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). 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

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

- 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

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

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

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

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

Search ID#	Search Terms	Search Options	Actions
S3	S1 OR S2	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (38,334)　View Details　Edit
S2	TX sepsis	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (34,839)　View Details　Edit
S1	TX "septic shock"	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (7,217)　View Details　Edit

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

Search ID#	Search Terms	Search Options	Actions
S14	S10 OR S11 OR S12 OR S13	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (226,171)　View Details　Edit
S13	TX screening	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (214,124)　View Details　Edit
S12	TX alarms	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (5,989)　View Details　Edit
S11	TX "early signs"	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (1,849)　View Details　Edit
S10	TX "early recognition"	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (5,196)　View Details　Edit
S9	S4 OR S5 OR S6 OR S7 OR S8	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (1,511,515)　View Details　Edit
S8	TX pediatric	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (547,563)　View Details　Edit
S7	TX paediatric	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (547,563)　View Details　Edit
S6	TX infant	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (348,951)　View Details　Edit
S5	TX child	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (1,369,951)　View Details　Edit
S4	TX children	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (1,369,951)　View Details　Edit
S3	S1 OR S2	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (38,334)　View Details　Edit
S2	TX sepsis	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (34,839)　View Details　Edit
S1	TX "septic shock"	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (7,217)　View Details　Edit

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

☐	S15 S3 AND S9 AND S14	**Expanders** - Apply equivalent subjects **Search modes** - Boolean/Phrase	🔍 View Results (668) ⓘ View Details ✎ Edit	

Refine Results

Current Search ⌄

Boolean/Phrase:
S3 AND S9 AND S14

Expanders

Apply equivalent subjects ☒

Limit To ⌄

☐ Linked Full Text
☐ References Available
☐ Abstract Available

From: 1991 Publication Date To: 2022

Show More

Source Types ⌄

☑ All Results
☐ Academic Journals (505)
☐ Magazines (123)

Search Results: 1 - 50 of 668   Date Newest ▾ Page Options ▾ Share ▾

1. Implementation of an EMS protocol to improve prehospital **sepsis recognition**.

Academic Journal (includes abstract) Polito, Carmen C.; Bloom, Ingrid; Dunn, Charity; Moore, Renee'; Chen, Jiandong; Yancey II, Arthur H.; Sevransky, Jonathan E.; Yancey, Arthur H 2nd American Journal of Emergency Medicine, Jul2022; 57 34-38. 5p. (journal article) ISSN: 0735-6757 PMID: NLM35500527

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.

Academic Journal (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

3. A Decade of **Sepsis** Cases in a Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit: An Observational Study.

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.

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 Publication Date To: 2022

Search Results: 1 - 50 of 181   Date Newest ▾ Page Options ▾ Share ▾

1. Implementation of an EMS protocol to improve prehospital **sepsis recognition**.

Academic Journal (includes abstract) Polito, Carmen C.; