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Judy Schroeder Grand Valley State University, schroeju@gvsu.edu

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An Overlap Analysis of Occupational Therapy Electronic Journals Available in Full-Text Databases and Subscription Services

Judy Schroeder

ABSTRACT. In order to convert occupational therapy journal subscriptions from print to electronic, a university library, in collaboration with its Occupational Therapy Program, compared full-text databases and journal subscription services. This comparison was designed to identify the best combination of databases and individual subscriptions for the highest number of electronic titles and the best years of coverage.

KEYWORDS. Allied health, collection development, databases, EBSCOhost databases, e-journals, electronic journals, occupational therapy, *OT SEARCH*, overlap analysis, ProQuest databases

AUTHOR. Judy Schroeder, MSLS (schroeju@gvsu.edu) is Health Sciences Librarian at Frey Foundation Learning Center, Grand Valley State University Libraries, Grand Valley State University, 301 Michigan Street NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49321.

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INTRODUCTION

Full-text databases and subscription services are among those options currently being utilized for supplying full-text coverage of electronic journals. This article examines full-text databases and subscription services in terms of their occupational therapy electronic journal content and years of coverage, and describes combinations of databases that contain the most occupational therapy journals. These data were presented as a poster under the same title at the Medical Library Association Annual Meeting, *Connections: Bridging the Gaps*, held in Chicago, Illinois from May 16-21, 2008.

This analysis took place at Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, Michigan, an institution that has a College of Health Professions including a master's degree program in Occupational Therapy and six other programs in allied health. The University also has a College of Nursing and several biomedical programs.

Evidence-based research has been important in the early history of occupational therapy, and it is just as important today for designing best practices and supporting reimbursement of expenses. After it was formed in 1965, one of the roles of the American Occupational Therapy Foundation was to provide funding for research. Until 1980 there was only one journal in the United States for occupational therapy (*Occupational Therapy and Rehabilitation*, followed by *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*), but since that time the number of journals has increased. American Journal of Occupational Therapy, British Journal of Occupational Therapy, Canadian Journal of Occupational Therapy, and Occupational Therapy Journal of Research have been among the most often cited and utilized. However, to a great extent occupational therapists have utilized literature from the social sciences. 1,2

In 2005, G. Ted Brown and Anita Brown noted in their study of the *Occupational Therapy Journal of Research* that the authors of articles in this journal tended to cite from the "fields of psychology/education/social science/behavioral science (35%), and occupational therapy resources (30%)."² They also noted that rehabilitation journals were cited as often as occupational therapy journals.² Already in 1999, this trend of utilizing journals from social science and rehabilitation had been identified by Kathlyn Reed in "Mapping the Literature of Occupational Therapy."¹ Recently, in a review of occupational therapy journals, Andresen, Tang, and Barney found that "21.4% of scholarship identified as occupational therapy was classified as research compared to 42.9% of the articles in rehabilitation medicine journals."³ They went on to say that the emerging field of occupational therapy is interdisciplinary based on the "profession's historical emphasis on the person, environment, and occupation," and pointed to the potential for scholarship unlimited by boundaries found in other disciplines.³ It is clear that scholarship and research in occupational therapy have been regarded as interdisciplinary.

Citation analyses as a means of identifying core sets of journals for economical purchasing of collections has been shown to be effective over the years. Often, however, purchases have ultimately depended on the local needs of each institution, and require consideration of the fields of practice, study, or research at the institution, budgets, and various packages available for purchase of e-journals or full-text databases. Philip Davis discussed the use of citation analysis as well as other factors influencing electronic journal purchases.⁴

Libraries that serve occupational therapy in particular may or may not benefit from large electronic journal budgets. In either case, prudent usage of funds is always desirable, and when funds are limited, large journal overlaps are considered expensive. It is important for small libraries or libraries that serve only occupational therapy professionals minimize these overlaps

by utilizing databases that offer the most full-text journals supporting occupational therapy. As universities and medical center libraries are required to supply resources for multiple professions at each site, balancing these resources to best offer coverage for all fields of practice and research, including occupational therapy, can be challenging.

