Introduction to the Knowledge and Library Hub

New design 2025

NHS England

Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust

Library & Knowledge Service
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V2 LS Aug 25

NHS Knowledge and Library Services

What is the Knowledge & Library Hub?

Simple searching in one place

The **NHS Knowledge and Library Hub** is funded centrally by the NHS. It gives quick and easy access to health and care evidence to support clinical practice, service improvement, research and professional development. This presentation will show you how to access the Hub, how to search it and the main features that will help you find the information you need.

The Hub provides access to a wide range of medical, nursing, allied health and managerial resources, including books, journals and databases.

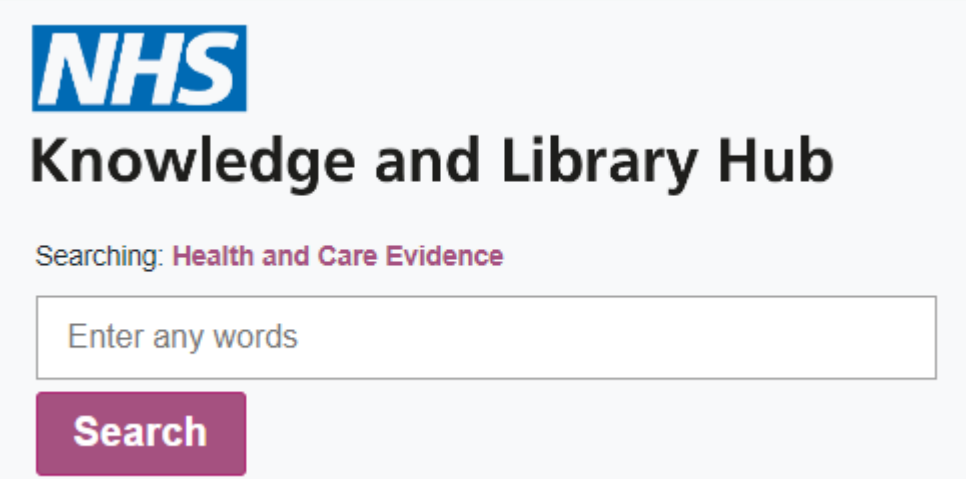
How to access the Hub

Via the URL linked below:

OR

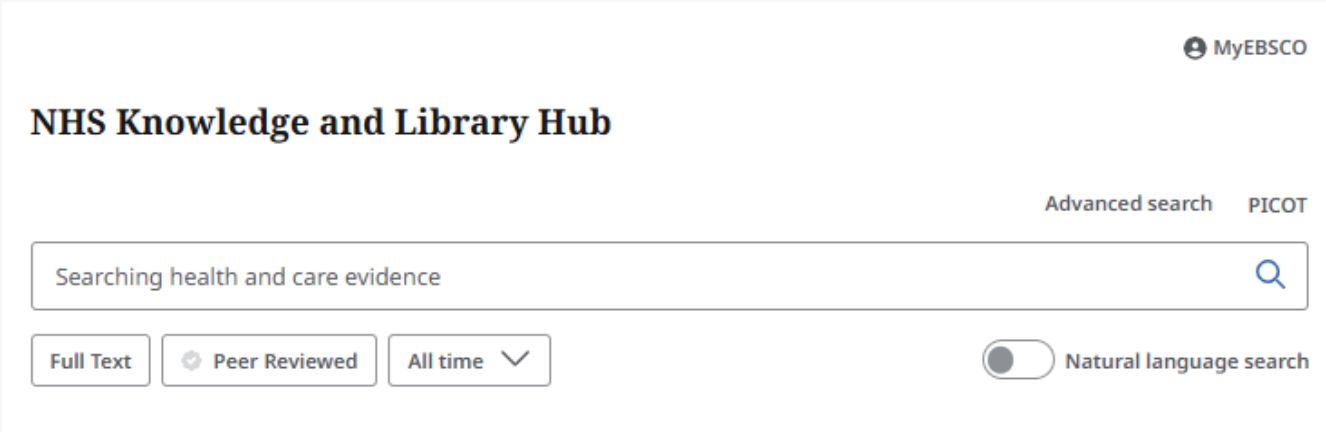
Via the home page of our website www.sdhl.org.uk and click the Hub **Search** button, see below.

www.library.nhs.uk/torbay



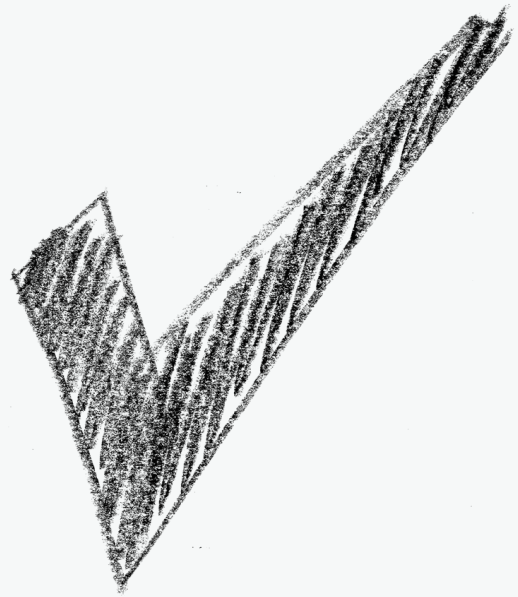
How does the Hub help?

- Designed for quick searches
- Designed to help people search effectively
- Tailored for NHS staff and learners
- Easy access to fulltext
- An entry point to expert support from your local Knowledge and Library Service team



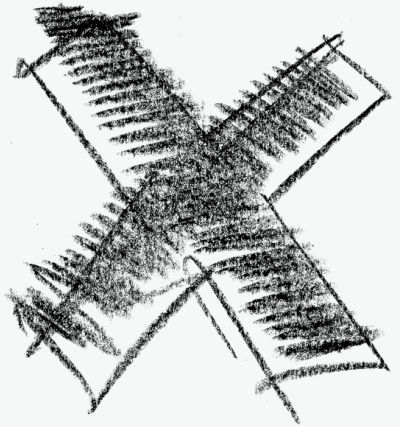
When might you use the Hub?

- Finding a known article and accessing it
- Broad searches
- Finding something recent on a topic
- Find the names of people writing on a topic
- Looking for articles and books you can access right now
- If you want to carry out better searches without needing to learn about more complex methods



When the Hub is likely not your best bet

- For a systematic search - the Hub enhances your search so it's not easy to tell exactly what terms have been searched which makes it unsuitable for when you need to report your search.
- Where your question is more complex and detailed
- If you want to use the full advanced search features of a database like Medline or CINAHL
- If you need a reproducible search.

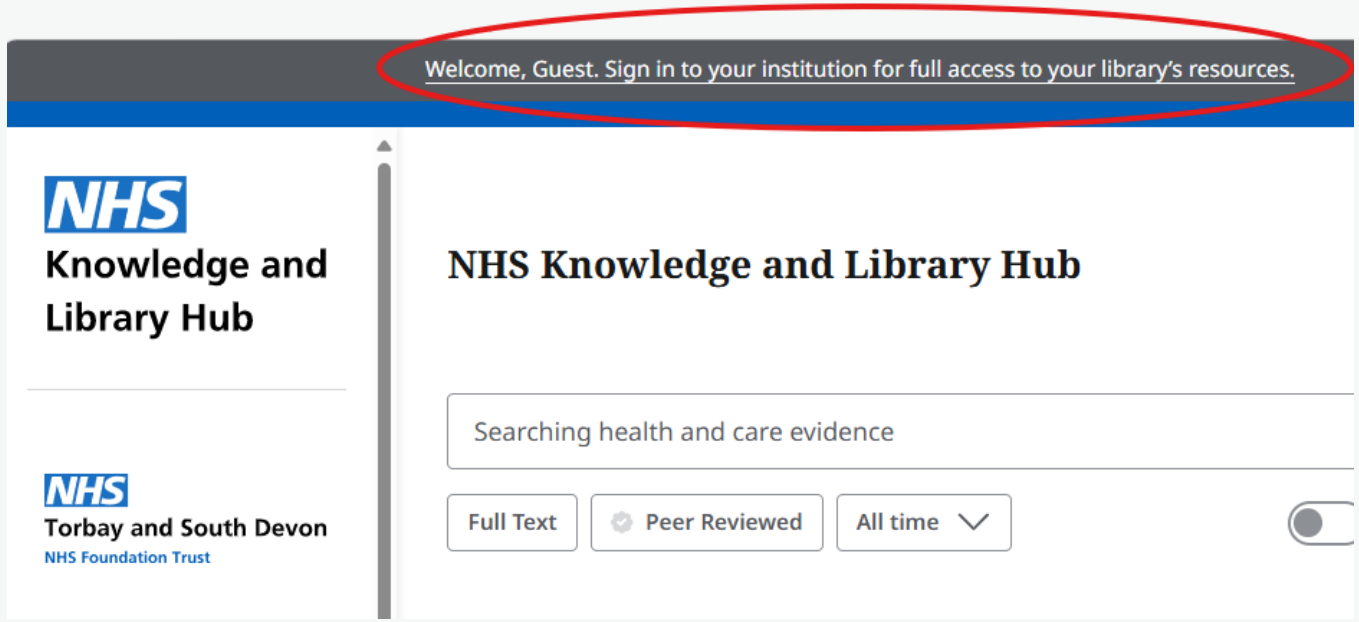


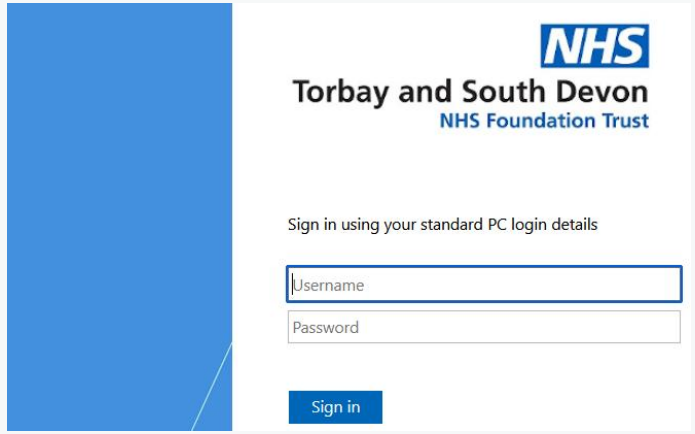
Logging into the Hub

Log in on arrival for the best experience…

- To link to your library team
- To see all the results
- To have the smoothest path to fulltext
- To save searches and results

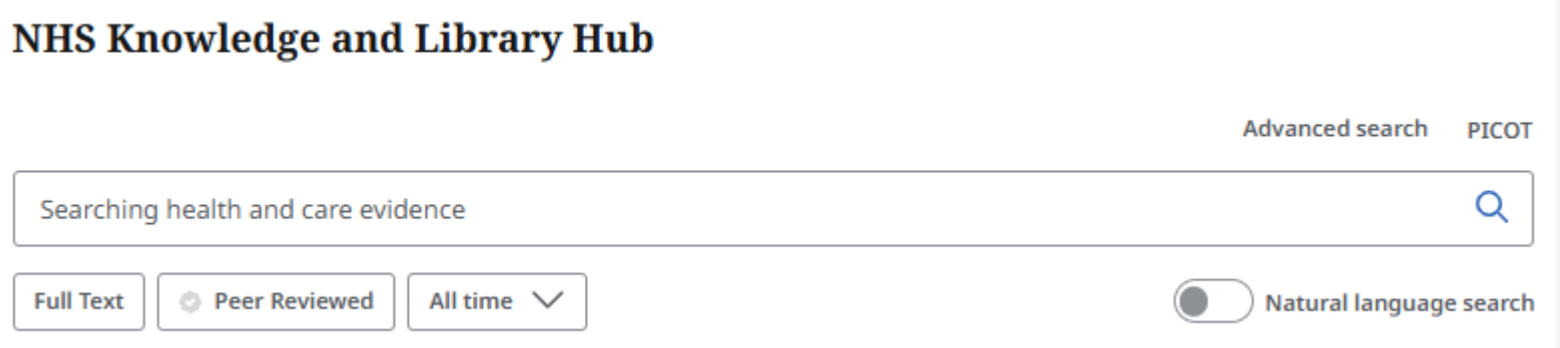
Log in with your Trust computer username and password





