Online Discussion: **Search Strategy**

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Step 1: Query Analysis

Given: dogs, cats, therapeutic programs, old people, (nursing) home

Wanted: information/proof supporting pet visits to a particular nursing home so that she can bring her yellow Labrador (which we do not know is a service animal? We could ask).

Modifier: "pet therapy", "therapy animal", "elderly", "nursing home"

Step 2: Search Strategy

Based on video in Canvas: https://youtu.be/fpfDyucPQMo

Keywords vs Subject: Doing a preliminary search using PubMed came up with subject headings (MeSH) such as "Animal Assisted Therapy", "Aged", "Homes for the Aged." However, for a search like this, especially if we use different databases, keywords may give us some more flexibility in getting the results we want within the time allotted to help this patron.

Synonyms: "pet therapy" instead of "therapy animal" since it is more common, "aged" can be used in addition to "elderly."

Boolean: "**pet therapy**" AND "**nursing home**" AND **elderly** OR **aged**

Truncations: Instead of "elderly, we would use **elder*** to accommodate results with **elder**, **elders, elderly** etc.

Step 3 Where to Search?
Health-related databases such as PubMed and perhaps education-related databases such as ERIC (I used ProQuest Education).

Step 4 &5: Results and Revision of Search Strategy

In PubMed, my resulting query in "all fields" looked like this:

((animal assisted therapy) OR (pet therapy)) AND ((elder*) OR (aged)) AND (nursing home)

I had with 68 results, but I set a limiter for the last ten years, which brought up 40 results. Choosing clinical trials as a limiter brought up six results. An examination of the abstracts, especially if there were conclusions, would determine whether the articles would be useful for the patron. For example, the Thodberg et. al. article (2016) did not suggest any long-term benefit.

I also used the ProQuest Education database and my search query looked like this (peer-reviewed box was checked):

(animal assisted therapy) OR (pet therapy) AND elder* OR aged AND (nursing home)

I received 8,933 results that I then limited the date to 2016 and after, which resulted in 2,622 results.

A quick look made me realize that not all the results focused on pet therapy, nor did they always focus on older people, so I changed the search query to this:

((animal assisted therapy) OR (pet therapy)) AND ((older adults) OR (elderly)) AND (nursing home)

The result was 98 peer-reviewed results from the past five years.

References (some relevant articles found)

Friedmann, E., Galik, E., Thomas, S. A., Hall, P. S., Chung, S. Y., & McCune, S. (2015). Evaluation of a pet-assisted living intervention for improving functional status in assisted living residents with mild to moderate cognitive impairment: a pilot study. *American journal of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias*, *30*(3), 276–289. https://doi.org/10.1177/1533317514545477

Thodberg, K., Sørensen, L. U., Christensen, J. W., Poulsen, P. H., Houbak, B., Damgaard, V., Keseler, I., Edwards, D., & Videbech, P. B. (2016). Therapeutic effects of dog visits in nursing homes for the elderly. *Psychogeriatrics : the official journal of the Japanese Psychogeriatric Society*, *16*(5), 289–297. https://doi.org/10.1111/psyg.12159

Wood, W., Fields, B., Rose, M., & McLure, M. (2017). Animal-assisted therapies and dementia: A systematic mapping review using the lived environment life quality (LELQ) model. *The American Journal of Occupational Therapy, 71*(5), 1-10. doi:http://dx.doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2017.027219