Larger libraries that serve occupational therapy can benefit from multidisciplinary databases or group electronic packages that serve all fields. However, they also need to be aware of electronic journals that support occupational therapy and databases that offer significant numbers of journals supporting this field. To aid libraries in making decisions regarding the purchase of occupational therapy e-journals and full-text databases, this article provides the following: a list of electronic journals supporting occupational therapy, a comparison of several databases and subscription services with their occupational therapy journal content, and overlap analyses of several database combinations.

METHODS AND RESULTS

Master List of Current Occupational Therapy Electronic Journals

This study began with the compilation of a master list of occupational therapy journals and journals that support occupational therapy (hereafter referred to as related titles). This was accomplished by taking two known lists of journals and supplementing them with occupational therapy journals and related titles that did not appear on these lists. A search of the literature revealed that the most recent article mapping occupational therapy journals was by Kathlyn L. Reed who ranked journals by the number of cited references in occupational therapy. Two-thirds of the journals with citations in occupational therapy made up a list of the 120 most-cited journals. These most-often cited journals that contained one third of the total citations in

occupational therapy were American Journal of Occupational Therapy, Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health.¹ OT SEARCH is an often referenced bibliographic database that indexes the contents of the Wilma L. West Library, which contains resources for the American Occupational Therapy Foundation and the American Occupational Therapy Association. The 68 journal titles indexed in OT SEARCH were included in the master list of journal titles along with the 120 most-cited list.⁵ In an effort to update these lists, five additional occupational therapy journals recommended by the faculty of the Occupational Therapy Program at Grand Valley State University were included. Five more journals that were the most requested through interlibrary loan by this Occupational Therapy Program were included on the master list as journals that support occupational therapy (related titles).

In order to identify current occupational therapy journals and related titles, the journals on the master list were checked in *Ulrich's Periodicals Directory*. Journals that had ceased publication were removed from the list, with the rare exception of some which were still available electronically. Journal title changes were also updated on the master list. By checking in both *Ulrich's Periodicals Directory* and *Serials Solutions*, journals not available in electronic format in February 2008 were removed from the master list. ^{6,7}

The final master list compilation totaled 141 titles. These journals included 91 from the 120 most-cited list. Of these, eight journals had the words "occupational therapy" in the title, ten were rehabilitation journals, and 80 were from the related fields of education, gerontology, medicine, psychology, psychiatry, movement science, leisure, social science, and other areas. The master list also included 51 of the 68 journals indexed in *OT SEARCH*. Of those, 25 had the words "occupational therapy" in the title or were newsletters published by the American

Occupational Therapy Association. In addition, 12 were physical rehabilitation journals, and 14 were from the fields of gerontology, education, and psychology. The remaining seven of the ten journals requested by Occupational Therapy Program faculty through interlibrary loan were occupational therapy and rehabilitation journals, both national and international. The master list, along with indications of which journals came from the 120 most-cited list and those which were indexed in *OT SEARCH*, appears in Appendix A.^{1,5}

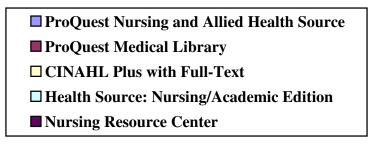
Databases and Subscription Services with Occupational Therapy Journal Contents

In order to compile a list of databases and subscription services that contains years of coverage for occupational therapy journals, commonly used health science databases and subscription services were identified in *Serials Solutions* and checked against the master list of electronic occupational therapy journals. The years of coverage for each journal on the master list were recorded as appearing in *Serials Solutions* during February 2008. The years of coverage for the journals in each database are listed at either http://faculty.gvsu.edu/schroeju or http://libguides.gvsu.edu/content.php?pid=13057&sid=96659. The information for each database also includes the total number of occupational therapy journals and related titles, total number of journals from the 120 most-cited list, total number of journals that are the three most cited from the 120 most-cited list, and total number of journals indexed in *OT SEARCH*. The data recorded are listed in Appendix B.