Searching on the Hub

Keep it simple

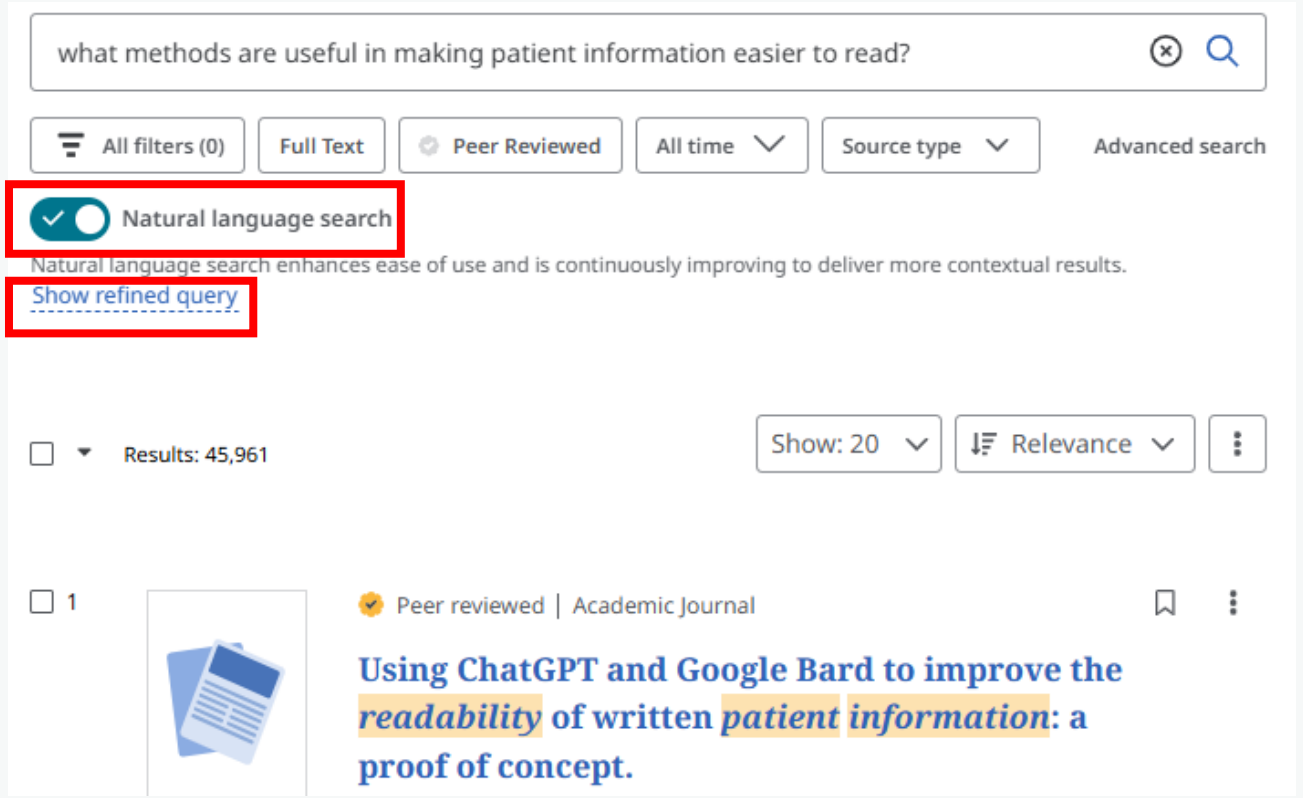


- The default search is all words (ie AND), so the Hub will look for records that include all your words.
- The Hub provides helpful suggestions as you type.
- Search for phrases using quotes, eg “cardiac arrest”, “nursing homes”
- The Hub helps by extending your search with plurals, alternative spellings, related words and equivalent subjects.

Searching using natural language search

Toggle the button to search using a query as you might ask a person

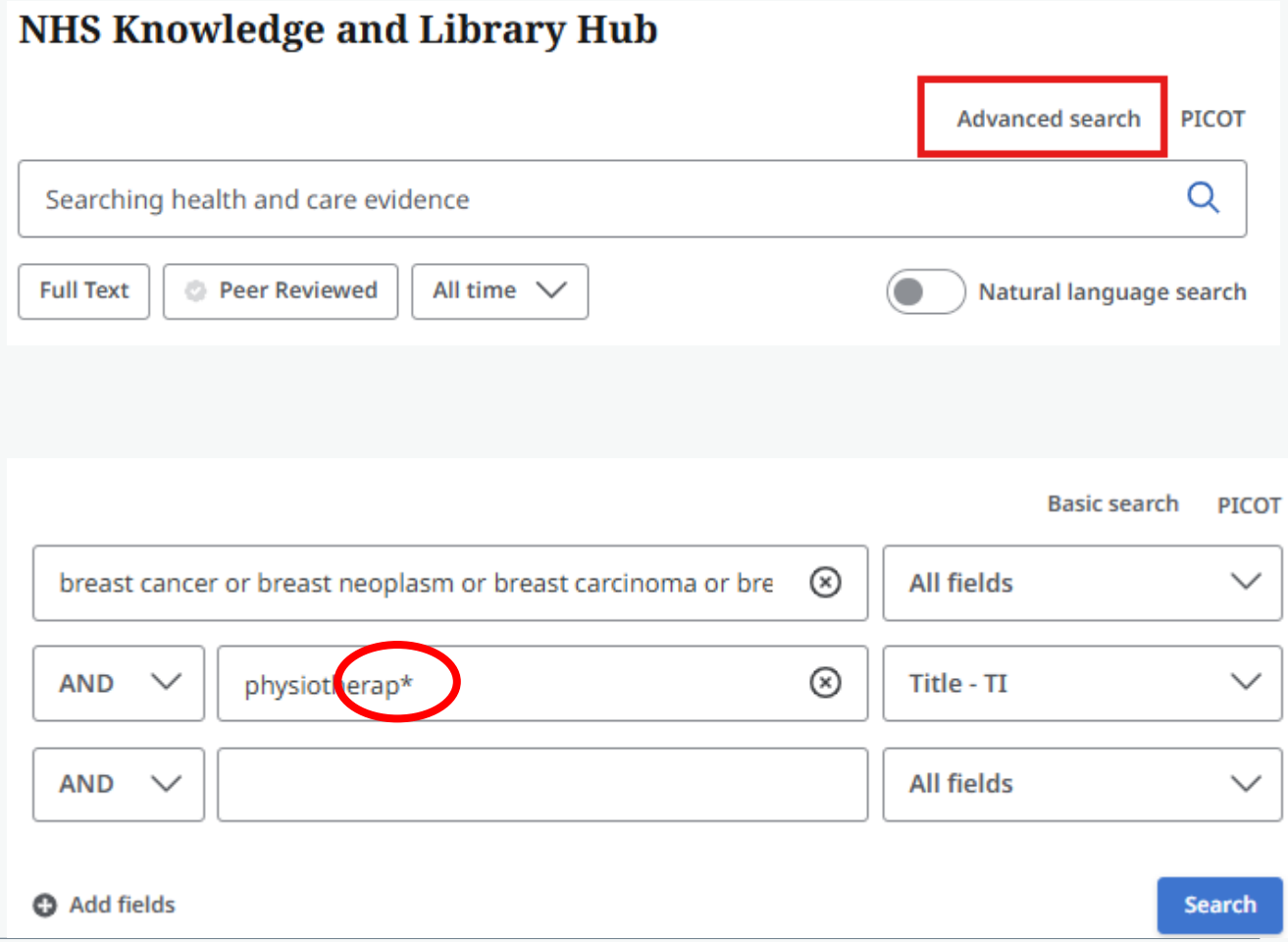
- Ask long form questions
- Your query is translated
- Clicking “Show refined query” lets you check you have been understood



Searching on the Hub – using advanced search

Spelling it out for better results

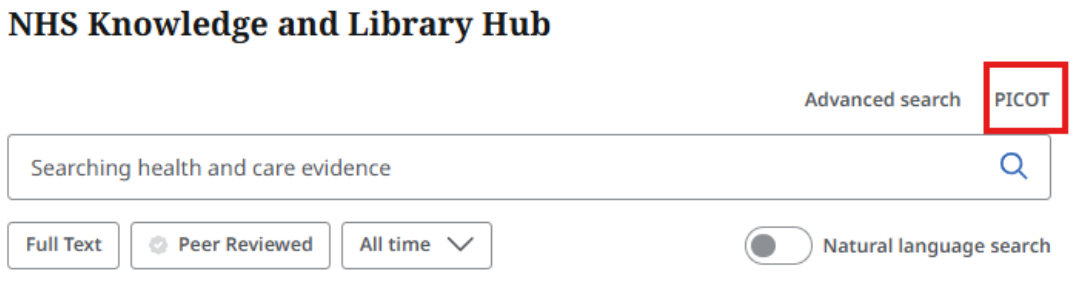
- A visual way to access fields and combine terms, eg search in a particular journal or for a known author
- Suggestions still pop up
- Note wild card * (Physiotherapy, physiotherapist, physiotherapeutic etc)
- Supports you to do a better search and apply advanced searching techniques

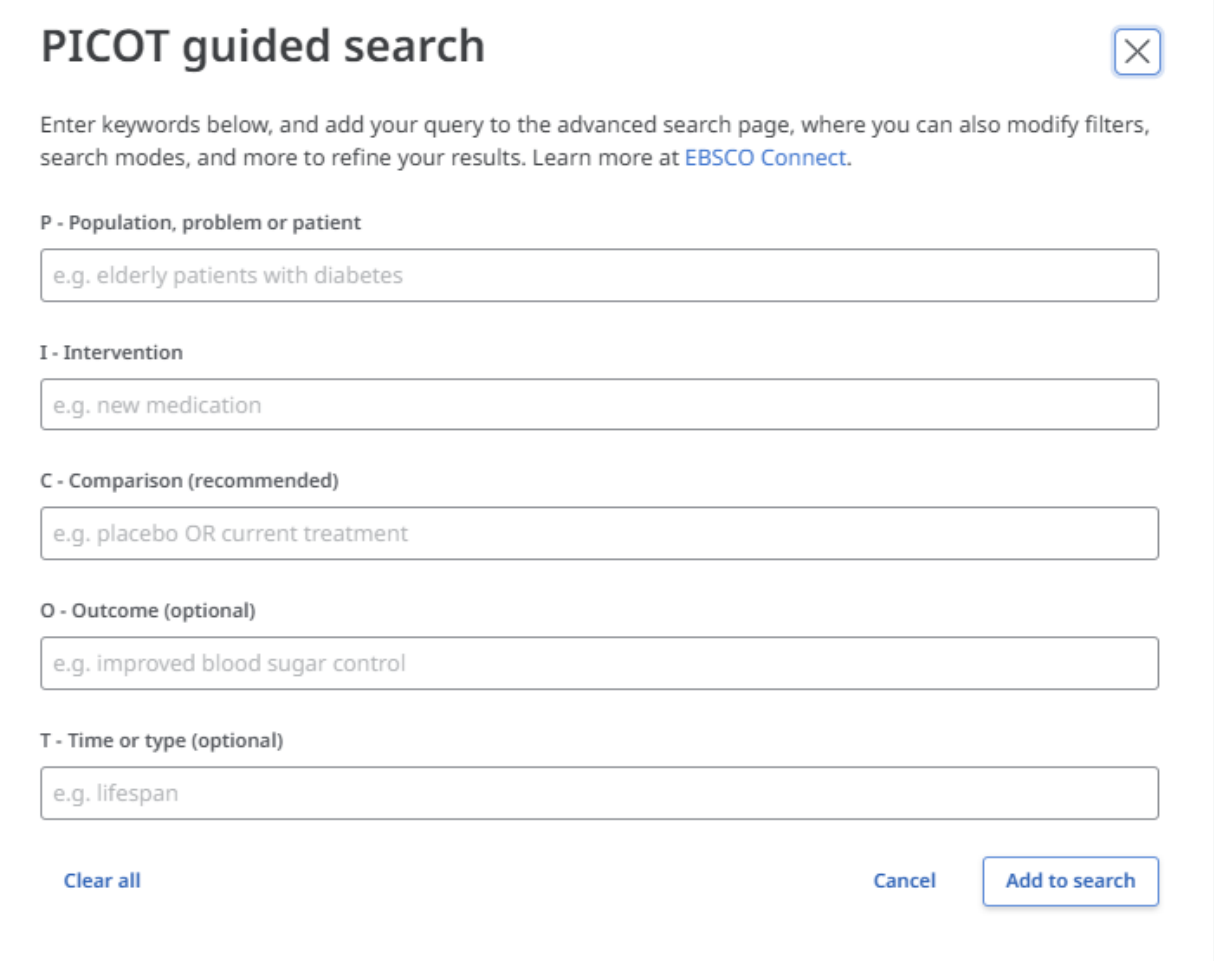


Searching on the Hub – PICOT?

