

Truncation was used so that minor differences in the ending of a key word would still allow its retrieval. For example, Box 2 gives *tulare?* as a key word. In this case, the question mark allows tularemia or *tularensis* to be selected. *Francisella tularensis* is the bacterium that causes the disease tularemia.

To avoid counting the same work twice, Iranian publications were selected on the basis of the presence of key words described above. When the publications from all five databases were selected containing these key words, duplicates were identified by comparing bibliographic information, and removed.

The unique set of references were stored in a Pro-Cite bibliographic database.

The records of the published research were analyzed in terms of:

- 1) sites of research;
- 2) patterns of publications over time;
- 3) authors of the publications; and
- 4) apparent nature of the research.