

Searching the Cochrane Library

What is the Cochrane Library?

The Cochrane Library is internationally regarded as the gold standard in evidence based healthcare. It is a collection of databases, including over 7,000 full-text systematic reviews produced by the Cochrane Collaboration. It also contains protocols (details of Cochrane Reviews which are currently being written).

Accessing the database from work

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 page
4. Click on **Cochrane**. This will take you to the Cochrane Library

Accessing the database from home

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

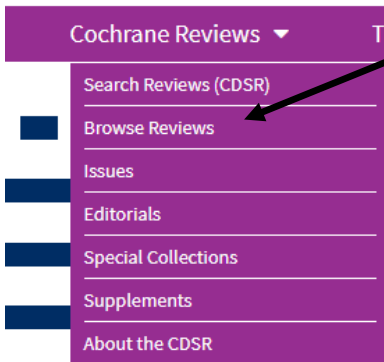
1. Browse by Topic or database

You can separately browse individual databases in the Cochrane Library. You can also choose to browse the Cochrane Reviews Database by topic or review group.

1a. Browsing Cochrane Reviews by Topic



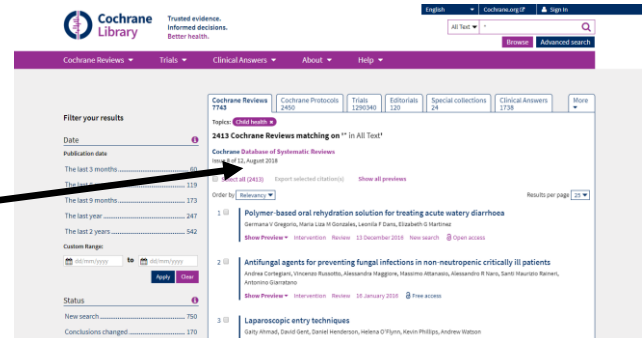
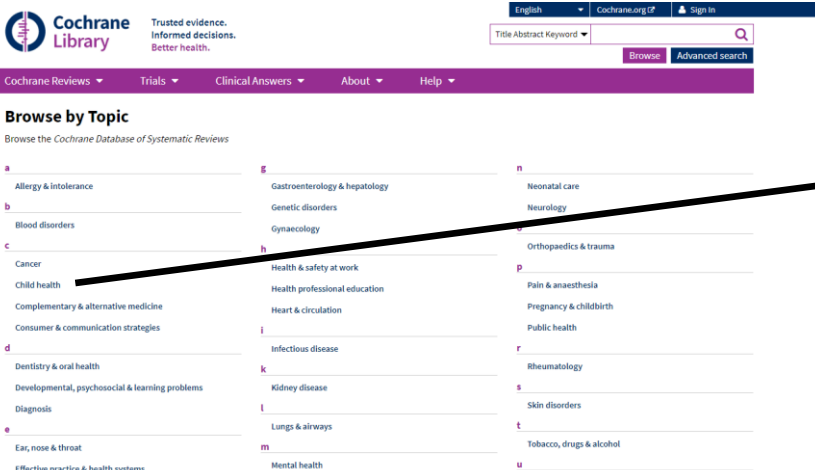
Click the 'Cochrane Reviews' option from the purple menu bar and select the 'Browse Reviews' option.



A new webpage will load showing a list of all the available topics (alternately you can reach the topics list by scrolling down on the homepage).

Click on a subject heading to see results for that topic.

More specific topics will be listed on the left of the page as you scroll down (the number in brackets shows the number of reviews available on that topic).



1b. Browsing Cochrane Reviews (By Review Group)

Click or scroll to the 'Browse by topic' section. Click on 'Browse by Cochrane Review Group' option. The list of topics will change to a list of review groups. Click on the group you are interested in. A new webpage will load allowing you to browse all Cochrane reviews from your selected group.



More specific topics will be listed on the left of the page as you scroll down (the number in brackets shows the number of reviews available on that topic).

Click on a topic heading to filter your results. Click on the review title to view it.