Providing a structure

- Breaks your search question into concepts
- Good for questions around effectiveness of interventions
- Step by step support
- Tips on screen
- BUT not suitable for all search questions





Results on the Hub

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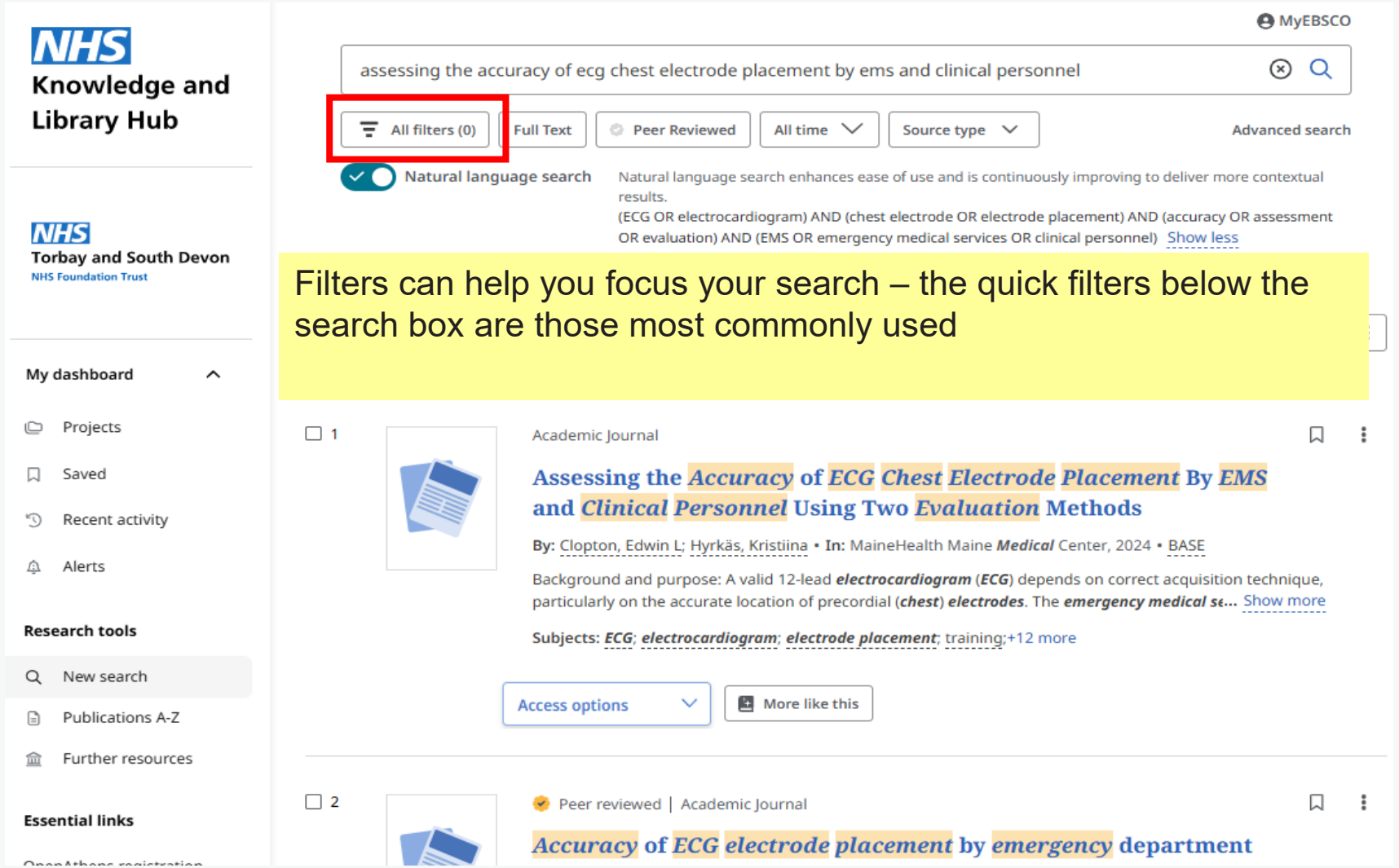

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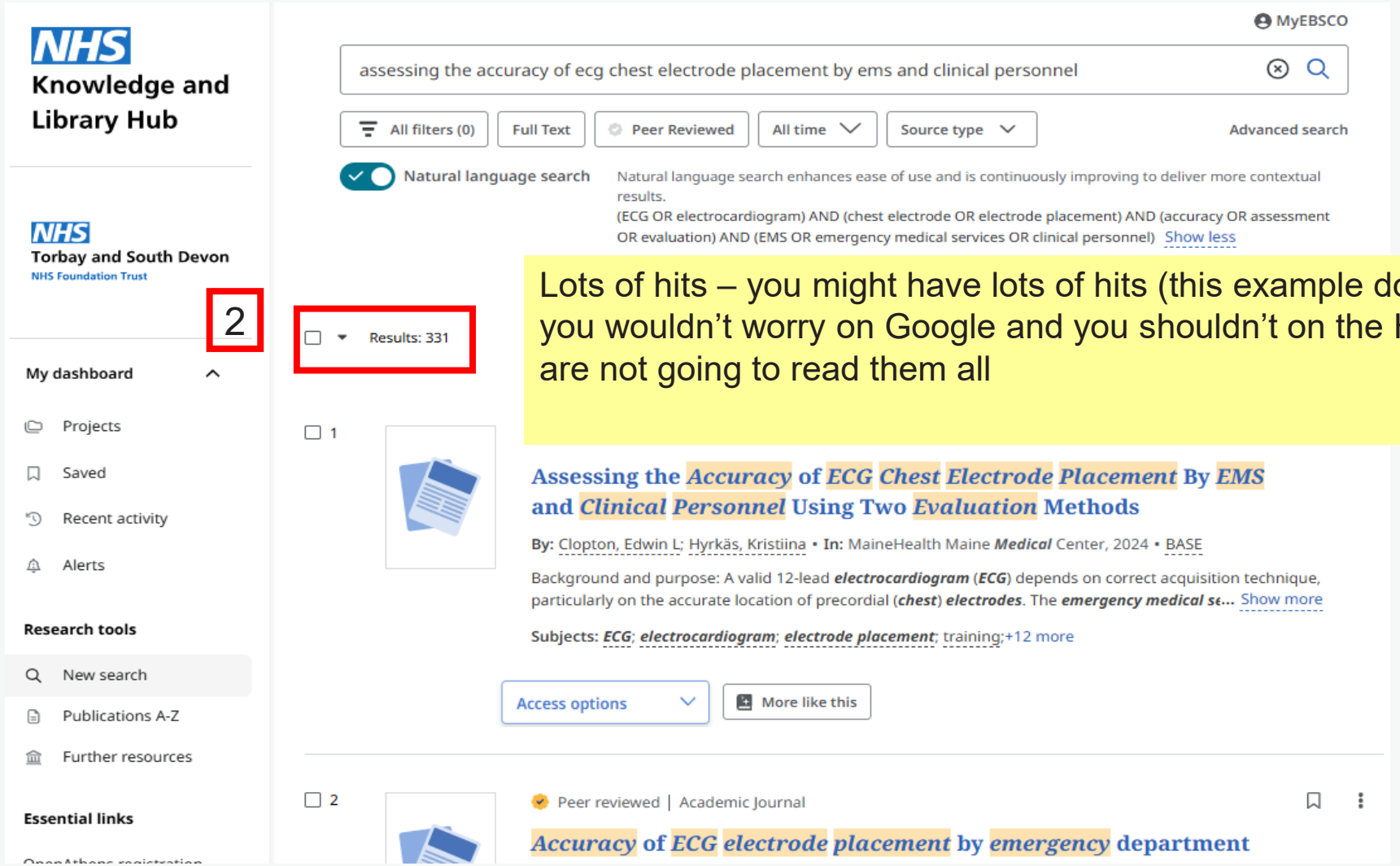

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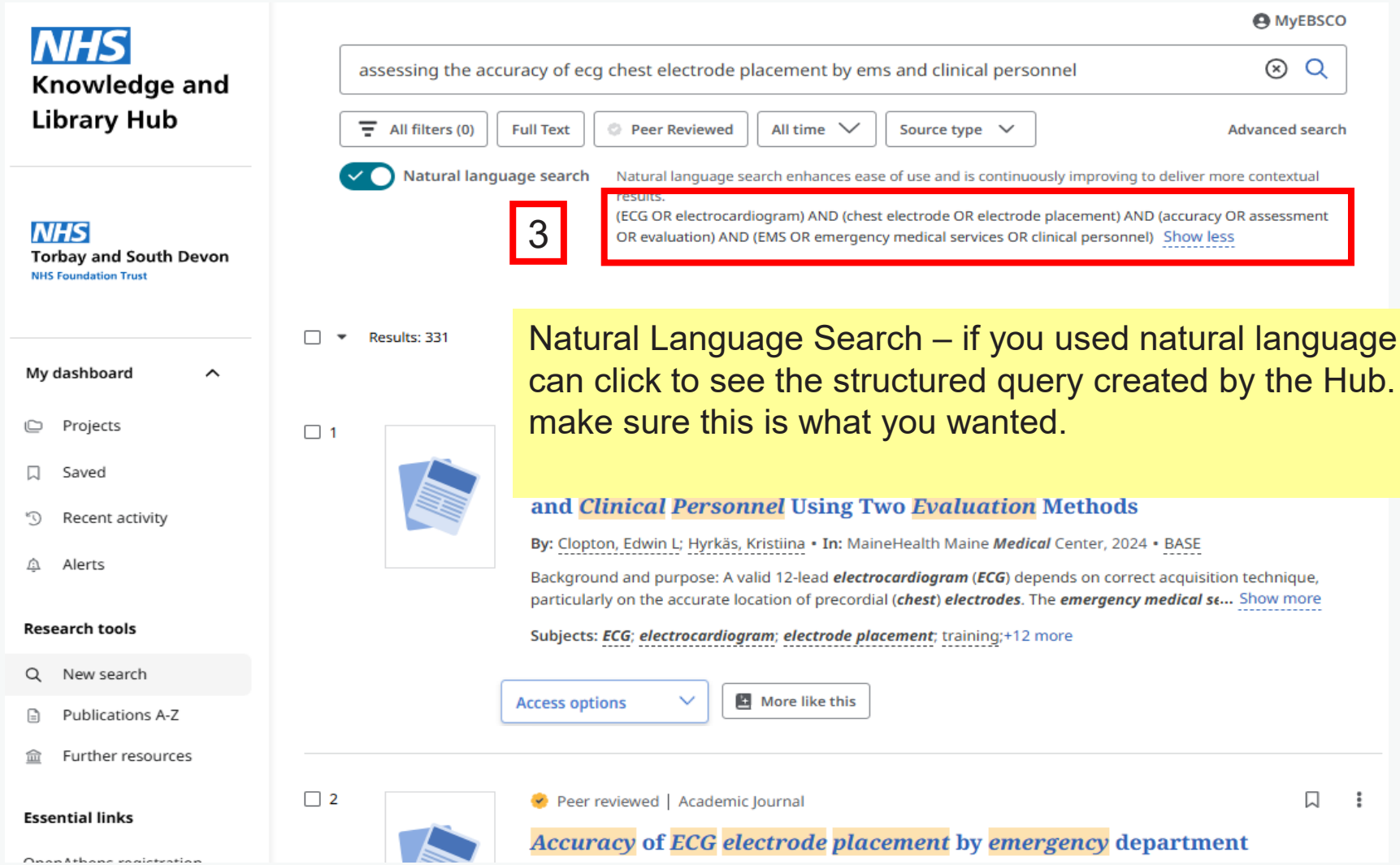
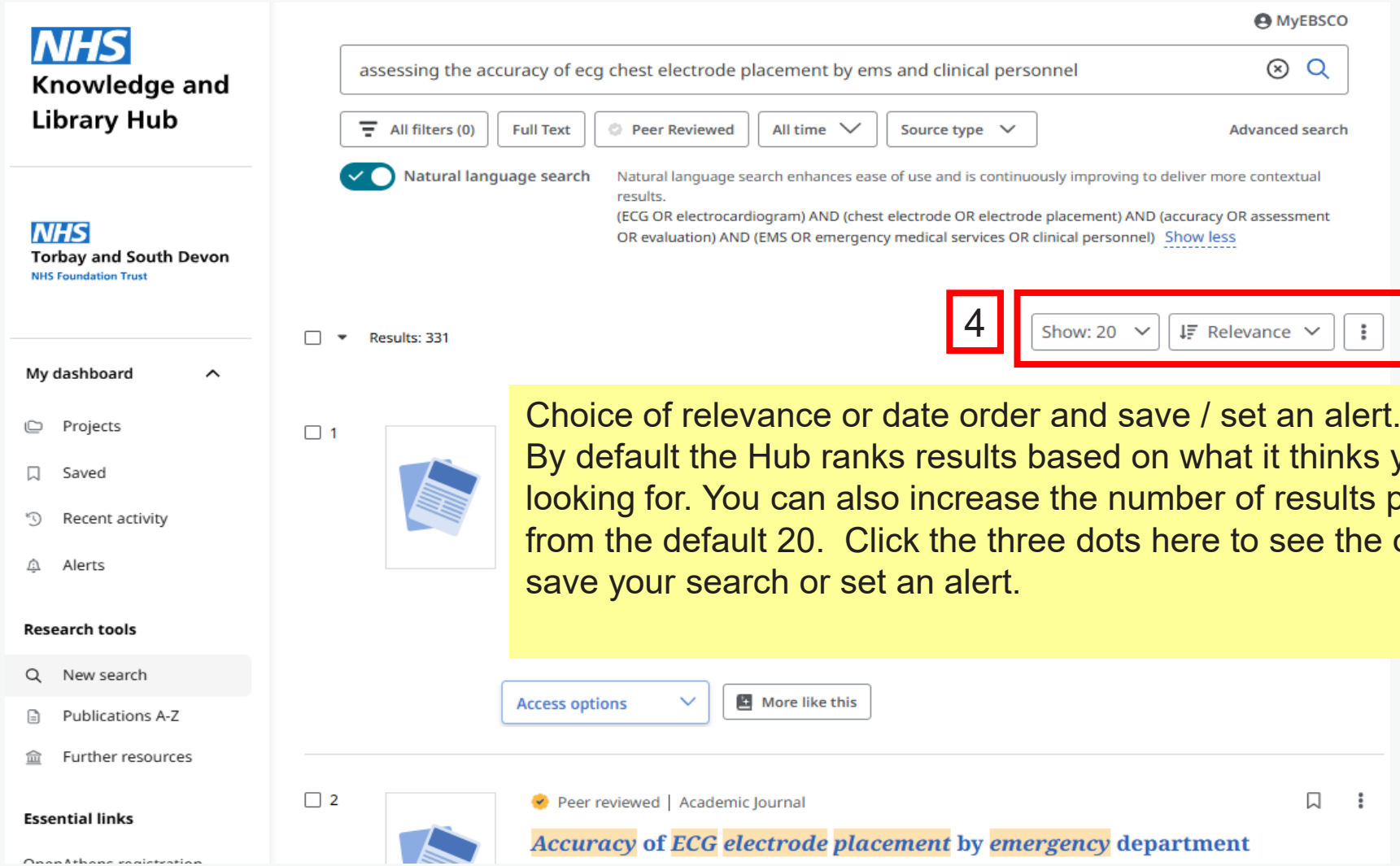


