or search the Databases link on the Library Homepage.

1. Search for the **Subject Headings** listed in your logic grid in your first column - one at a time if there are multiple
   - The first term in our example is Smoking/

! Enter term as written in your logic grid – even if it sounds a little weird, then click search

* Don’t change any of the default tick boxes!!

2. Tick box next to correct term, then tick ‘Include all Subheadings’, then click on Continue
3. Repeat the same process for any further **Subject Headings** you have in column 1 of your Logic Grid. In our example there is also Tobacco Use/

4. Add all of the **Keywords** from the first column of your logic grid. All on one line with an OR between each term.

You should now have three results that look like this:
5. Tick the little boxes next to all three searches and click on the Combine selections with: OR button.

This will create a new combination line - that looks like this!

6. Repeat this process for the other concepts (columns that you have selected to use – in our example case this is columns 1, 2 and 3.

You will now have multiple search lines with 3 combination lines. You should have the same number of combination lines as search concepts!
5. Tick the little boxes next to all three combination search lines and click on the Combine selections with: AND button

This will create a new final combination line that looks like this! Your final results will be displayed underneath!

PLEASE SAVE YOUR SEARCH!!