

De-duplication

When conducting a systematic literature review you may need to search several databases to find all the literature you need. As you undertake your search you will start to see the same articles appearing in several databases. When reporting your search results using a flow diagram, you need to de-duplicate (remove the duplicate articles) from your search results so that each item on your list is unique.

Using a reference management software such as **Refworks** is one way of managing and de-duplicating your references.

Follow the instructions below:

Conduct your search

For example: Identifying research linking physical fitness to a reduced risk of dementia or alzheimers in men.

Select keywords and create a search string e.g.

(dementia OR alzheimers) AND (exercise OR "physical activity" OR fitness)

Search in CINAHL (available on Library Search > Find Databases A-Z> C

The screenshot shows the EBSCOhost search interface. At the top left is the EBSCOhost logo. The search bar contains the text "dementia OR alzheimers". To the right of the search bar is a dropdown menu labeled "Select a Field (optional)". To the right of the search bar is a green "Search" button. Below the search bar is a dropdown menu labeled "AND" and a search bar containing the text "exercise OR 'physical activity' OR fitness". To the right of this search bar is another dropdown menu labeled "Select a Field (optional)". To the right of this search bar is a "Clear" button with a question mark icon. Below this search bar is another dropdown menu labeled "AND" and an empty search bar. To the right of this search bar is a third dropdown menu labeled "Select a Field (optional)". To the right of this search bar are two circular buttons, one with a plus sign and one with a minus sign. At the bottom left of the search interface are three links: "Basic Search", "Advanced Search", and "Search History".

Refine your results in the left-hand pane to reflect your search limits. In this example:

- research undertaken in the last five years (for this example 2018-2023)
- peer-reviewed articles
- All Adults
- gender Male

Now repeat the search in MEDLINE (Ebsco)

Results

Records identified through CINAHL (n = 453)

Records identified through MEDLINE (n = 1,358)

Exporting results

In the **Search Results** pane click on the **Share** drop down menu on the right-hand side.

Relevance ▾ Page Options ▾ **Share ▾**

Add to folder :

📁 Results (1-10)

📁 Add search to folder:
(dementia OR alzheimers) AND (
exercise OR "physical activit...

Create an alert :

✉ E-mail Alert 📡 RSS Feed


Use Permalink :

Persistent link to search (copy & paste)

<https://search.ebscohost.com/login.asp>

Export results :

📧 E-mail a link to download exported results (up to 1358)



Click on **E-mail a link to download exported results**

Choose RIS format and add your email to the **E-mail to** box and click on the **Send** button.

E-mail

The record export may take some time. You will be notified via e-mail once the export is complete. Thank you for your patience.

E-mail from:

E-mail to:

Separate each e-mail address with a semicolon.

E-mail a link to a file with citations in:

- RIS Format (e.g. CITAVI, EasyBib, EndNote, ProCite, Reference Manager, Zotero)
- Generic bibliographic management format
- Citations in XML format
- Citations in BibTeX format
- Citations in MARC21 format

You will receive an email containing a zip file. Download to your computer and right click on the folder and choose Extract all.

Uploading your results to Refworks

Go to **Refworks**

Create a Folder from the **My Folders** menu by clicking on **Add folder**. This is where you will save your results.



Click on the plus button

Choose **Import References from Refworks, Mendeley or RIS file**.

Select the downloaded RIS files from your computer.

(Note if you use Pubmed as one of your databases, it exports as nbib files but these can also be imported in this way)

Assign to your folder and Import the ris file.

When you have imported the RIS files from both databases, you are ready to deduplicate.

Open your folder so that the results appear in the viewing pane. In the example below the folder is called "Deduplicated"

Click on the **Duplicates** drop down menu and select **Find Duplicates**

The screenshot shows the RefWorks web interface. At the top, there's a blue header with 'RefWorks' on the left and 'Untitled Project' in the center, with a dropdown arrow. To the right of the header is a green notification bar that says 'New document(s) added to your'. Below the header is a toolbar with icons for 'Add', 'Assign to Folder', 'Share', and 'Create Bibliography'. The left sidebar contains a list of navigation options: 'All References', 'Search Databases', 'Last Imported', 'Duplicates' (with a dropdown arrow), 'Sharing' (with a red badge showing '3' and a dropdown arrow), and 'My Folders' (with an upward arrow). Below these are 'Add folder' and 'Sort' buttons. The main content area shows a folder named 'Deduplicated' containing 2829 references. The first two references are visible: one with Ref ID 5788 and authors Jang, Yuri; Choi, Eun Young... Kim, Miyong T.. (202), and another with Ref ID 5787 and authors Brigola, Allan Gustavo; Ottaviani, Ana Carolina... F. Both references have a 'Deduplicated' tag and other tags like 'Acculturation*', 'Aged', 'Accidental Falls...', and 'Activities of De'. A third reference with Ref ID 5786 is partially visible at the bottom.

Make sure that you have **Current folder** selected. Click on **Find Duplicates**

Your deduplication request has started

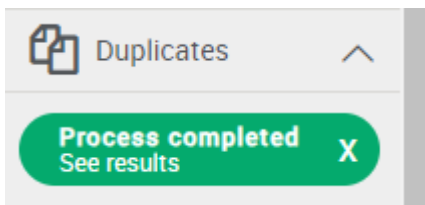
Deduplication time varies based on number of records and match criteria and will run in its entirety until it is complete.

You are not required to stay on this page or be logged into RefWorks.

OK

Click on **OK** when the request has started.

When the process is completed, you will see a green box in the left-hand pane. Click on it to see your results.



62 duplicates are found.

Click on the **Delete** icon on the menu bar and **Move all duplicates to trash**.

Now add your results to your flow diagram

Flow Diagram