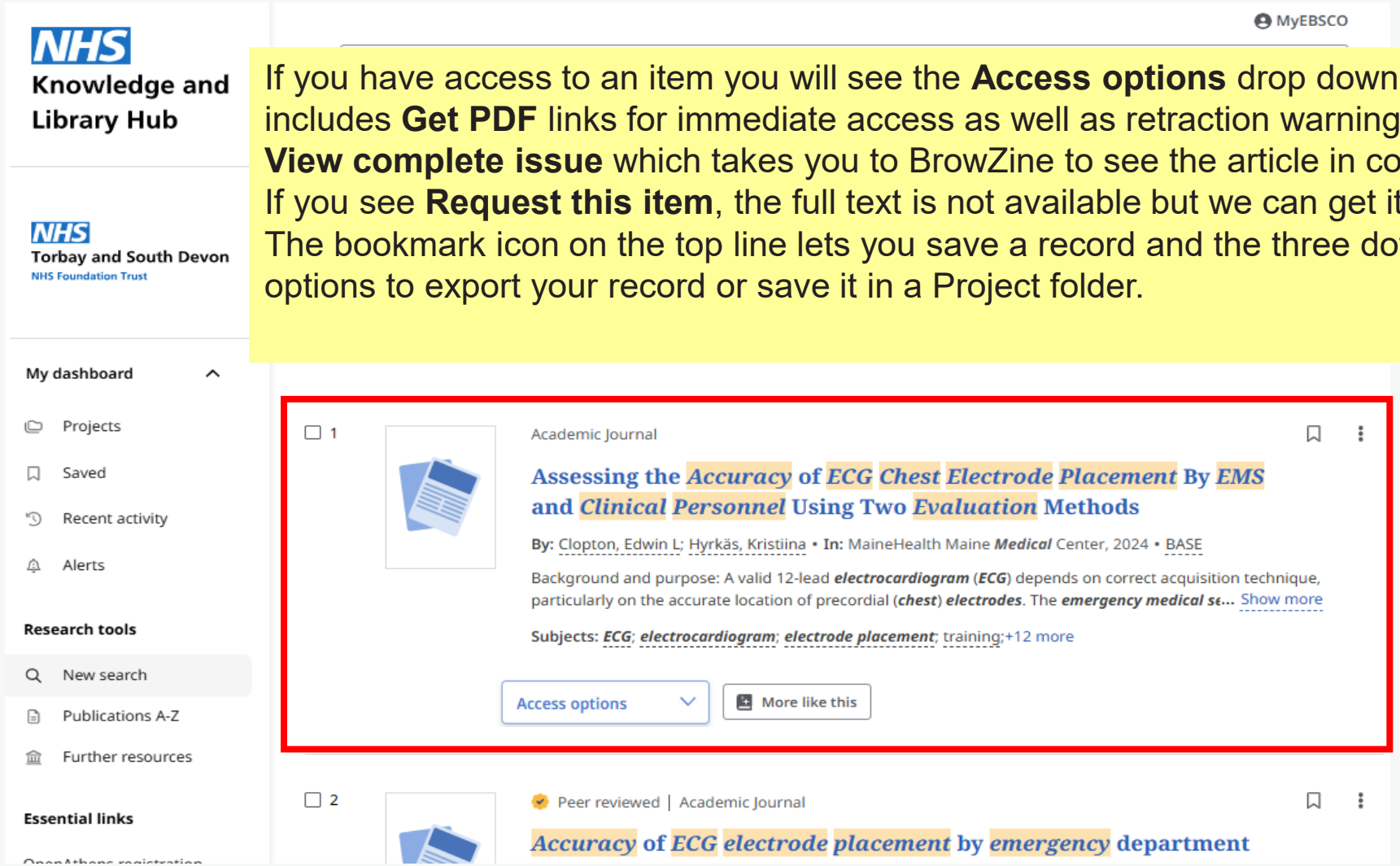
Natural Language Search – if you used natural language search you can click to see the structured query created by the Hub. Check to make sure this is what you wanted.

Results on the Hub



Choice of relevance or date order and save / set an alert.
By default the Hub ranks results based on what it thinks you are looking for. You can also increase the number of results per page from the default 20. Click the three dots here to see the option to save your search or set an alert.

Results on the Hub



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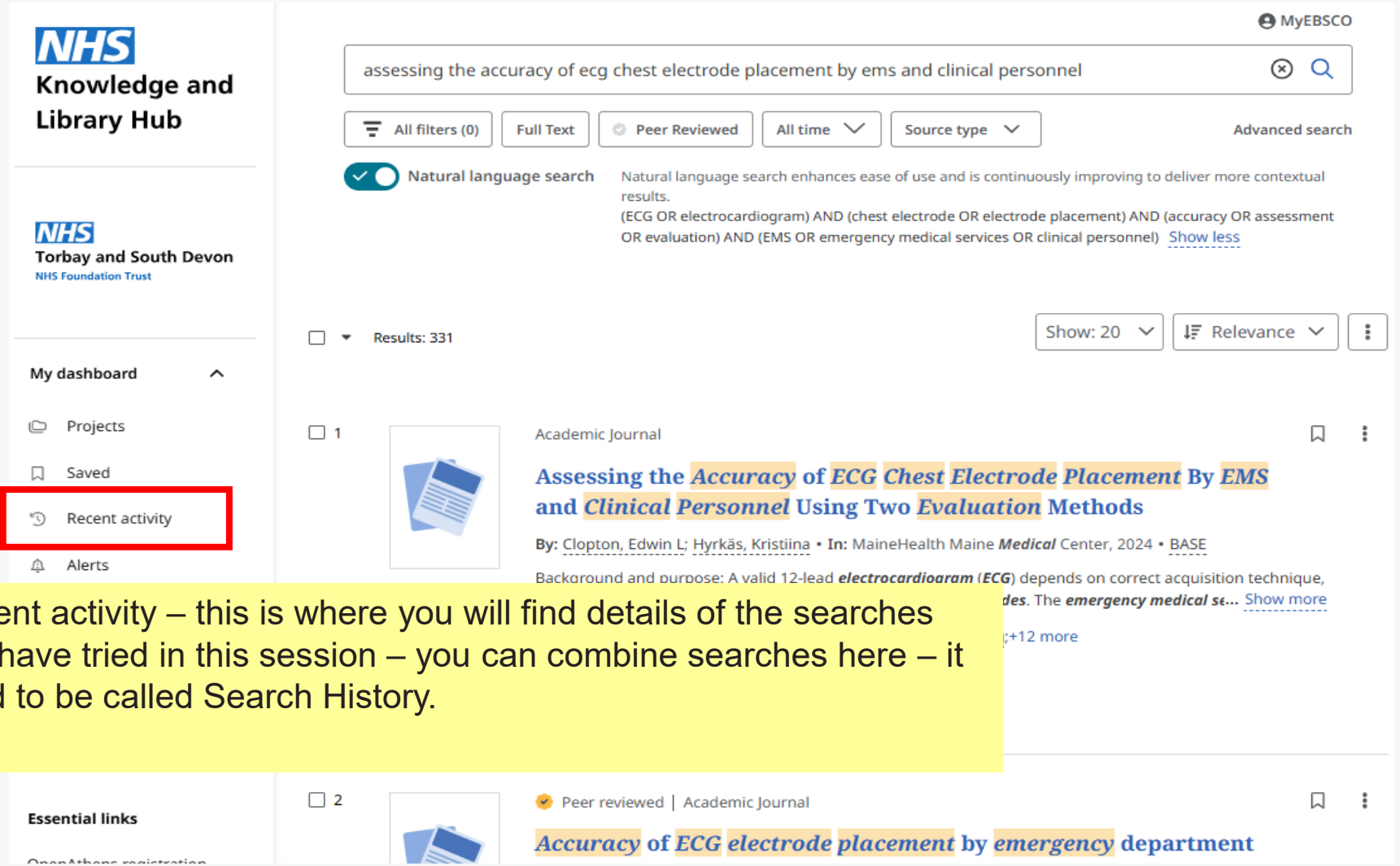
If you have access to an item you will see the **Access options** drop down. This includes **Get PDF** links for immediate access as well as retraction warnings and **View complete issue** which takes you to BrowZine to see the article in context.
If you see **Request this item**, the full text is not available but we can get it for you.
The bookmark icon on the top line lets you save a record and the three dots offers options to export your record or save it in a Project folder.

Results on the Hub



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Recent activity – this is where you will find details of the searches you have tried in this session – you can combine searches here – it used to be called Search History.

Results on the Hub – use filters to narrow

Click **All filters** to open up the list of limiters

Most used:

- Full text (but be aware limiting to full text only might miss important evidence)
- Peer reviewed – articles have been assessed by experts in the same field before publication
- Published date

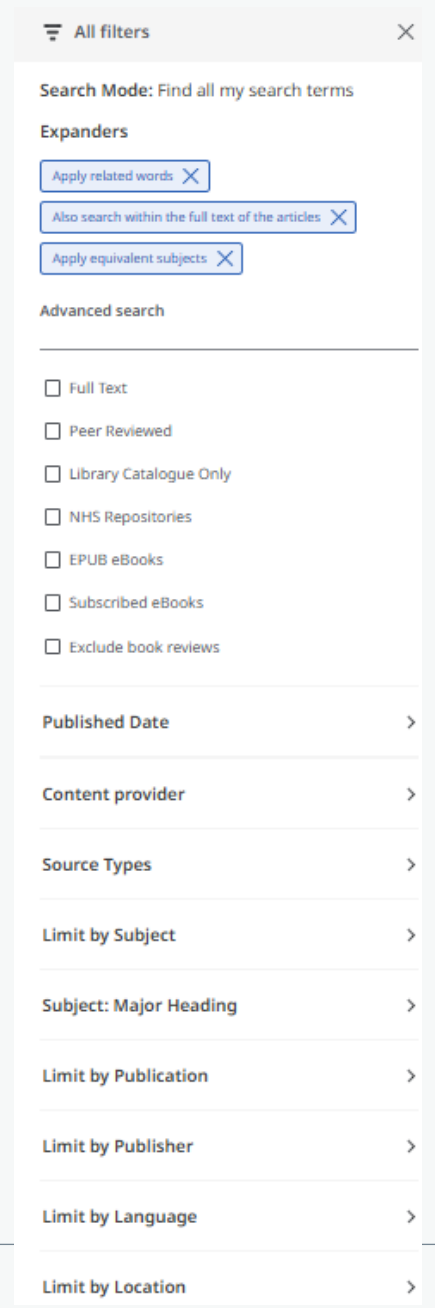
Helpful:

- Library Catalogue Only (books only)
- NHS Repositories – these are local databases of publications by NHS organisations
- Subscribed eBooks – available to TSDFT users

Filters already applied
You can remove **related words** or **equivalent subjects** to narrow your search

Likely candidates

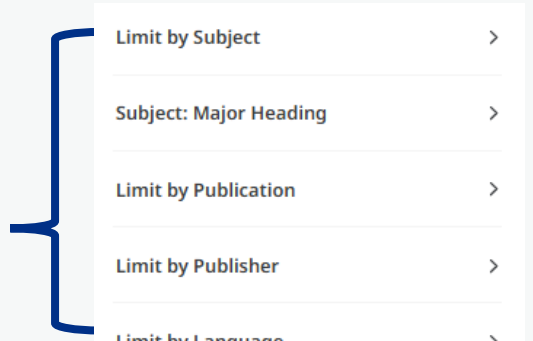
See next slide



Results on the Hub – more filters

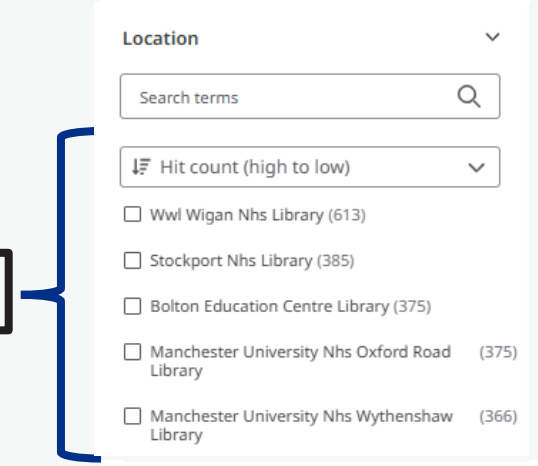
The model for searching on the Hub is generally to start with a general search and then narrow down by date, source or other options

Would a particular journal help? Or focus on English language?



