

## TRUNCATION GUIDE

### What is truncation?

Using some symbol, truncation can shorten a keyword so that it will match all terms starting with the same stem.

**i.e.: *Therap\** matches *therapy, therapies, therapeutics, therapist, etc***

Truncators vary depending on database. Use the chart below to determine which symbol is needed

### Types of Truncation

**Unlimited:** find all words containing the root word

*addict\$* = addict, addicts, addicted, addiction, addictions, etc

**One or no character:** find the British spelling, plurals, past tense

*orthop?edics* = orthopedics or orthopaedics

*exercise?* = exercise, exercises, exercised, exerciser

**Single character:** find irregular plurals, variations in names

*wom#n* = woman or women

*All#n* = Allen or Allan or Allyn

Database	Symbol
Cochrane Library	* any number of characters
EbscoHost	? exactly one character
	* any number of characters
EMBASE.com	* any number of characters
INNOPAC	* any number of characters
MDConsult	* any number of characters
	? exactly one character
Ovid	\$ any number of characters
	# exactly one character
	? one or no characters
PubMed	* any number of characters
ScienceDirect	! any number of characters
	* exactly one character
Web of Knowledge <i>Includes</i> Web of Science, Journal Citation Reports, Current Contents Connect	* any number of characters