

Paula – The power searcher

About

- Information specialist at a University
- Assists students and researchers with their information searching
- Uses a lot of different databases and database providers (e.g. Ebsco, Ovid, Web of Science, LexisNexis)
- Experienced at building complex search strategies and search queries
- Often has to undertake literature and systematic reviews
- Not a domain specialist so often not familiar with all the terms searched

“I need the full power to search for what I want and the way I want it”

“I need to be confident that a database will return me everything”

“I have to constantly remind myself what the syntax and field codes to use are”



Wants to

- Search one or more databases for key terms
- Refine and combine search queries
- Export results to her preferred ref manager
- Save details of search queries used
- De-duplicate results

Key needs

- To know how best to search a database
- To be in control
- To know that everything has been returned
- To be able to easily switch between different databases and database providers

Challenges

- Paula is time poor, can we help her to quickly learn how best to search a database?
- Paula is not used to the syntax used by a database
- Paula often needs to find and export everything
- The queries that Paula creates can be very long and complex