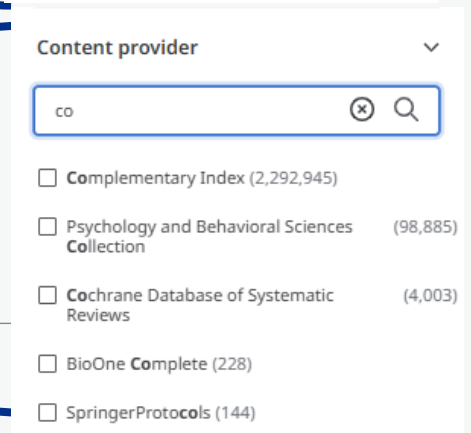
Use the **Location** filter to narrow down books only available at Torbay. Click on **Show More** below the displayed locations if you do not see Torquay Torbay Hospital listed.

Pick books local to you



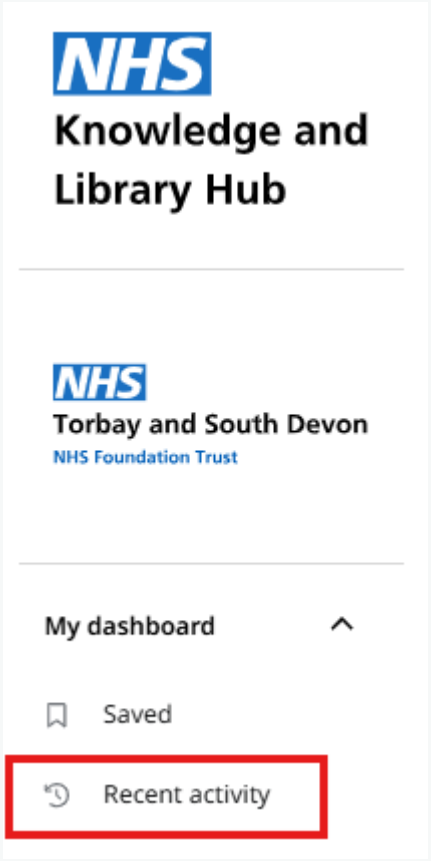
Limiting by **Content Provider** (previously labelled database) can be a good way to find something you know exists but that has not appeared in the first few results.

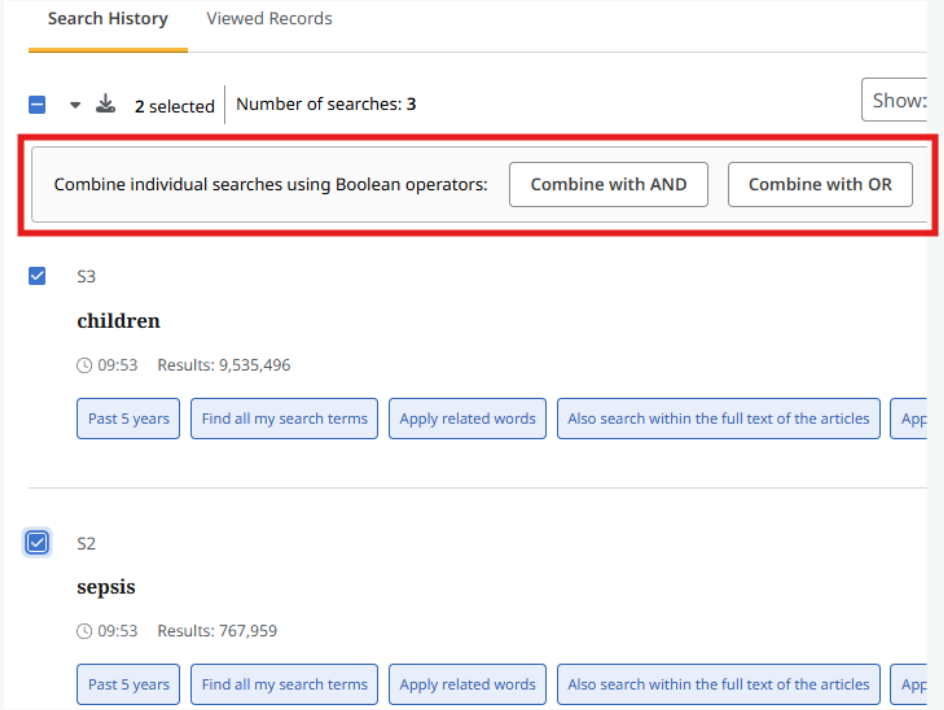
Narrow to Royal Marsden or Cochrane Reviews or BMJ Best Practice



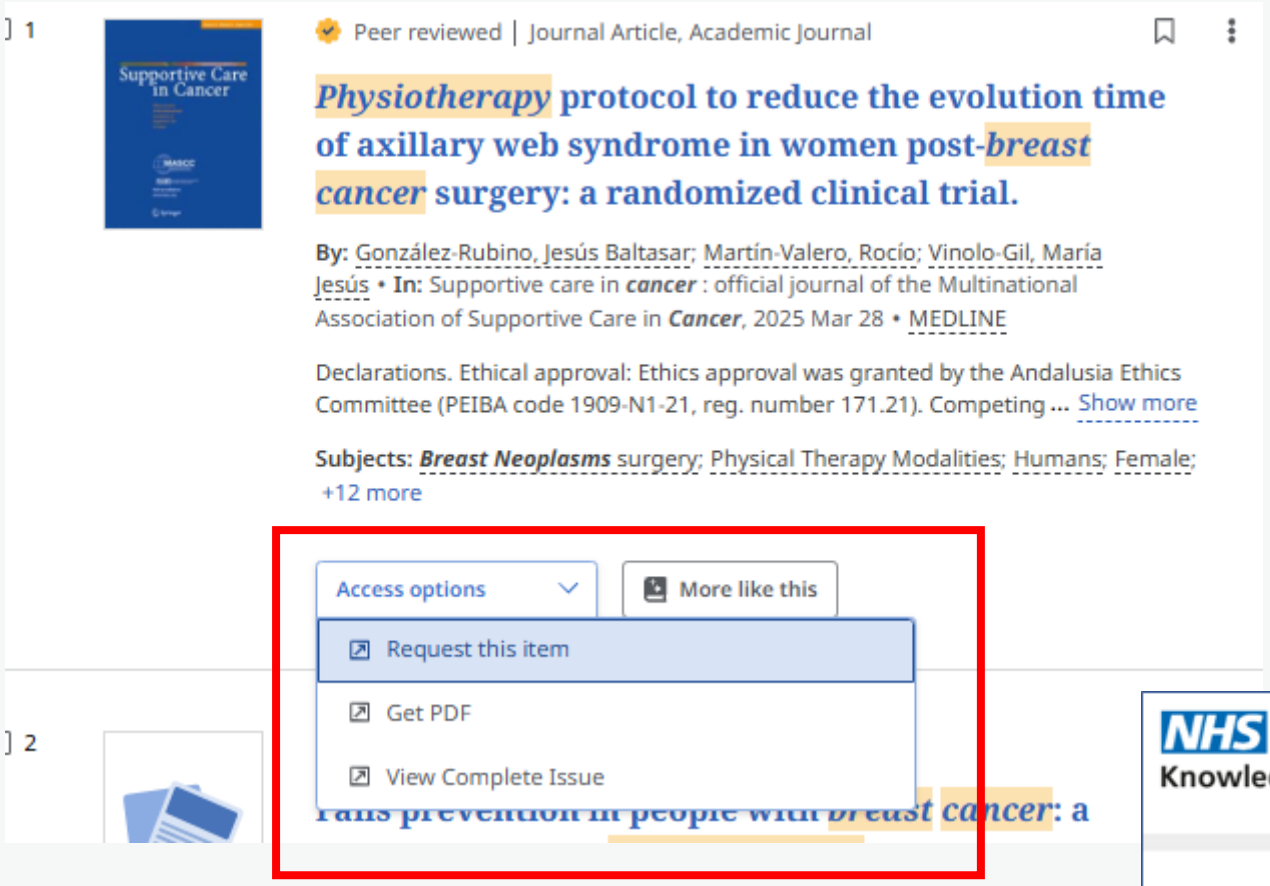
Results on the Hub – combine searches

- Open **Recent Activity** to see your searches
- Use the check boxes to pick sets
- You will then see buttons to combine with AND or OR
- AND narrows your search
- OR broadens your search
- Check your search box is clear before combining this way

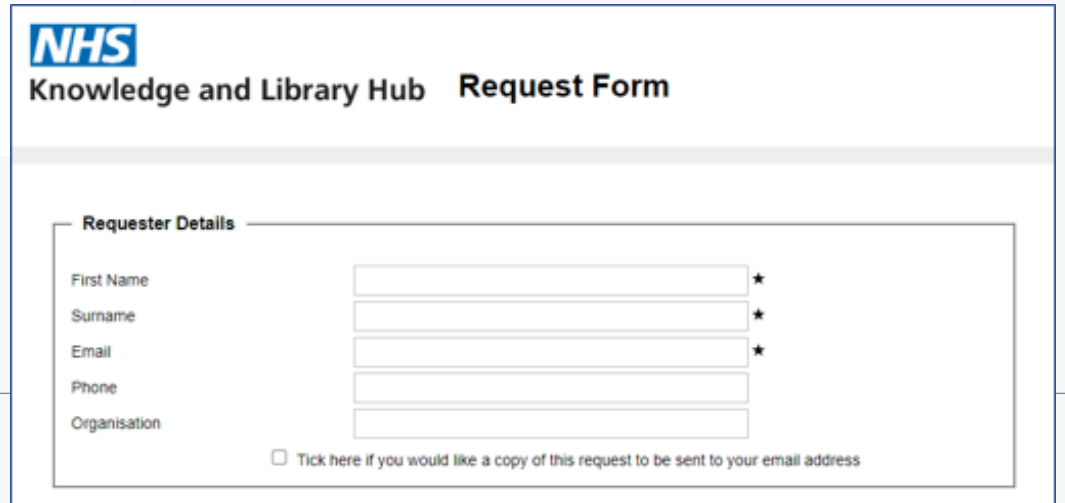




Results on the Hub – getting to full text



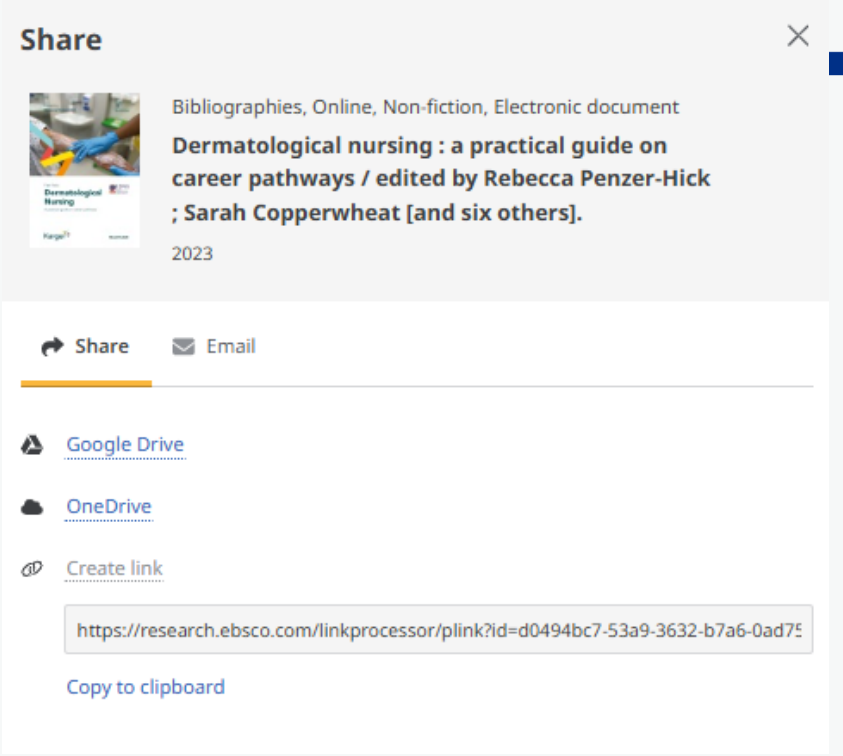
- Click **Access options** to see choices
- **Get PDF -** goes straight to the file
- **Access Item** - easier to read on screen (or if no PDF)
- **View Complete Issue** - see the article in context
- **Request this item** - rapid supply via your library



