

## Searching Healthcare Databases on EBSCO

Healthcare databases are used to find reliable, relevant research on a specific topic. They contain references (often with summaries or abstracts) of journal articles, guidelines, dissertations, and book chapters. EBSCO is a platform that provides access to a number of databases, of which the principle ones are:

### **Cumulative Index of Nursing & Allied Health (CINAHL) 1981 - present**

A US database covering all aspects of nursing and 17 allied health disciplines, including optometry, speech and language pathology, nutrition and audiology. Contains references from over 3,000 journals.

### **Health Business Elite**

Provides comprehensive journal content detailing all aspects of health care administration and other non-clinical aspects of health care institution management. Topics covered include hospital management, hospital administration, marketing, human resources, computer technology, facilities management and insurance.

### **MEDLINE 1946 - present**

A comprehensive US medical database. Other subjects covered include dentistry, veterinary medicine, and advanced nursing practice. The database covers over 5,500 journals from 70 countries.

## To Access the Databases

1. Access a specific database (e.g. CINAHL) from the Knowledge and Library Hub under 'In-depth searching' (access the Hub via the Library website at [www.sdhl.org.uk](http://www.sdhl.org.uk)). You will be asked to sign in with your Trust PC login details, then taken to the screen shown below:

2. The database you are using will be shown above the top search box. You can view and select other databases by clicking the 'Choose Databases' link, also above the top search box.

3. Select the database you wish to search and click 'OK' (***we recommend searching one database at a time***)

## Preparing to Search

In order to obtain the most comprehensive results, you need to think carefully about your search topic before you begin. Turn your topic into a question, then break the question down into its key aspects and formulate search terms/keywords for each aspect. Consider synonyms or alternative phrases, and international differences in spelling or terminology. Search each term and combine them with the Boolean operators AND or OR (see below). For example:

Topic: Recent investigations into mechanisms for detecting early signs of septic shock or sepsis in children

Question: *What early recognition tools are available for detecting septic shock or sepsis in children?*

Relevant search terms broken down by aspect may be:

### Column 1

### Column 2

### Column 3

Aspect 1	Aspect 2	Aspect 3
Septic shock	Children	Early recognition
Sepsis	Child	Early signs
	Infant	Alarms
	Paediatric	Screening
	Pediatric	

Use OR to combine all terms in a column to give a total result for each aspect, then use AND to combine the results from each aspect to find material relevant to the whole question.


## Searching

1. Ensure 'Advanced Search' is selected. Begin with the first aspect of your question (column 1 above). Enter the first search term/keyword in the search box ('septic shock' in our example). **Tip: enter phrases in quote marks "..."**
2. Select a field to search from the drop-down menu on the right. You can choose to search all text in an item's record or narrow the search to specific fields, e.g. title or abstract

The screenshot shows the EBSCOhost search interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs: 'New Search', 'Publications', 'CINAHL Subject Headings', 'Cited References', 'Citation Matcher', and 'More'. Below these, the search bar contains the text '"septic shock"' (circled in red). To the right of the search bar is a dropdown menu labeled 'Select a Field (optional)' (circled in red). The dropdown menu is open, showing a list of search fields: 'TX All Text', 'TI Title' (circled in red), 'AU Author', 'AB Abstract' (circled in red), 'MW Word in Subject Heading', 'MH Exact Subject Heading', 'MJ Word in Major Subject Heading', 'MM Exact Major Subject Heading', 'SU Subject', 'DH Exact Minor Subject Heading', 'SO Publication Name', 'JN Publication [exact]', 'AF Author Affiliation', and 'AG Age Group'. Below the search bar, there are two more search boxes, each preceded by an 'AND' dropdown menu. At the bottom left, there are links for 'Basic Search', 'Advanced Search' (circled in red), and 'Search History'. On the bottom right, there are links for 'Search Options', 'Search Modes and Expanders', and 'Search modes' (with a question mark icon). The 'Search modes' section shows four options: 'Boolean/Phrase' (selected), 'Find all my search terms', 'Find any of my search terms', and 'SmartText Searching' (with a 'Hint' link).

3. To search in more than one field, e.g. title and abstract, you need to search for each on separate rows and select 'OR' from the drop-down menu on the left to combine them

New Search Publications CINAHL Subject Headings Cited References Citation Matcher More ▾

MY  Searching: CINAHL [Choose Databases](#)

☐ Suggest Subject Terms

"septic shock" TI Title ▾ Search


OR ▾ "septic shock" AB Abstract ▾ Clear ?