The results showed that the individual databases containing the most occupational therapy journals and journals that support occupational therapy were *ProQuest Nursing and Allied Health Source*, a total of 44; *ProQuest Medical Library*, a total of 30; and *CINAHL Plus with Full Text*, a total of 28. Databases containing the most journals from the 120 most-cited list include *ProQuest Medical Library*, a total of 29; *ProQuest Nursing and Allied Health Source*, a

total of 28; and *Nursing Resource Center*, a total of 17.¹ Databases containing journals from the three most cited journals on the 120 most cited list were *ProQuest Nursing and Allied Health Source*, a total of 2; and *ProQuest Medical Library*, *CINAHL Plus with Full Text*, and *Elsevier Health*; a total of 1.¹ Databases containing the most journals indexed in *OT SEARCH* were *ProQuest Nursing and Allied Health Source*, a total of 20; *CINAHL Plus with Full Text*, a total of 15; and *Health Source: Nursing/Academic Edition*, a total of 10.⁵ Some subscription services carrying occupational therapy journals and related titles included *EBSCOhost*, a total of 103; *Journals@Ovid*, a total of 43; and *HighWire Press*, a total of 21.⁷ A chart showing a comparison of some of the databases examined appears in Figure 1. The complete data with the years of coverage for each journal in each database is listed at

http://libguides.gvsu.edu/content.php?pid=13057&sid=96659 or http://faculty.gvsu.edu/schroeju.



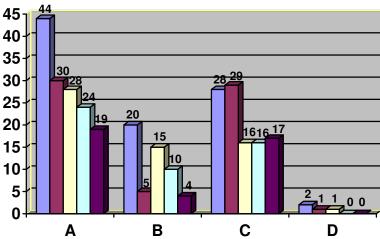


FIGURE 1. Databases Containing the Most Journals Supporting Occupational Therapy

- A. Total journals supporting occupational therapy within each database
- B. Total journals indexed in *OT SEARCH* within each database⁵
- C. Total journals from the 120 most cited list within each database¹
- D. Total of the three most cited journals within each database^{1,7}

In a comparison of databases to subscription services, the years of journal coverage varied. The years of coverage in the databases tended to be the most recent 5 to 10 years, occasionally more or fewer than 5-10 years, and occasional embargoes from 6-18 months. The years of coverage in the subscription services tended to be the most recent 5-14 years, occasionally fewer, and sometimes, a journal's entire run. In many cases, subscription services offered more years of coverage than available in databases. Of those journals not available in the databases, many were carried by the subscription services. For example, *EBSCOhost* carried 31 journals indexed in *OT SEARCH* and 80 journals from the 120 most-cited list, with a total of 103 of the 141 on the master list.^{1,5,7}

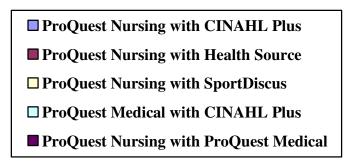
Overlap analysis of database combinations

Various combinations that matched two databases at a time were analyzed for the purpose of identifying those database combinations that featured the most occupational therapy journals and journals supporting occupational therapy. The following data were recorded for each database combination:

- total number of journals supporting occupational therapy
- total number of journals on the 120 most-cited list
- total number of journals from the three most cited journals on the 120 most-cited list

- total number of journals indexed in *OT SEARCH*
- total number of journals supporting occupational therapy unique to each database
- total number of journals supporting occupational therapy (overlapping) common to both databases^{1,5}

In addition, an overlap analysis was conducted in *Serials Solutions* for the total contents of the two databases. For each database combination, the total number of journals "unique" to each database, and the total number of journals "overlapping" or common to both databases⁷ were recorded. See Figure 2 for a chart that shows the database combinations with the most number of occupational therapy journals and related titles. Data recorded for the overlap analysis of the



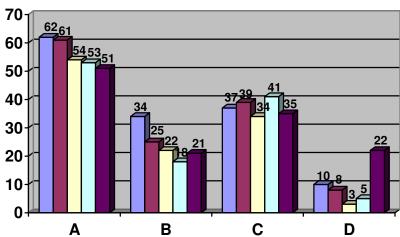


Figure 2. Database Combinations Containing the Most Occupational Therapy Journals

- A. Total number of journals supporting occupational therapy
- B. Total number of journals indexed in *OT SEARCH*⁵
- C. Total number of journals from the 120 most-cited list¹
- D. Total number of overlapping journals held in both databases⁷

database combinations are featured in Appendix C. Complete overlap analysis data can be found at http://faculty.gvsu.edu/schroeju or <a href="http://faculty.gvsu.edu/schroeju or <a href="http://fa