Results on the Hub – tips

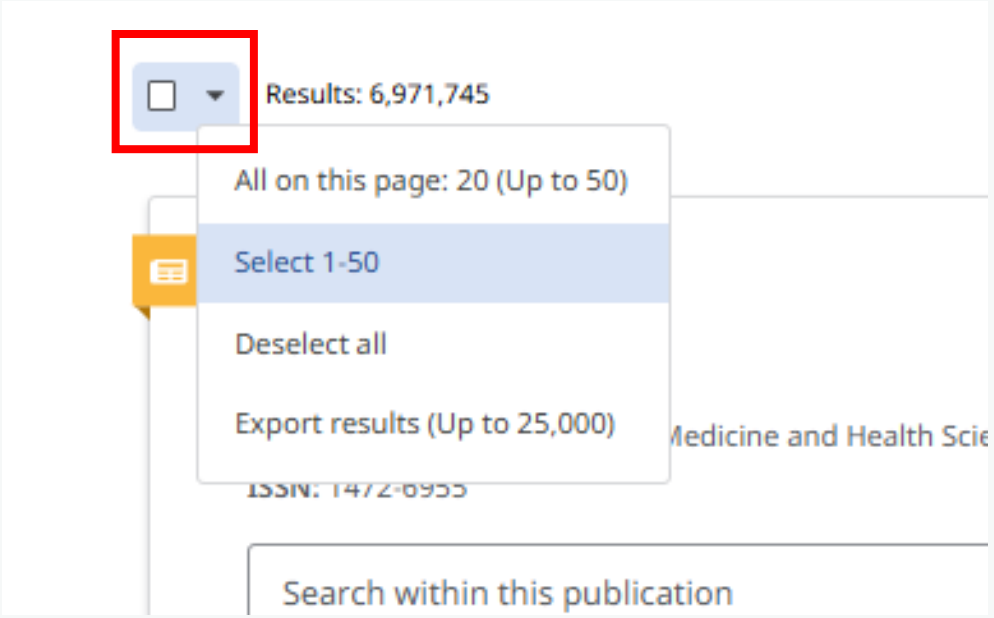
Sharing a citation

- **Cite** - to copy or export to bibliographic software
- **Share** - for a shareable link or to share via email
- **Download** - offers Word, PDF, CSV and other formats



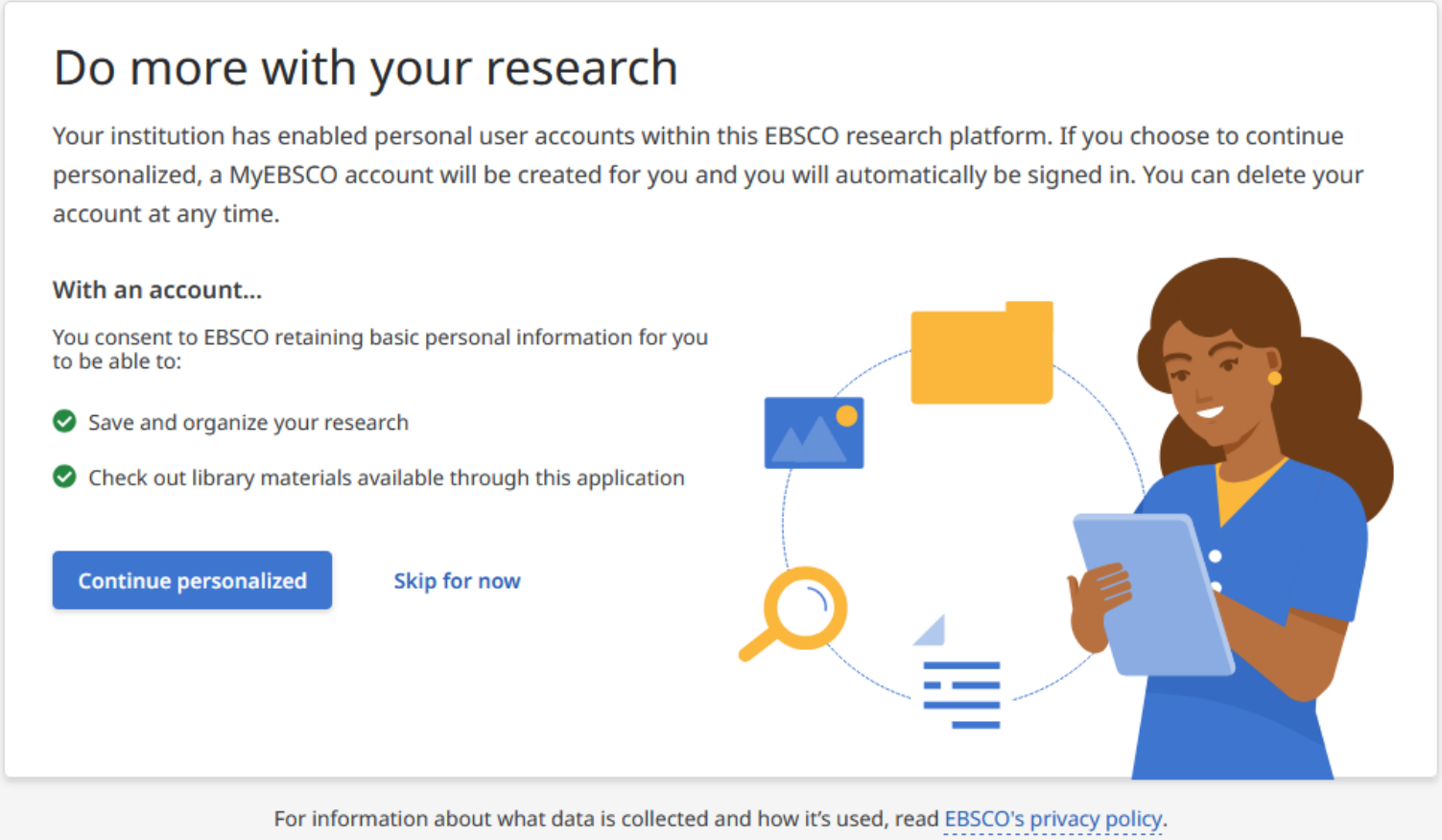
Results on the Hub – more tips

- Click the drop down near the results total to see more options
- You can export large sets of results up to 20 times per day
- You will receive these via a download link in an email



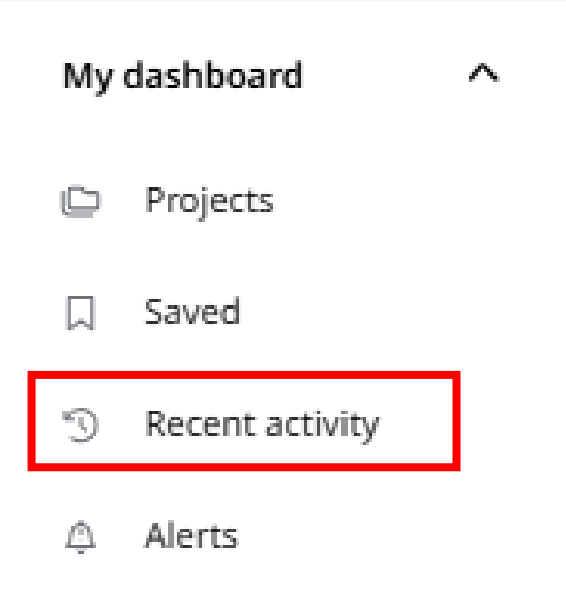
Results on the Hub – myEBSCO

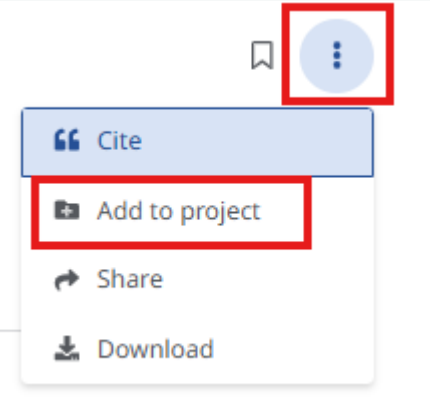
- On first login to the Torbay Hub – you'll be prompted to set up an account
- Future logins take you in immediately

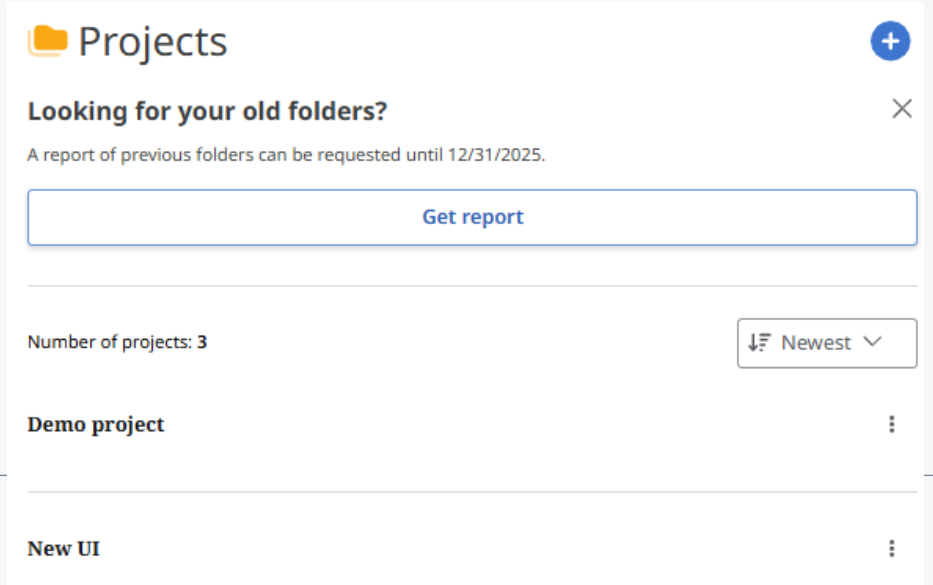


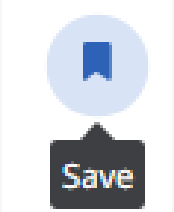
Results on the Hub – my Dashboard

- You can save things you will need again
- **Projects** can organise records related to a piece of work
- Click the bookmark icon by a record to add to **Saved**
- **Recent activity** is your search history. The bookmark icon in this section saves that search line and any search lines linked to it.
- **Alerts** can be set against searches or journal titles, see next slide





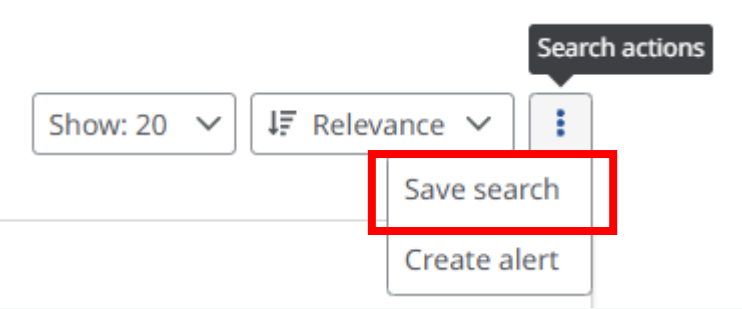




Results on the Hub – save a search or alert

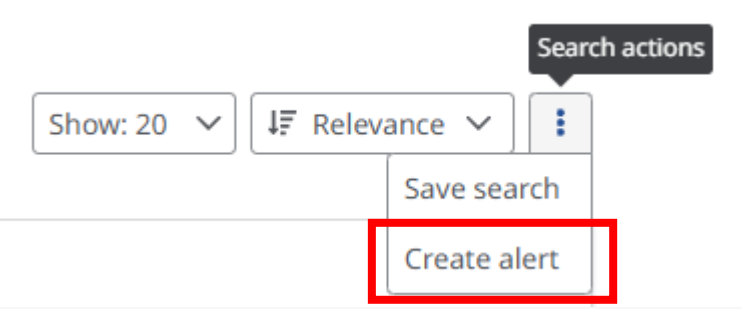
Searches

- Click the three dots at the top of your search results
- Saved searches can be given distinct names and descriptions to make them easier to find
- Saving a search this way will include any sets you have combined to create this final set. If you want to save all of your recent activity then you can tick them all and combine with OR.