AND ▾ Select a Field (optional) ▾ (+) (-)

[Basic Search](#) [Advanced Search](#) [Search History](#)

- For clarity of illustration, the example search below has been conducted with the 'All Text' field chosen

4. When you have entered your first term in the search box, click 'Search'. A search line will be generated with results of the search listed below it

MY  Searching: CINAHL [Choose Databases](#)

☐ Suggest Subject Terms

Select a Field (optional) ▾ Search

AND ▾ Select a Field (optional) ▾ Clear ?

AND ▾ Select a Field (optional) ▾ (+) (-)

[Basic Search](#) [Advanced Search](#) [Search History](#) ▾

**Search History/Alerts**

[Print Search History](#) [Retrieve Searches](#) [Retrieve Alerts](#) [Save Searches / Alerts](#)

☐ Select / deselect all [Search with AND](#) [Search with OR](#) [Delete Searches](#) [Refresh Search Results](#)

Search ID# ▾	Search Terms	Search Options	Actions
S1	TX "septic shock"	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	<a href="#">View Results</a> (7,217) <a href="#">View Details</a> <a href="#">Edit</a>

**Refine Results**

Current Search ▾

Boolean/Phrase:  
TX "septic shock"

Search Results: 1 - 50 of 7,217









1. Hemodynamic management: Which strategy is most effective in reducing surgical site infections?

(includes abstract) Bartlett, Elise; Urman, Richard D.; Urits, Ivan; Kaye, Alan D.; Viswanath, Omar Journal of Clinical Anesthesia, Aug2022; 79 N.PAG-N.PAG. 1p. (Journal article) ISSN: 0952-8180 PMID: NLM33153856













5. Repeat for the next term in column 1 ('sepsis'). A second search line will generate

Search ID# ▾	Search Terms	Search Options	Actions
S2	TX sepsis	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	<a href="#">View Results</a> (34,839) <a href="#">View Details</a> <a href="#">Edit</a>
S1	TX "septic shock"	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	<a href="#">View Results</a> (7,217) <a href="#">View Details</a> <a href="#">Edit</a>

6. Combine the two searches to return a result that covers both the terms of aspect 1 by selecting each search line and clicking the 'Search with OR' box

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Select / deselect all		Search with AND	<b>Search with OR</b>	Delete Searches	Refresh Search Results	
Search ID#	Search Terms	Search Options		Actions		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S2	 TX sepsis	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase		 <a href="#">View Results</a> (34,839)  <a href="#">View Details</a>  <a href="#">Edit</a>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S1	 TX "septic shock"	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase		 <a href="#">View Results</a> (7,217)  <a href="#">View Details</a>  <a href="#">Edit</a>		

7. A third search line will generate with the combined results

<input type="button" value="Select / deselect all"/>		<input type="button" value="Search with AND"/>	<input type="button" value="Search with OR"/>	<input type="button" value="Delete Searches"/>	<input type="button" value="Refresh Search Results"/>	
Search ID#	Search Terms	Search Options		Actions		
<input type="checkbox"/> S3	 S1 OR S2	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase		 <a href="#">View Results</a> (38,334)	 <a href="#">View Details</a>  <a href="#">Edit</a>	
<input type="checkbox"/> S2	 TX sepsis	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase		 <a href="#">View Results</a> (34,839)	 <a href="#">View Details</a>  <a href="#">Edit</a>	
<input type="checkbox"/> S1	 TX "septic shock"	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase		 <a href="#">View Results</a> (7,217)	 <a href="#">View Details</a>  <a href="#">Edit</a>	