OBSERVATIONS

Occupational therapy professionals utilize journals from both within and outside the profession to support their work as evident by the contents of both Kathlyn L. Reed's list of 120 most-cited journals and the journals indexed in *OT SEARCH*.^{1,5} The databases examined here may vary in the number of journals from occupational therapy and from other fields, but it is important to include those that are most often cited.⁴ Since one third of all cited articles appear in three journals, it is recommended that the primary database source include at least one of these journals. If that is not possible, subscription services offer access to all three of the most cited journals. Since individual subscriptions of occupational therapy journals are available from several subscription services, it is easy to supplement titles that are missing from the databases or supplement titles for which more comprehensive coverage is desired. Some duplication of titles in databases with titles from subscription services may be desirable to increase years of coverage for journals cited most often. For example, since the *American Journal of Occupational Therapy* cites more articles than any other source, it might be appropriate to obtain coverage from a subscription service in addition to coverage in a database. The most years of coverage of the

American Journal of Occupational Therapy in the databases is approximately the most recent two years; the years of coverage of the American Journal of Occupational Therapy in subscription services are approximately the most recent nine years.⁷

In general, when *ProQuest* and *EBSCOhost* databases examined in this overlap analysis were combined, they complemented one another and yielded minimal overlap and higher numbers of combined occupational therapy journals. Even though a few journals are shared by both vendors, each offers unique journals. *ProQuest Nursing and Allied Health Source* and *CINAHL Plus with Full Text*, when combined, yielded a total of 62 occupational therapy journals and related titles. Of these, 52 of the journals were unique to one database (*ProQuest Nursing and Allied Health Source - 34, CINAHL Plus with Full Text - 18*) and ten journals were shared by both databases. Combinations of the same vendor were not as good, yielding more than desirable numbers of overlapped journals and smaller numbers of unique titles. *ProQuest Nursing and Allied Health Source* and *ProQuest Medical Library*, when combined, yielded a total of 51 occupational therapy journals and related titles. Of these, only 29 of the journals were unique to one database (*ProQuest Nursing and Allied Health Source - 22, ProQuest Medical Library - 7*), and 22 journals were shared by both databases.

ProQuest Nursing and Allied Health Source and CINAHL Plus with Full Text yielded the highest number of occupational therapy journals and related titles among the database combinations with a total of 62 journals. This combination included a number of nursing and other allied health journals. Yet, an analysis of the entire combined contents of the two databases in Serials Solutions revealed that 472 holdings were unique to ProQuest Nursing and Allied Health Source and 362 holdings were unique to CINAHL Plus with Full Text with an overlap of 238 holdings. Even though this combination yielded the most number of

occupational therapy journals, the number of overlapped journals in the entire combined databases may not be cost-effective for some institutions.

The database combination of *ProQuest Nursing and Allied Health Source* and EBSCOhost's *Health Source: Nursing/Academic Edition* yielded a high number (61) of occupational therapy journals and related titles. This combination included a number of nursing and allied health journals. In an analysis of the entire combined databases in *Serials Solutions*, 515 holdings were unique to *ProQuest Nursing and Allied Health Source* and 362 were unique to *Health Source: Nursing/Academic Edition* with an overlap of 195.⁷ The overlap in this combination of databases may be more acceptable to some institutions.

The database combination of *ProQuest Nursing and Allied Health Source* and EBSCOhost's *SPORTDiscus with Full Text* yielded 54 occupational therapy journals and related titles including a high number of rehabilitation, physical therapy, and sports medicine journals. This combination of databases had the least number of overlapped journals among any of the database combinations analyzed here with only 3 overlapped journals among occupational therapy journals and only 37 overlapped journals in the entire combined contents of the two databases, making them a cost-effective choice.⁷

The database combination of *ProQuest Medical Library* and *CINAHL Plus with Full Text* yielded 53 occupational therapy journals and related titles. This combination yielded the least number of journals indexed in *OT SEARCH* and the most number of journals from the 120 most-cited list with a large number of medical journals.^{1,5} The number of overlapped titles in this combination was minimal; five overlapped occupational therapy journals and 134 journals in the combined two databases make them a cost-effective choice.⁷