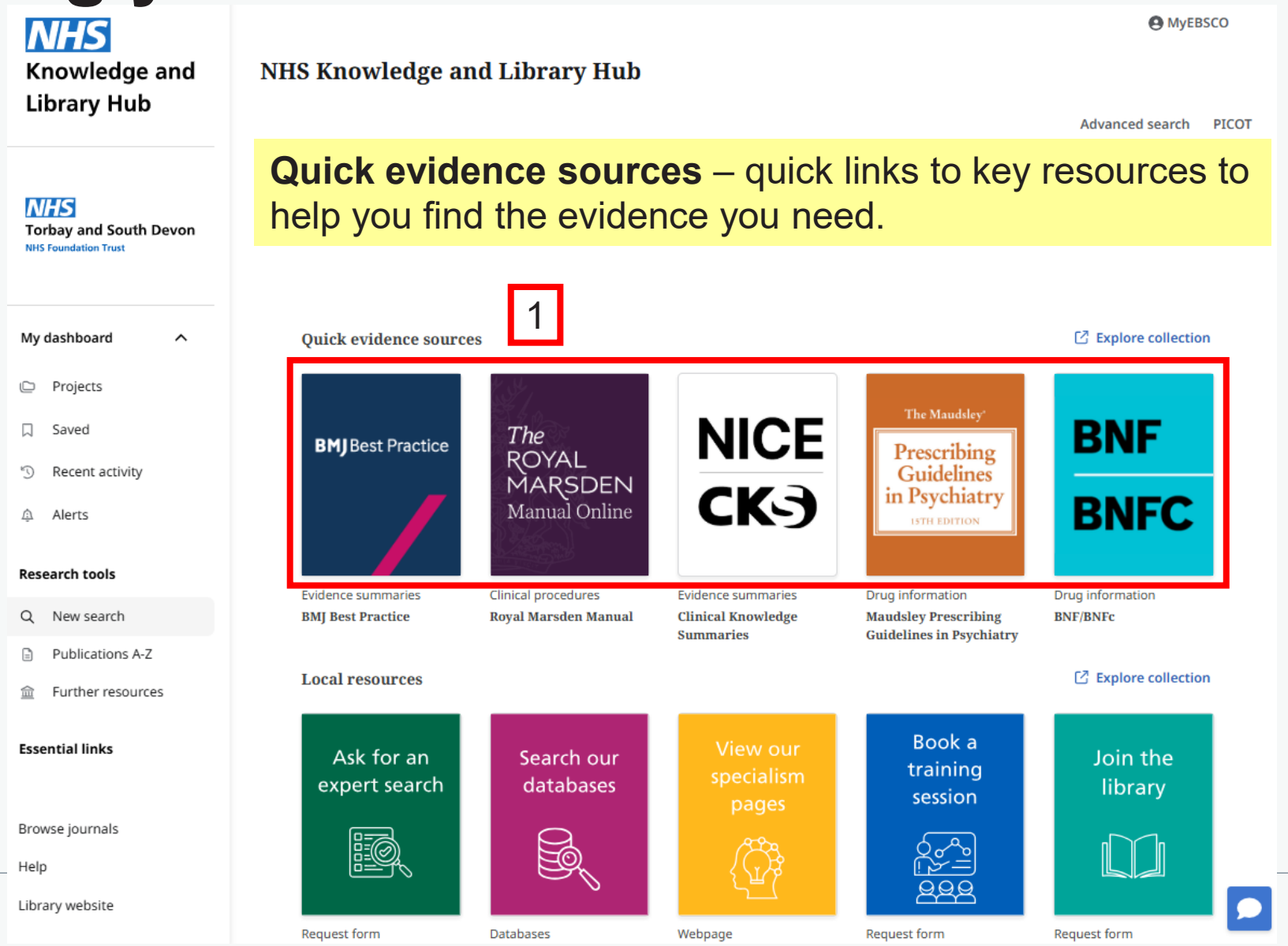


Alerts

- When setting an alert you can set
    - How often it comes
    - Whether you get an email even if there are no new results
    - Whether you get sent a first email with an initial large set of results
- Get in touch with us if you need help to set up an alert.



Expanding your search



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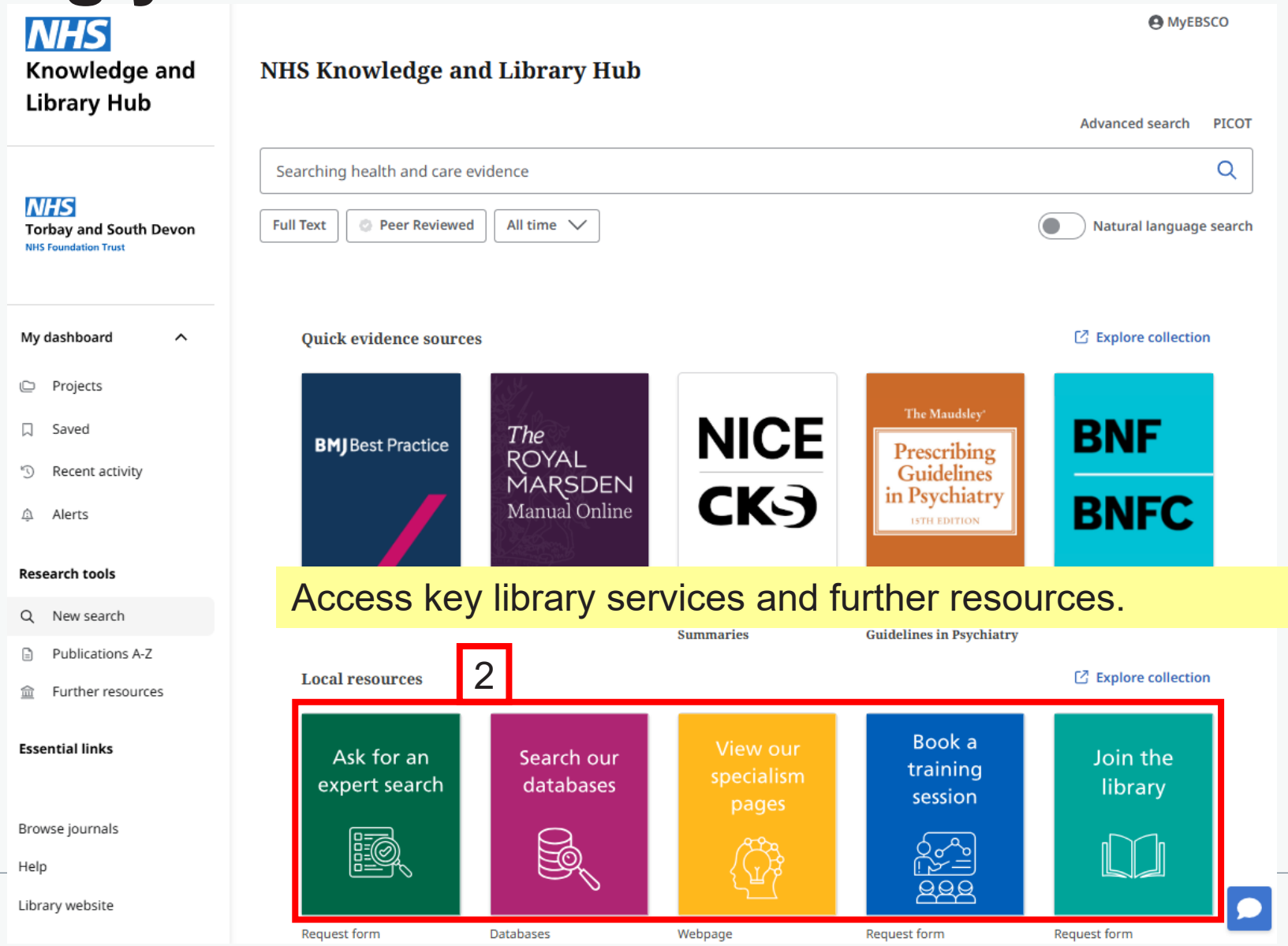

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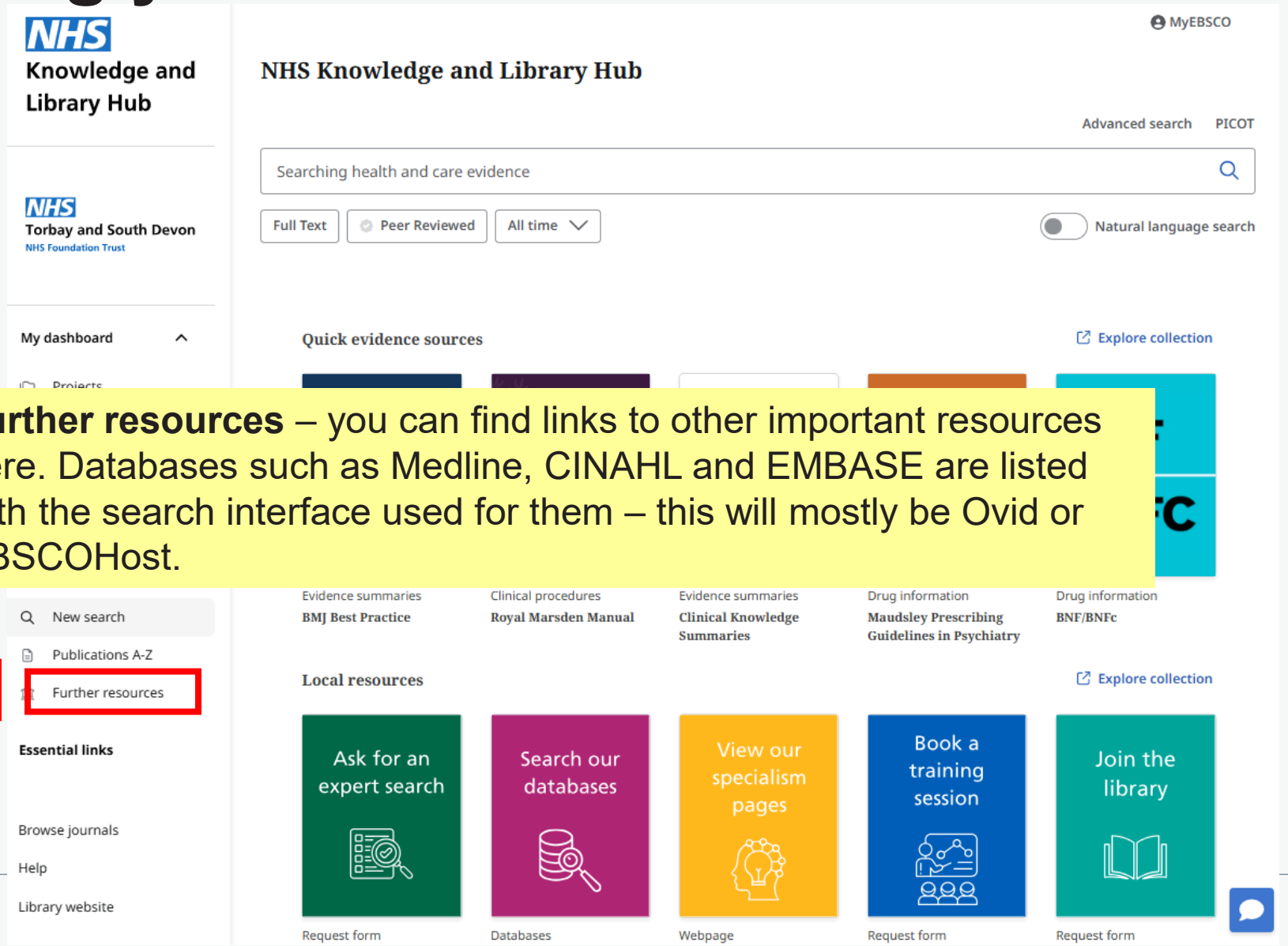

Further resources – you can find links to other important resources here. Databases such as Medline, CINAHL and EMBASE are listed with the search interface used for them – this will mostly be Ovid or EBSCOHost.

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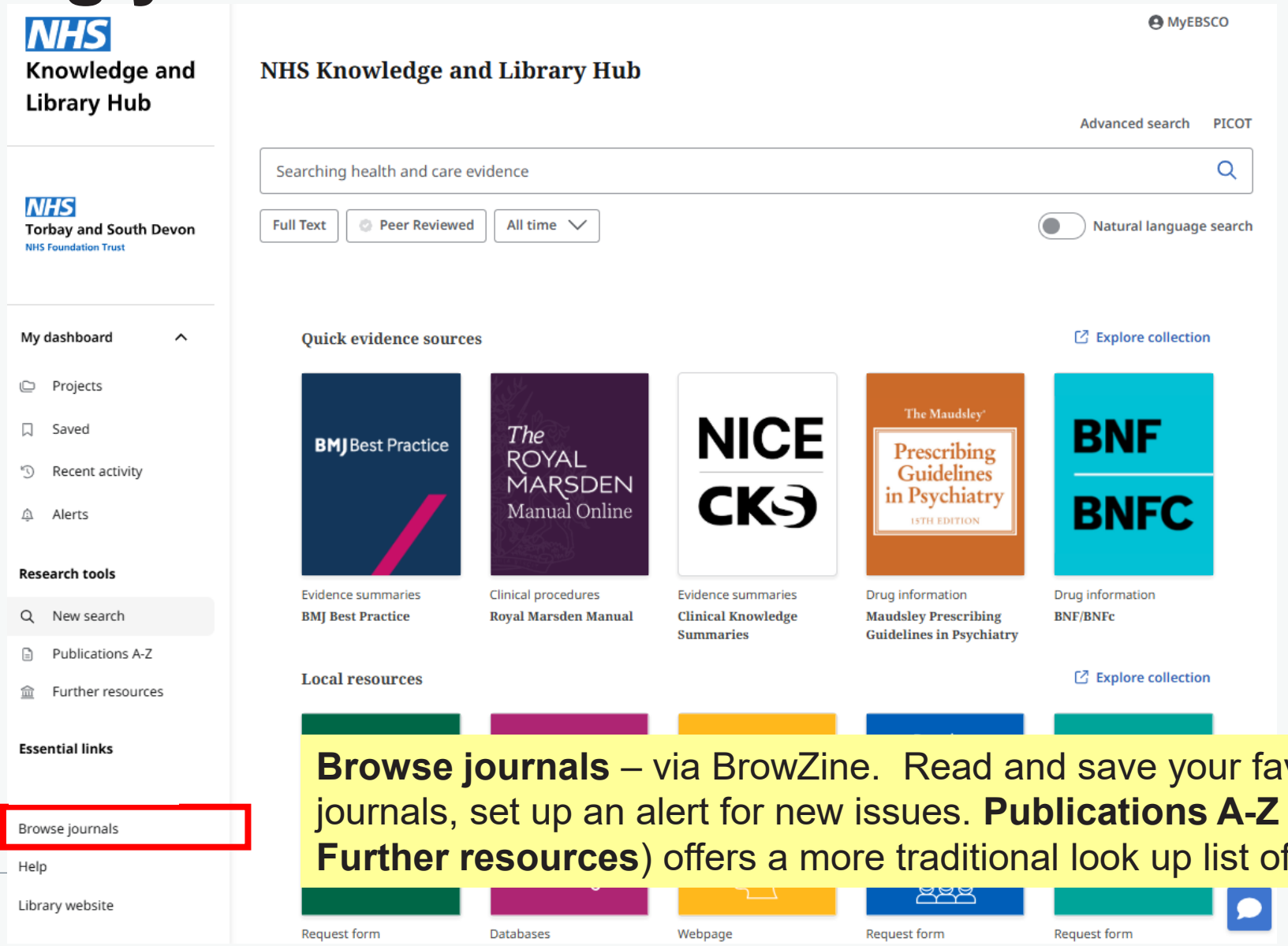
Expanding your search