8. Repeat all steps for the remaining two aspects of the research question (columns 2 and 3)

9. Now select the combined search line for each aspect (lines S3, S9, S14) and click the 'Search with AND' box

<input type="checkbox"/> Select / deselect all		<input type="button" value="Search with AND"/>	<input type="button" value="Search with OR"/>	<input type="button" value="Delete Searches"/>	<input type="button" value="Refresh Search Results"/>	
Search ID#	Search Terms	Search Options		Actions		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S14	S10 OR S11 OR S12 OR S13	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase		<a href="#">View Results</a> (226,171)	<a href="#">View Details</a>	<a href="#">Edit</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> S13	TX screening	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase		<a href="#">View Results</a> (214,124)	<a href="#">View Details</a>	<a href="#">Edit</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> S12	TX alarms	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase		<a href="#">View Results</a> (5,989)	<a href="#">View Details</a>	<a href="#">Edit</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> S11	TX "early signs"	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase		<a href="#">View Results</a> (1,849)	<a href="#">View Details</a>	<a href="#">Edit</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> S10	TX "early recognition"	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase		<a href="#">View Results</a> (5,196)	<a href="#">View Details</a>	<a href="#">Edit</a>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S9	S4 OR S5 OR S6 OR S7 OR S8	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase		<a href="#">View Results</a> (1,511,515)	<a href="#">View Details</a>	<a href="#">Edit</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> S8	TX pediatric	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase		<a href="#">View Results</a> (547,563)	<a href="#">View Details</a>	<a href="#">Edit</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> S7	TX paediatric	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase		<a href="#">View Results</a> (547,563)	<a href="#">View Details</a>	<a href="#">Edit</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> S6	TX infant	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase		<a href="#">View Results</a> (348,951)	<a href="#">View Details</a>	<a href="#">Edit</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> S5	TX child	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase		<a href="#">View Results</a> (1,369,951)	<a href="#">View Details</a>	<a href="#">Edit</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> S4	TX children	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase		<a href="#">View Results</a> (1,369,951)	<a href="#">View Details</a>	<a href="#">Edit</a>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S3	S1 OR S2	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase		<a href="#">View Results</a> (38,334)	<a href="#">View Details</a>	<a href="#">Edit</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> S2	TX sepsis	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase		<a href="#">View Results</a> (34,839)	<a href="#">View Details</a>	<a href="#">Edit</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> S1	TX "septic shock"	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase		<a href="#">View Results</a> (7,217)	<a href="#">View Details</a>	<a href="#">Edit</a>

10. A new search line will generate showing results that incorporate all search terms/keywords for each aspect of the research question. Results will be displayed beneath the search lines

The screenshot shows a search results interface. At the top, a search bar contains the text 'S15 S3 AND S9 AND S14', which is circled in red. Below the search bar, there are links for 'Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects', 'View Results (668)', 'View Details', and 'Edit'. The search mode is set to 'Boolean/Phrase'. On the left, there is a 'Refine Results' sidebar with options for 'Current Search', 'Limit To', and 'Source Types'. The main area displays three search results, each with a title, abstract, and subjects.

## Applying Limits

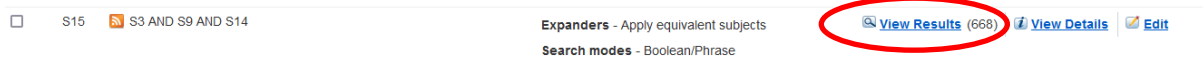
You can refine your search further by applying limits such as a publication date-range, language or type of article.

1. In the results page you will see options for applying filters on the left of the page. Simply select those you wish to apply. In our example results have been limited to English language papers published since 2019.

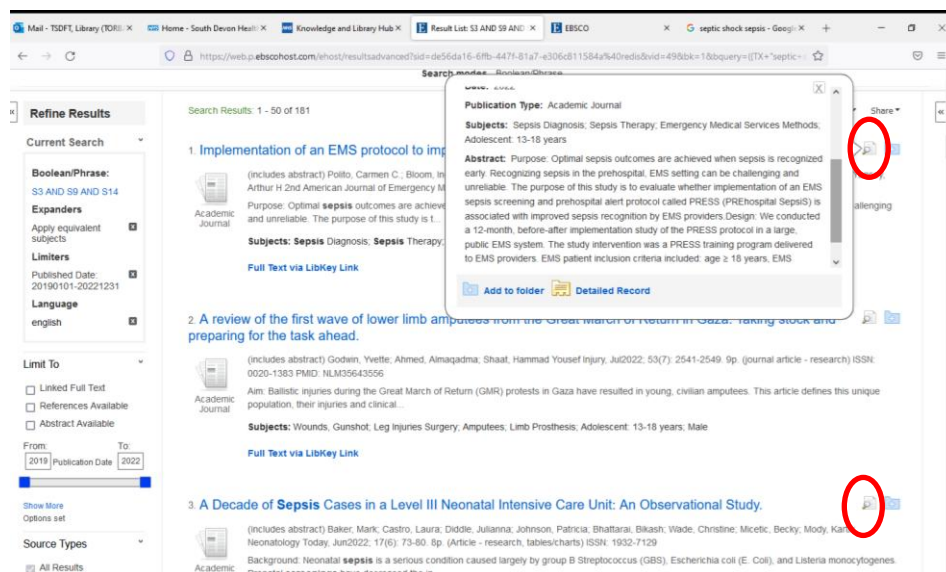
This screenshot shows the same search results page as the previous one, but with additional refinements. In the 'Refine Results' sidebar, the 'Limiters' section is circled in red, showing 'Published Date: 20190101-20221231' and 'Language: english'. Below this, the 'Limit To' section is also circled in red, showing 'Linked Full Text', 'References Available', and 'Abstract Available'. The main search results area shows the same three results, but the total count is now 181 instead of 668.

