

Cochrane Library – Quick Guide

The Cochrane Library is the premier resource for information on the effectiveness of healthcare interventions. It is a collection of evidence-based health care databases including:

Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (Cochrane Reviews): full text of the Cochrane Collaboration’s completed reviews, plus protocols for reviews in preparation.

Cochrane Clinical Answers: each CCA contains an clinical question, short answer and data for the outcomes from the most relevant Cochrane Reviews.

Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (Clinical Trials): references to randomised controlled trials (RCTs) identified through searching databases and hand searching journals.

Accessing the database from the Intranet

1. From the intranet home page click on **Library Service** under **Corporate**.
2. You should now be on the South Devon Health Libraries home page.
3. Click on **Search databases** on the left hand side of the screen.
4. Click on **Cochrane**. This will take you to the Cochrane Library.

Accessing the database from home

1. Open your browser of choice then type www.sdhl.nhs.uk in the address bar and press return
2. Click on **Search databases** on the left hand side of the screen.
3. Click on **Cochrane**. This will take you to the Cochrane Library.

1. Searching the Cochrane Library

The Cochrane Library home page looks like this:

The screenshot shows the Cochrane Library homepage with several callout boxes:

- Access Cochrane Reviews and other resources:** Points to the 'Cochrane Reviews' dropdown menu.
- For detailed search tips click on Help:** Points to the 'Help' link in the top navigation bar.
- Quick Search box:** Points to the search input field at the top right.
- Highlighted reviews:** Points to the 'Highlighted Reviews' tab in the 'Special Collections' section.
- Scroll down the homepage to browse reviews by topic:** Points to the 'Prevention of acute malnutrition' and 'Can Omega-3 prevent cardiovascular disease' featured articles.
- To combine searches and apply restrictions e.g. to select a particular database use Advanced Search:** Points to the 'Advanced search' button.

Some general search features to note:

Combining terms: **AND**, **OR** and **NOT** can be used to create a more complex search. If you use a combination of AND and OR, use brackets to control the order in which the search executes, e.g. **magnesium AND (eclampsia OR perinatal asphyxia)**.

A space between words: Cochrane assumes 'AND' for spaces between terms. A search for **acute bronchitis** will list any document that includes both words.

Phrase searching: use quotation marks to search for terms as a phrase, e.g. **"myocardial infarction"** or **"hip replacement"**.

MeSH: Use the **MeSH (Medical subject headings) Search** to expand your search with related keywords e.g. synonyms. NOTE: MeSH are not attached to all records. See the Trust Library's **Searching the Cochrane Library** leaflet for further information about MeSH.

2. Search Results

Whether **Advanced** or **Quick Search** is used, results are displayed as below. A maximum of 25 records are displayed on each page. Results are grouped by database (see the tabs at the top of the results page). Click on a database tab to see results from it.

Use the options on the left hand side to filter your results by date and language etc.

Select which database you want to view results from.

To view a document, click on the title of the review

Jump to specific sections of the review by clicking the relevant link in the menu.

4. Printing

Cochrane Reviews can be viewed in PDF and printed.

Finally... This sheet does not cover all the features of the Cochrane Library.

For further information use the Cochrane Library help pages or sign up for the Trust Library training course **"Searching the Cochrane Library"**.