CONCLUSION

Although electronic coverage of occupational therapy journals can be found in most

allied health or medical databases, no one database is comprehensive. The best electronic

coverage occurs with the combination of two databases supplemented by individual

subscriptions from subscriptions services. The best combinations of databases are those that

yield the highest number of occupational therapy journals and related titles; have minimal

overlap of titles; have a good balance of occupational therapy titles (those journals cited most

often, including journals from occupational therapy and journals from allied health and medicine

that support occupational therapy); and contain adequate coverage for other allied health and

medical programs at the hosting institution. This analysis showed that with 44 titles, *ProQuest*

Nursing and Allied Health Source contained the most electronic journals supporting occupational

therapy. The two databases that together included the most electronic journals supporting

occupational therapy were ProQuest Nursing and Allied Health Source and CINAHL Plus with

Full Text with 62 titles. Although this database combination offered the most journals

supporting occupational therapy, other database combinations offered adequate numbers of

journals supporting occupational therapy with lower numbers of overlaps.

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APPENDIX A. Electronic Journals That Support Occupational Therapy

Academic Medicine #

Activities, Adaptations and Aging *

Adapted Physical Activity Quarterly #

Administration & Management Special Interest Section Quarterly *

Advance for Occupational Therapy Practitioners

Advances in Nursing Science #

Age and Ageing #

American Association of Occupational Health Nurses Journal #

American Journal of Nursing #

American Journal of Occupational Therapy *#

American Journal of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation *#

American Journal of Psychiatry #

American Journal of Public Health #

American Journal on Mental Retardation #

American Rehabilitation *

Annals of Internal Medicine #

Archives of Neurology #

Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation *#

Arthritis Care and Research *#

Arthritis & Rheumatism #

Asian Journal of Occupational Therapy

Assistive Technology *

Australian Occupational Therapy Journal *#

Brain: a journal of neurology #

Brain and Cognition #

British Journal of Occupational Therapy *#

British Medical Journal #

Canadian Journal of Occupational Therapy *#

Child Abuse & Neglect #

Child: Care Health and Development #

Child Development #

CIN: Computers, Informatics, Nursing #

Clinical Infectious Diseases #

Clinical Rehabilitation #

Community Mental Health Journal #

Corrections Management Quarterly *

Cortex: Journal Devoted to Study of the Nervous System and Behavior #

Developmental Disabilities Special Interest Section Quarterly *

Developmental Medicine and Child Neurology #

Disability and Rehabilitation

Education and Training in Developmental Disabilities #

Educational and Psychological Measurement: Devoted to the Development. . . #

Education Special Interest Section Quarterly *

Ergonomics #

Experimental Brain Research #

Gerontologist #

Gerontology Special Interest Section Quarterly *

Hand Clinics

Health#

Health Affairs: The Policy Journal of the Health Sphere #

Home and Community Health Special Interest Section Quarterly *

Home Health Care Management and Practice *

Home Healthcare Services Quarterly *

Hong Kong Journal of Occupational Therapy

Hospice Journal: The Official Journal of the National Hospice Organization *

Indian Journal of Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy

Infant Behavior and Development #

Infants and Young Children*#

International Journal of Therapy and Rehabilitation

Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science #

Journal of Abnormal Psychology #

Journal of Advanced Nursing #

Journal of Allied Health #

Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis #

Journal of Applied Psychology #

Journal of Applied School Psychology *

Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry #

Journal of Clinical Psychology #

Journal of Cooperative Education and Internships #

Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics #

Journal of Experimental Psychology #

Journal of Hand Surgery #

Journal of Hand Therapy *#

Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation *#

Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law #

Journal of Learning Disabilities #

Journal of Leisure Research #

Journal of Motor Behavior #

Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry #

Journal of Nursing Administration #

Journal of Nursing Education #

Journal of Occupational Science *

Journal of Occupational Therapy, Schools and Early Intervention

Journal of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology #

Journal of Personality and Social Psychology #

Journal of Psychiatric Research #

Journal of Rehabilitation Medicine *

Journal of the American Geriatrics Society #

Journal of the American Medical Association #

Journal of Visual Impairment & Blindness #

Journals of Gerontology #

Medical Care #

Medical Education #

Mental Health Special Interest Section Quarterly *

NeuroRehabilitation: An Interdisciplinary Journal *

Neurology #

Neuropsychologia#

Neuropsychological Rehabilitation #

New England Journal of Medicine #

New Zealand Journal of Occupational Therapy *

Nursing Clinics of North America #

Nursing Outlook #

Occupational Therapy in Health Care: A Journal of Contemporary Practice *#

Occupational Therapy in Mental Health *

Occupational Therapy International *

Occupational Therapy Now *

OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health *#

OT Practice *

Pediatric Physical Therapy #

Pediatrics #

Perceptual Motor Skills #

Physical & Occupational Therapy in Geriatrics*#

Physical & Occupational Therapy in Pediatrics*#

Physical Disabilities Special Interest Section Quarterly *

Physical Therapy *#

Physiotherapy #

Psychiatric Rehabilitation Journal *

Psychiatric Services #

Psychology and Aging #

Psychology Review #

Psychosomatic Medicine #

Rehab Management *

Rehabilitation Nursing #

Rehabilitation Psychology *#

Research and Practice for Persons with Severe Disabilities #

Rural Special Education Quarterly #

Scandinavian Journal of Caring Sciences *

Scandinavian Journal of Occupational Therapy *

Schizophrenia Bulletin#

School System Special Interest Section Quarterly *

Sensory Integration Special Interest Section Quarterly *

Sexuality and Disability: A Journal Devoted to the Psychological #

Social Science & Medicine #

Stroke: A Journal of Cerebral Circulation #

Technology and Disability *

Technology Special Interest Section Quarterly *

Topics in Geriatric Rehabilitation *

Topics in Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation: The Interdisciplinary Journal *

Western Journal of Medicine #

Work: A Journal of Prevention, Assessment & Rehabilitation *

Work Programs Special Interest Section Quarterly *

* Journals and newsletters indexed in *OT SEARCH*. American Occupational Therapy Foundation. Available: http://www.aotf.org/html/indexed.shml. Accessed: November 6, 2007.

120 most-cited journals supporting occupational therapy¹

APPENDIX B. Databases and Subscription Services and Their Respective Numbers of Journals Supporting Occupational Therapy

- A. Total number of journals supporting occupational therapy
 B. Total number of journals indexed in *OT SEARCH*C. Total number of journals from the 120 most -cited list
 D. Total number of the three most-cited journals

	Α	В	С	D
ProQuest Nursing and Allied Health Source	44	20	28	2
ProQuest Medical Library	30	5	29	1
CINAHL Plus with Full Text	28	15	16	1
Health Source: Nursing/Academic Edition	24	10	16	0
Nursing Resource Center	19	4	17	0
Nursing & Allied Health Collection: Comprehensive	18	6	14	0
Health Reference Center Academic	13	6	9	0
SPORTDiscus with Full Text	13	5	8	0
Medline with Full Text	12	4	9	0
Journals@Ovid LWW Nursing & Health Professions	8	3	7	0
Elsevier Health	6	2	5	1
EBSCOhost – subscription service	103	31	80	3
Journals@Ovid – subscription service	43	10	38	1
Highwire Press – subscription service	21	2	20	0

As recorded from Serials Solutions during February 2008

APPENDIX C. Overlap Analysis of Databases Containing Occupational Therapy Journals

- A. ProQuest Nursing and Allied Health Source + CINAHL Plus with Full Text
 B. ProQuest Nursing and Allied Health Source + Health Source: Nursing/Academic Edition
 C. ProQuest Nursing and Allied Health Source + SPORT Discus with Full Text
 D. ProQuest Medical Library + CINAHL Plus with Full Text
 E. ProQuest Nursing and Allied Health Source + ProQuest Medical Library

	A.	B.	C.	D.	E.
Journals supporting occupational therapy	62	61	54	53	51
Journals indexed in OT SEARCH	34	25	22	18	21
Journals from the 120 most-cited list	37	39	34	41	35
Three most-often cited journals	2	2	2	2	2
Unique occupational therapy journals	52	53	51	48	29
Overlapped (shared) occupational therapy journals	10	8	3	5	22
Unique journals	784	877	1089	1291	910
Overlapped (shared) journals	238	195	37	134	378

As recorded from Serials Solutions during February 2008