## Managing results

1. The results of your most recent search will be displayed by default. To view results from any search line in your search history click the line's 'View Results' link



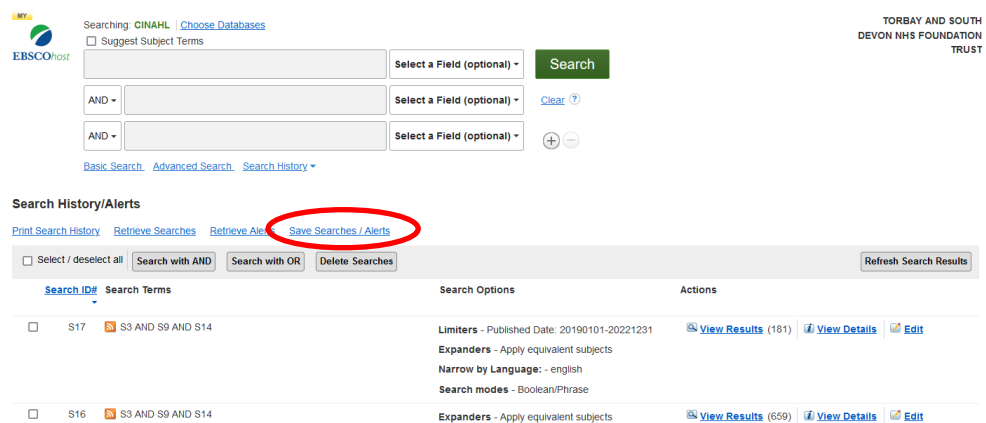
2. In the results screen you can view summaries and abstracts by clicking on the document and magnifying glass icon on the right of each result



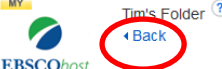
## Saving and exporting searches and results

You can save your search and save individual results.

1. To save your search, click the 'Save Searches/Alerts link



2. Name your search and click save, then click the 'Continue' button. You will see your search added to your list of saved searches, which you can retrieve at any time. To return to your search, click on 'Back'



EBSCOhost

Tim's Folder ?

[Back](#)

### My Folder: Saved Searches

1-4 of 4

Page: 1

☐ Select / deselect all [Delete Items](#) [Move To](#) ▾

- ☐ 1. example  
Properties: Saved Search (Permanent)  
[Retrieve Saved Search](#) [Edit Saved Search](#)
- ☐ 2. Rapid sequence induction midline  
Properties: Saved Search (Permanent)  
[Retrieve Saved Search](#) [Edit Saved Search](#)
- ☐ 3. Sepsis  
Properties: Saved Search (Permanent)  
-

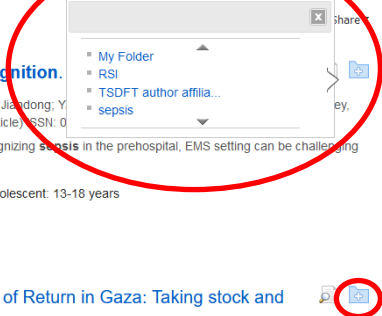
My Folder

- Articles (3)
- Images (0)
- Videos (0)
- Companies (0)
- Pages (0)
- eBooks (0)
- audioBooks (0)
- Checkouts (0)
- Holds (0)
- Notes (0)
- Other Content Sources (0)
- Persistent Links to Searches (0)
- Saved Searches (4)
- Search Alerts (1)
- Journal Alerts (0)
- Web Pages (0)

My Custom ? New

- RSI

3. To save individual articles from the results page, click on the folder icon on the right of the article and select a folder to save it to (default is 'My Folder' but you can create individual folders for different searches – see point 4 below)