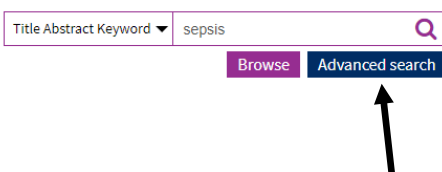
2. Search Tips

You may combine subjects using:

and	smoking and nicotine	searches for records which contain both the words smoking and nicotine
or	smoking or tobacco	searches for records containing either of the words smoking or tobacco
not	smoking not pregnancy	retrieves records referring to smoking, excluding those referring to pregnancy

- To search for a phrase, enter it in quotes, e.g. **"breast cancer"**
- Plurals are automatically searched for, so searching for **child** will also find **children**
- Truncation/wildcard is available, e.g. ***eclampsia** retrieves **eclampsia, pre-eclampsia** and **preeclampsia** or **wom*n** retrieves **woman** or **women**
- Use **near** to find records where these words are close (within 6 words of each other) e.g. **nicotine near replacement**

3. Simple/Quick Search



The Quick search box is at the top right hand corner of the Cochrane Library home page. Enter the topic you are interested in, e.g. **depression child**, and click the magnifying glass. See p. 4 of this guide for information about viewing your results.

Please note: Cochrane **Advanced Search** allows you to do more complex searches and to refine your results.

4a. Advanced Search

The link to **Advanced search** is just underneath the **Quick Search** box.

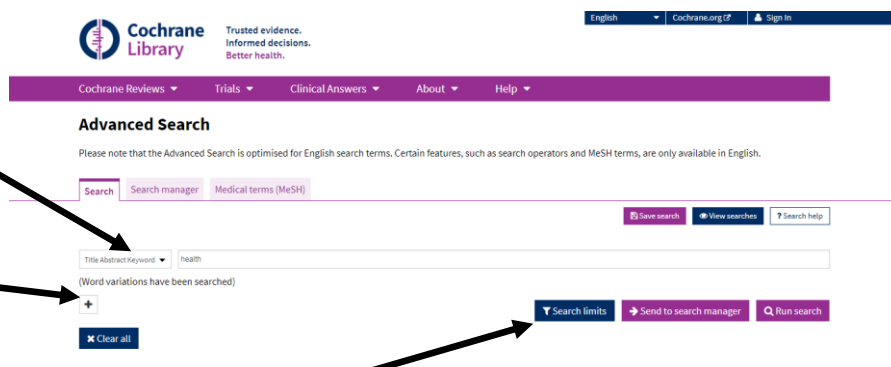
The following screen will appear:

You can use the drop down menus to limit your search terms to different fields e.g. the title.

Click the plus symbol to add up to 4 extra lines to your search.

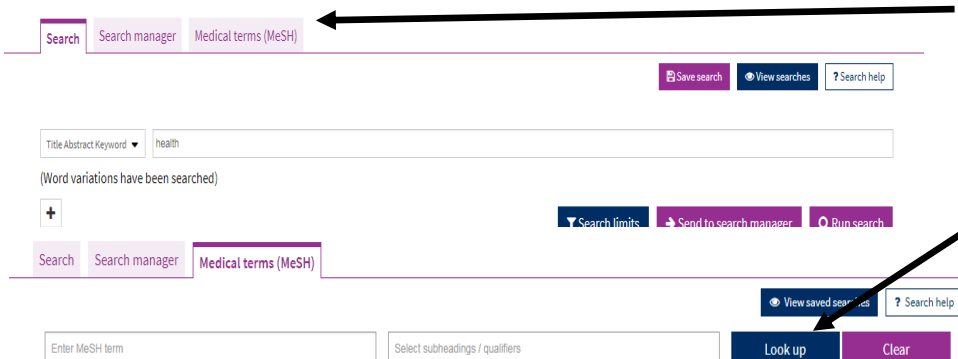
You can limit your search by e.g. database, record status and date range. To limit your search click 'Search Limits'.

When you have entered your search terms, click **'Run Search'**.



4b. MeSH Searching

Medical Subject Headings (MeSH terms) are assigned to many records in the Cochrane Library **but not all**. For more information about MeSH see the Trust Library handout "Thesaurus mapping in healthcare databases."



Access the MeSH search by clicking the MeSH Search link at the top right of the Advanced Search Page.

