

# Exploring Australian and Indigenous Health Information

2011 SMP Research Skills Program



MONICA COOPER | Faculty Liaison Librarian  
MEDICAL SCIENCES LIBRARIES



Image Source: *PerthNow* March 16, 2010  
The State and federal governments will spend \$145 million Aboriginal health in WA.  
<http://www.perthnow.com.au/news/western-australia/m-boost-to-aboriginal-health/story-e6frg13u-1225841476831>

**COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA**

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- › Acknowledgement of Country
- › We wish to thank the following staff, students and their supervisors for sharing their time, research and expertise in developing this program.
- › Victoria Owen, MBBS Stage 3, Year 4 Honours
- › Supervised by Professor Alan Cass  
Senior Director - The George Institute, Renal and Metabolic Division
- › *Barriers to Completion of Randomised Controlled Trials in Indigenous Health in Australia*
- › Margot Day, Sub-Dean USydMP Honours Post-graduate Co-ordinator

## › You will learn to:

- Identify concepts and search terms for a research question in Indigenous Australian health
- Locate names for Indigenous tribal and language groups
- Create and execute a detailed search strategy in Medline and Informit Online
- Refine a search strategy
- Export references to Endnote

## Aims:

- › To determine the number and frequency of **Randomised Controlled Trials (RCTs)** that have been undertaken in **Indigenous** health
- › To consider the completion and publication rates of undertaken RCTs
- › To identify the factors that prevent completion or publication of RCTs that have been undertaken ...
- › RCTs provide the highest level of evidence for **interventions** to inform the management of clinical problems (Sackett et al., 1997). Indigenous health, like any other field of medicine, requires experimental design to show without doubt what treatments are effective ....
- › the setting in which management is delivered to Aboriginal people is significantly different to the conditions under which clinical trials are conducted (Morris, 1999). The vast majority of **clinical trials** in **Australia** are conducted in **teaching hospitals** or **universities**, while around 30% of **Aboriginal** people live in **remote** areas, and receive treatment from **remote health clinics** (Carson and Bailie, 2004) ...
- › To date the method of quantifying outputs of Indigenous health research has been to review the published literature. This kind of survey is valuable in identifying the need for more RCTs and the failure of this need to be adequately addressed.....

› .

- › Online database Medline will be searched using the keywords: “aborig\*”, “indigen\*”, “torres strait”, “koori”, “remote australia”, “remote communit\*” and “remote population\*”. The following publication types will be included in the search: “clinical trials”, “randomised controlled trials”, “controlled clinical trials” and “intervention studies”.
  
  - › The resulting articles will be searched manually to find studies that meet the inclusion criteria:
    - 1) Include an Australian Aboriginal patient population,
    - 2) Have a formal description of methods and results,
    - 3) Use randomisation to allocate intervention and control, and
    - 4) Compare health effects of an intervention with a concurrent control group.
-

- › A community may be defined by geographic boundaries, political boundaries, or demographic characteristics. A community can be a neighborhood, a township, a city, or even defined within a particular setting such as the school system, worksites, or healthcare delivery system.

›

2005. Connecticut Association of Directors of Health, Inc. Healthy Eating Active Living Resource Toolkit.

› [http://www.cthaned.org/HEALRT/S1\\_defining\\_community.htm](http://www.cthaned.org/HEALRT/S1_defining_community.htm)

- › Demography of a Region – Census data and community profiles

- › This will be explored further in the session:

- Finding Australian and International Health and Welfare Statistics

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April, 3pm – Footbridge Lecture Theatre

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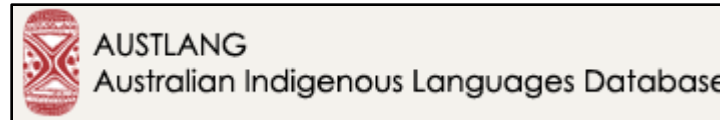
- › Includes a listing of indigenous language names by region
    - *Arnhem Land and Daly River Region Languages*
    - *Yolngu Matha*
    - *Cape York Peninsula Languages*
    - *Torres Strait Island Languages*
    - *Northern Desert Fringe Area Languages*
    - *Arandic*
    - *Western Desert Language*
    - *Kimberley Area Languages*
    - *Other Australian Indigenous Languages*
  
  - › See the coding index for variant spellings and the term number under which they are classified – official language selection highlighted in bold
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- › AIATSIS – the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies produces a number of Language Resources

- Language Thesaurus
- Place Thesaurus
- AustLang



- › Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet via Library Databases and Electronic Resources

- Map of Aboriginal Australia
- Map of Aboriginal Medical Services in Australia
- Organisations Listing
- <http://www.healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au/>



- › ABC Interactive Indigenous Language Map

- <http://www.abc.net.au/indigenous/>



# What Will You Search in Medline?

Indigenous / General	Australia / Regional	Indigenous Tribe / Clan / Family / Language Groups	Indigenous Research Centres / Institutes	Study Design / Publication Type
<b>Keywords</b>				
Indigenous	Australia / Australian	Koori / Koorie	Poche Centre for Indigenous Health	Randomized Controlled Trial / Randomised Controlled Trial
Aborigine / Aborigines / Aboriginal	Torres Straight (Islands)	Eora	Centre for Aboriginal Health Research	RCT
	Australian Capital Territory / ACT	Maung	Combined Universities Centre for Rural Health	Clinical Trial
	New South Wales / NSW	Tiwi	Aborigin*	Single Blind
	Queensland / QLD	Kune	Indigen*	Double Blind
	Norther Territory / NT	Marra		
	Western Australia / WA	Yolngu		
	South Australia / SA	Jaru		
	Victoria / VIC	Warlpiri		
	Tasmania / TAS	Arrernte		
		Ngaanyatjarra		
		Pitjantjatjara		
		Yankunytjatjara		
		Bardi		
		Kanai		
		Kurna		
		Wiradjuri		
		Yorta Yorta		
		Murri		
		Noongar		
		Nunga		