Refine Results

Current Search

Boolean/Phrase:  
S3 AND S9 AND S14

Expanders

Apply equivalent subjects

Limiters

Published Date: 20190101-20221231

Language: english

Limit To

☐ Linked Full Text

☐ References Available

☐ Abstract Available

From: 2019 To: 2022

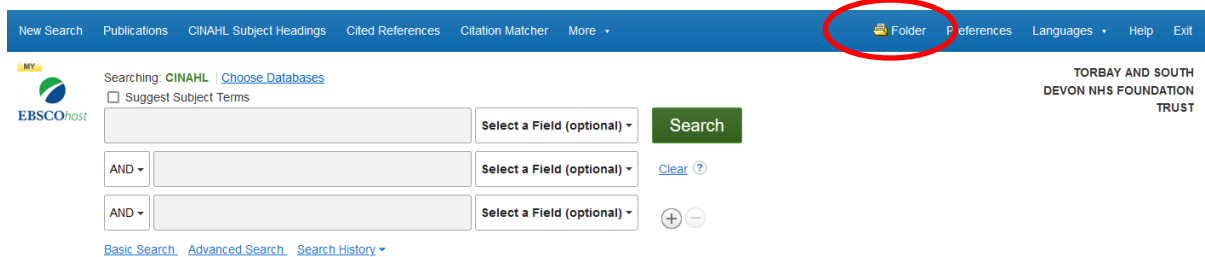
Publication Date

Search Results: 1 - 50 of 181

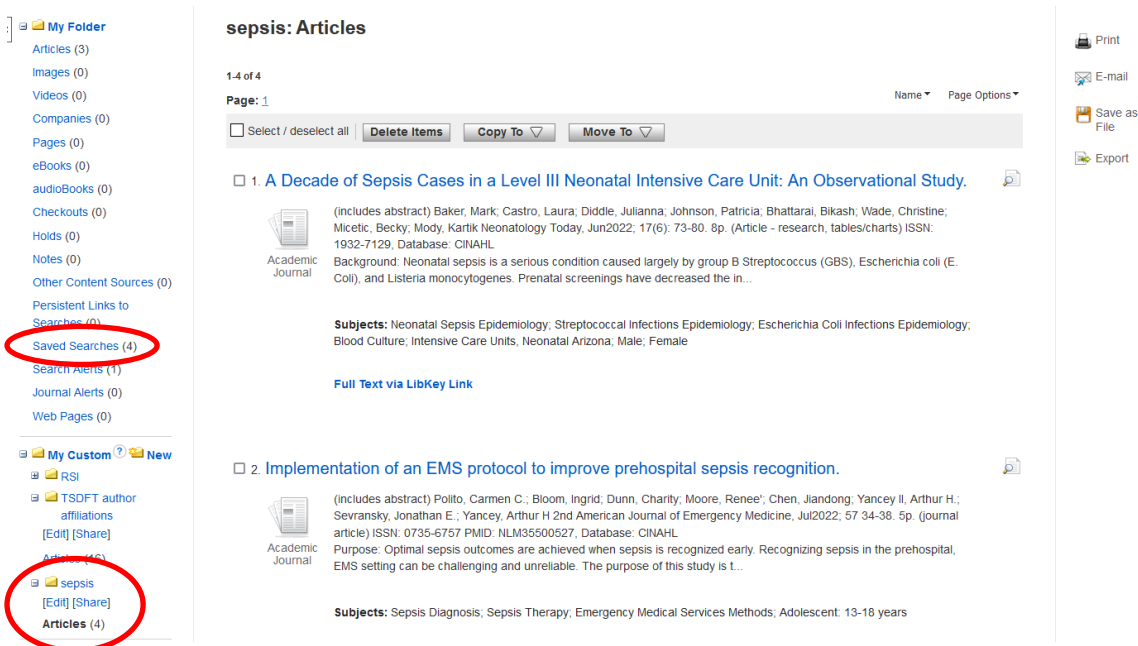
1. Implementation of an EMS protocol to improve prehospital sepsis recognition.  
(includes abstract) Polito, Carmen C.; Bloom, Ingrid; Dunn, Charity; Moore, Renee; Chen, Jiaodong; Y Arthur H 2nd American Journal of Emergency Medicine, Jul2022; 57 34-38. 5p. (journal article) ISSN: 0  
Purpose: Optimal **sepsis** outcomes are achieved when **sepsis** is recognized **early**. Recognizing **sepsis** in the prehospital, EMS setting can be challenging and unreliable. The purpose of this study is t...  
**Subjects:** Sepsis Diagnosis; Sepsis Therapy; Emergency Medical Services Methods; Adolescent: 13-18 years  
[Full Text via LibKey Link](#)
2. A review of the first wave of lower limb amputees from the Great March of Return in Gaza: Taking stock and preparing for the task ahead.  
(includes abstract) Godwin, Yvette; Ahmed, Almaqadma; Shaat, Hammad Yousef Injury, Jul2022; 53(7): 2541-2549. 9p. (journal article - research) ISSN: 0020-1383 PMID: NLM35643556  
Aim: Ballistic injuries during the Great March of Return (GMR) protests in Gaza have resulted in young, civilian amputees. This article defines this unique population, their injuries and clinical...  
**Subjects:** Wounds, Gunshot, Leg Injuries Surgery; Amputees; Limb Prosthesis; Adolescent: 13-18 years; Male  
[Full Text via LibKey Link](#)