Enter a keyword and click on **'Look up'** to find subject headings related to that word.

You are then presented with a list of Medical Subject Headings where your keyword appears.

Definition

Health - The state of the organism when it functions optimally without evidence of disease.

Thesaurus Matches	MeSH Trees	Search Results				
Exact Term Match Health Synonyms: Normalcy; Normalities; Normality	MeSH term - Health <input type="radio"/> Explode all trees <input type="radio"/> Single MeSH term (unexploded) <input type="radio"/> Explode selected trees	There are 7561 results for your search on - MeSH descriptor: Health - Explode all trees				
Phrase Matches Adolescent Health Synonyms: Teen Health; Health, Adolescent; Health, Teen Health Communication Synonyms: Communication, Health; Health Communications; Communications, Health Health Facilities Synonyms: Facilities, Health; Health Facility; Facility, Health	Tree number 1 Population Characteristics [+4] Demography [+12] Health [+24] Adolescent Health Cardiorespiratory Fitness Child Health Family Health Global Health Holistic Health Infant Health Men's Health Mental Health	Add to search manager <table border="1"><tr><td>Trials</td><td>7498</td></tr><tr><td>Cochrane Reviews</td><td>63</td></tr></table> Save search View results	Trials	7498	Cochrane Reviews	63
Trials	7498					
Cochrane Reviews	63					

It is useful to read through the list as several may be relevant, or the database may list a related subject you need to consider.

When the result is displayed there will be a box marked '**MeSH Trees**' which allow you to broaden or narrow your search.

MeSH Trees
MeSH term - Health

- Explode all trees
- Single MeSH term (unexploded)
- Explode selected trees

Tree number 1

- Population Characteristics [+4]
- Demography [+12]
- Health [+24]
 - Adolescent Health
 - Cardiorespiratory Fitness
 - Child Health
 - Family Health
 - Global Health
 - Holistic Health
 - Infant Health
 - Men's Health
 - Mental Health

Search Results
There are **7561** results for your search on

- MeSH descriptor: Health
- Explode all trees

Trials 7498
Cochrane Reviews 63

View results

4c. Search Manager

Use Search Manager to build and manage complex searches with several lines. Click 'Send to Search Manager' in both MeSH and Advanced Search to add your completed searches to the Search Manager.

You can combine searched for terms using their ID numbers as shown in the example on the right. NB: use # when combining terms, e.g. **#1 AND #2**, or the Cochrane Library will search for the figures 1 and 2 instead of combining previous searches.

Advanced Search
Please note that the Advanced Search is optimised for English search terms. Certain features, such as search operators and MeSH terms, are only available in English.

Search | **Search manager** | Medical terms (MeSH)

Line	Search Term	Filter	Results
#1	(health):lab:hw	S	151329
#2	child	T	129233
#3	#1 and #2	T	25188
#4	Manually type a search term here or click on the S (Search Wizard) or MeSH button to compose one	S MeSH	N/A

Add MeSH terms to your search by clicking on the **MeSH** dropdown box next to the search bar. You can apply limits by clicking the filter button next to the search bar.

Click on the numbers in the blue boxes to the right of the search boxes to see the results for that search.

5. Viewing your results

When your results are listed, they are grouped by database. Click on the different heading tabs to see the results from each database.

You can also restrict the search results using the filters on the left hand side of the screen.

Cochrane Library Trusted evidence. Informed decisions. Better health.

English | Cochrane.org | Sign in

Title Abstract Keyword health

2967 Cochrane Reviews matching on 'health' in Title Abstract Keyword

Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews
Issue 8 of 12, August 2018

Select all (2967) Export selected citation(s) Show all previews

Order by Relevance

Results per page 25

1 **Framing of health information messages**
Elie A Akl, Andrew D Oroman, Jeph Herrin, Gunn E Vat, Irene Terrenato, Francesca Sperati, Cecilia Costinici, Diana Blank, Holger Schramm
Show Preview | Intervention Review | 7 December 2013

2 **Interactive Health Communication Applications for people with chronic disease**
Elizabeth Mumby, Joanne Burns, Sharon See Tai, Rosalind Lai, Irvin Nazareth
Show Preview | Intervention Review | 10 October 2005