Indigenous / General	Australia / Regional	Indigenous Language Groups	Indigenous Research Centres / Institutes	Study Design
<b>MeSH Subject Headings - Medline (via OvidSP)</b>				
Oceanic Ancestry Group	Australia [explode]	N/A	Health Services, Indigenous	Clinical Trial [explode - narrower term includes Randomized Controlled Trial]
Health Services, Indigenous				Random Allocation
				Single-blind Method
				Double-blind Method

Field/s	Extension	Example
Text Word	<b>.tw</b>	<b>Koori*.tw</b> will find Koori / Koorie / Koories in the Title or Abstract fields
Multi-Purpose Search	<b>.mp</b>	<b>Australia*.mp</b> will find Australia / Australian in Title, Original Title, Abstract, MeSH Subject Heading or Name of Substance
Country of Publication	<b>.cp</b>	<b>Australia*.cp</b> will find literature published in Australia
Institution	<b>.in</b>	<b>Poche Centre for Indigenous Health.in</b> will find literature produced through a particular research centre or institute
Publication Type	<b>.pt</b>	<b>Randomized Controlled Trial.pt</b> will find literature identified and indexed as a Randomized Controlled Trial  <a href="http://ovidsupport.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/2080">http://ovidsupport.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/2080</a>

You can explore additional field searching options by clicking on the  icon from the Medline (OvidSP) search interface

# Advanced Search Syntax in Medline

Tool	Symbol	Example
Truncation	<b>* or \$</b>	<b>Aborigin*</b> will find Aborigine or Aborigines or Aboriginal
Limited Truncation	<b>\$n</b>	<b>Aborigine\$1</b> will find Aborigine or Aborigines
Mandated Wildcard	<b>#</b>	<b>Wom#n</b> will find woman or women
Optional Wildcard	<b>?</b>	<b>D?arug</b> will find references to the Dharug or Darug Australian Indigenous language group (0-1 character wildcard)
Adjacency	<b>adjn</b>	<b>Rural adj3 Communit*</b> will find the word Rural within 3 words of Community or Communities (before or after)
Literal String	<b>“”</b>	Use only for phrases including punctuation or words which are also boolean operators (AND / OR / NOT)
Boolean	<b>AND / OR</b>	<b>Aborigin* or Indigenous Indigenous and Australia*</b>
Nested	<b>( )</b>	<b>(Aborigin* or Indigenous) and Australia*</b>

- › A single package of over 80 Australian literature databases covering:
    - Agriculture, Arts, Asia, Business, Education, Engineering, Health, History, Indigenous, Law, Media, Reference, Sciences, Social Sciences, Technology
  - › Includes the ATSIhealth - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Bibliography – identical to the Bibliography found on the Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet, however only updated on a 6 monthly basis
  - › Includes bibliographic and some full-text content
  - › Literature indexed includes scholarly, popular and news sources
  - › Some databases in Informit use a Thesaurus or Subject Headings list – searching using subject headings may be of limited value when searching more than 1 database simultaneously
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Tool	Symbol	Example
Truncation	*	<b>Aborigin*</b> will find Aborigine or Aborigines or Aboriginal
Optional Wildcard	* <i>n</i>	<b>D*1arug</b> will find references to the Dharug or Darug Australian Indigenous language group (0-n character wildcard)
Words in same Sentence	<b>near</b>	<b>Randomi*ed near Trial*</b>
Words in same Paragraph	<b>with</b>	<b>Remote* with Communit*</b>
Adjacency – this order	<b>!n</b>	<b>Double !1 Blind*</b>
Adjacency – any order	<b>%n</b>	<b>Rural %3 Communit*</b> will find the word Rural within 3 words of Community or Communities (before or after)
Literal String	“”	Use only for phrases including punctuation or words which are also boolean operators (AND / OR / NOT)
Boolean	<b>and / or</b>	<b>Aborigin* or Indigenous Indigenous and Australia*</b>
Nested	<b>( )</b>	<b>(Aborigin* or Indigenous) and Australia*</b>

# Field Searching in Informit Online

Field/s	Extension	Example
Any Field		The default when searching Informit Online and the most comprehensive search method
Title	<b>ti=</b>	<b>ti=Koori*</b> will find Koori / Koorie / Koories in the Title field
Abstract	<b>ab=</b>	<b>ab=Koori*</b> will find Koori / Koorie / Koories in the Abstract field
Corporate Author	<b>ca=</b>	<b>ca=Aborigin*</b> will find any corporate author name containing Aborigine / Aborigines / Aboriginal
Multi-field Search	<b>ti,ab,ca=</b>	<b>ti,ab,ca=(Koori* or Yolngu or D*arug)</b> will find any of these tribal / language groups listed in titles, abstracts or corporate author fields
All Subject Fields	<b>subject=</b>	<b>Subject=(aborigin* or indigen*)</b> will find Aboriginal or Indigenous word variants in any of up to 8 subject fields across various databases



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