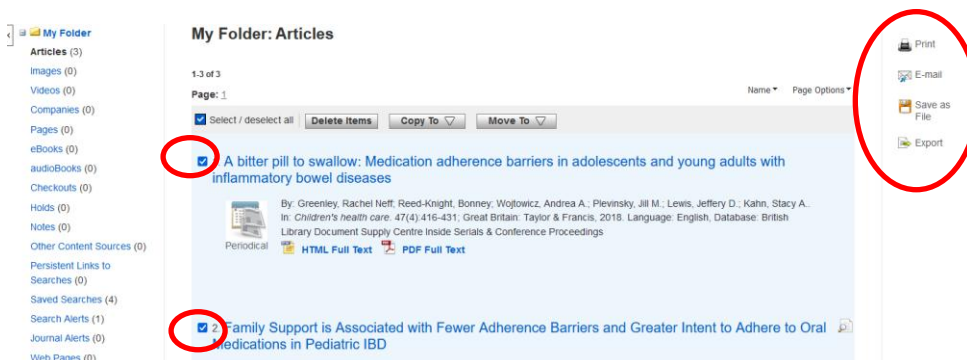
- Access your saved searches and results in the 'Folder' icon in the blue menu bar at the top of the page



- In 'Folders' you will see links to saved articles, searches and folders you have created



- To export, print or email results from a folder select the results and click the required action from the pane on the right



## Syntax Operators

The following table of syntax operators and wildcards can be used to facilitate searching in each database:

TRUNCATION & WILDCARDS	SYMBOL
<p><b>Truncation</b> - returns variations of a word. Use the truncation symbol at the end of a word. Example: <b>nurs*</b> finds nurse, nurses, nursing, nursed.</p> <p>May also be used between words to represent any word. Example: <b>chronic * pain</b> will find chronic knee pain and chronic back pain.</p>	*
<p><b>Wildcards</b> – represented by ? or #</p> <p>Use ? to replace an unknown character. Example: <b>midwi?e</b> will find midwife and midwife.</p> <p>Use # to replace any single character within a word. Example: <b>p#ediatric</b> find paediatric and pediatric.</p>	? #
BOOLEAN OPERATORS	
<p>Finds results containing BOTH terms (narrows your search). Example: <b>heart and exercise</b></p>	AND
<p>Finds results containing either term (broadens your search). Example: <b>smoking or tobacco</b></p>	OR
<p>Use brackets to include more than one type of operator. Example: <b>(diet or nutrition) and diabetes</b></p>	( )
<p>Excludes terms. Example: <b>surgery not GP</b></p>	NOT
<p><b>NB:</b> Databases will default to combining multiple search terms with AND if no command is given</p>	
PROXIMITY CONNECTORS and PHRASES	
<p>Proximity connectors are represented by N or W</p> <p>The near operator (N) returns results where the given terms appear within <i>n</i> words of each other in either direction. Example: <b>hyperactiv* N7 child*</b> will find <i>'children who are diagnosed as being hyperactive...'</i> and <i>'hyperactivity in the pre-school child...'</i></p> <p>The within operator (W) returns results where the given terms appear within <i>n</i> words of each in the order they are entered. Example: <b>equipment W5 walking</b> will find <i>equipment to aid walking</i> but not <i>walking aid equipment</i></p>	Nn Wn
<p>Quotation marks combine multiple search terms (words) into a single search term (phrase). Example: <b>critical care nursing</b> will return results which contain the words <b>critical</b> AND <b>care</b> AND <b>nursing</b> in any order anywhere in the search fields; <b>"critical care nursing"</b> will only return results that contain the phrase (words in order and in conjunction)</p>	"....."