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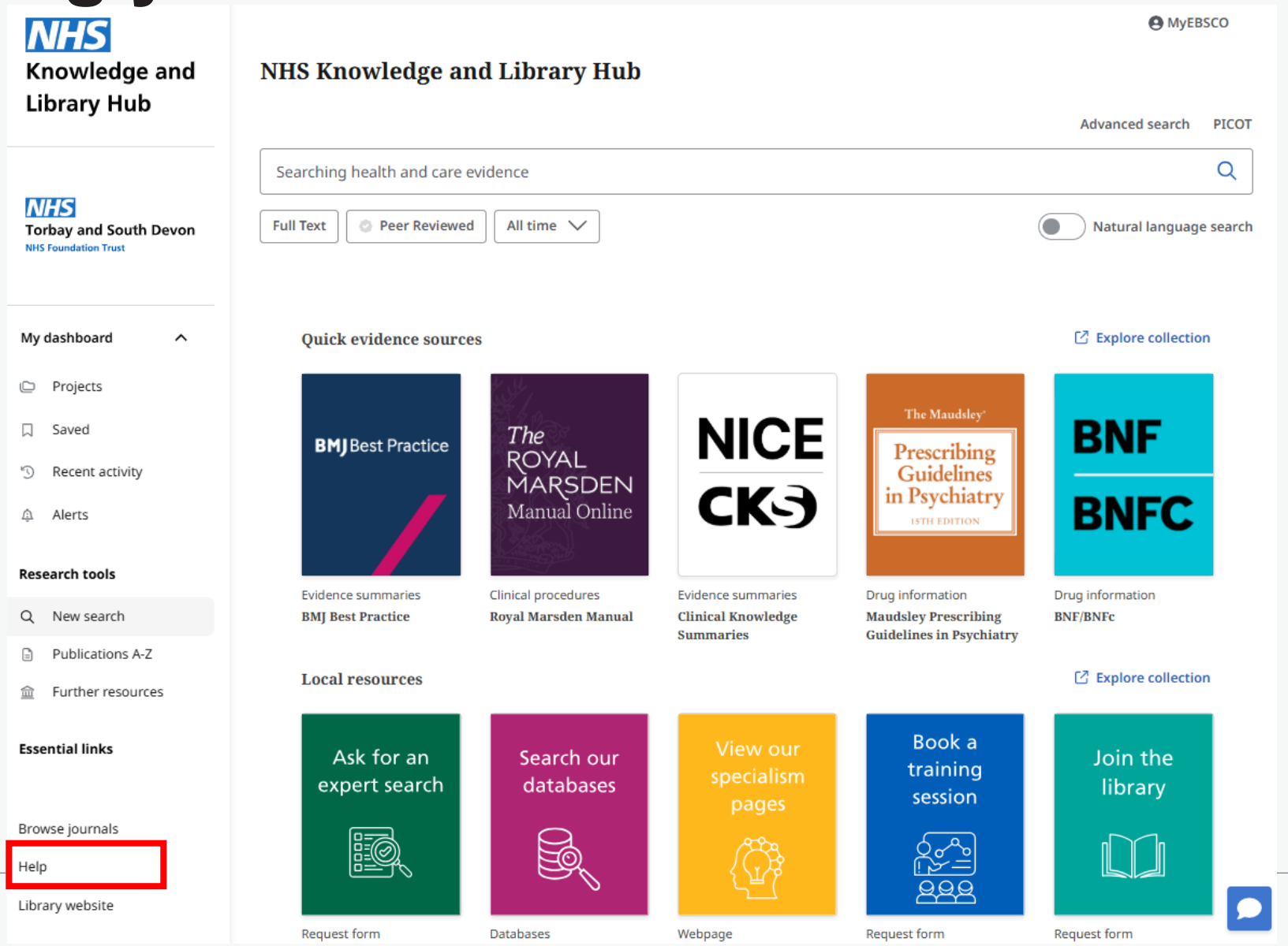
Browse journals – via BrowZine. Read and save your favourite journals, set up an alert for new issues. **Publications A-Z** (above **Further resources**) offers a more traditional look up list of journals.

Expanding your search



Help – click to access help via our website.

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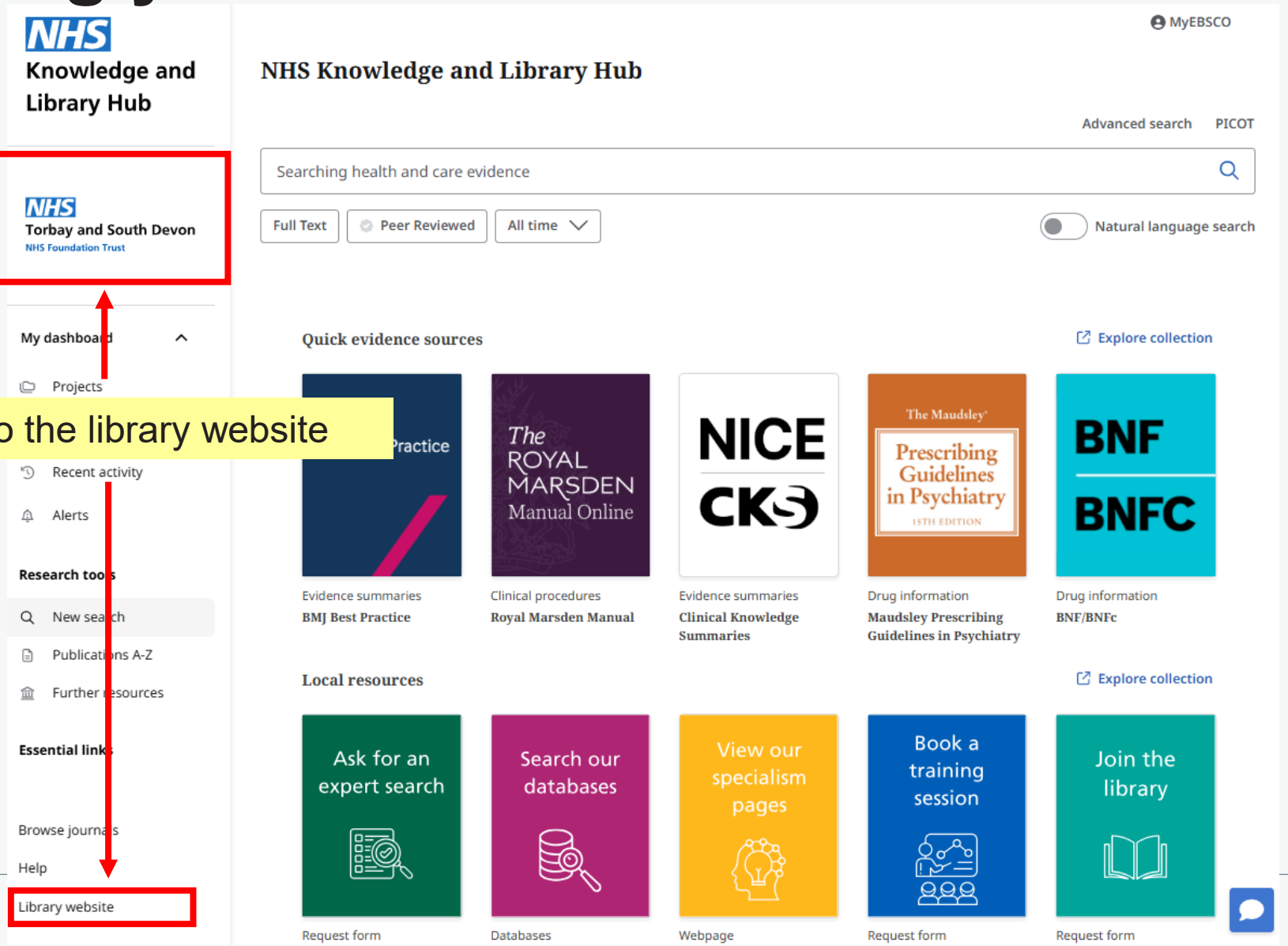
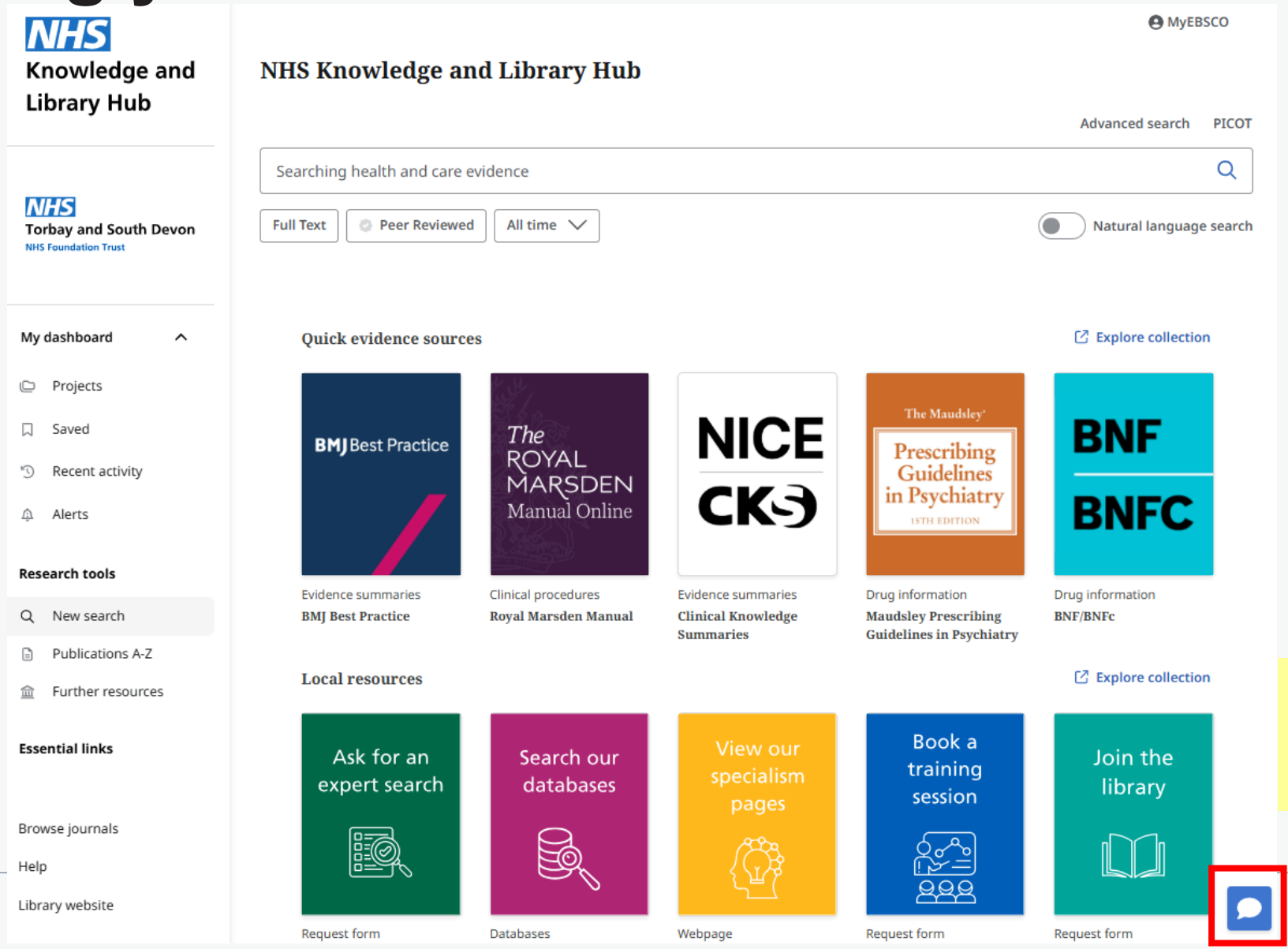
Expanding your search



Expanding your search



Ask-a-librarian – contact the library to request help

7

Questions?

Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust

Library & Knowledge Service

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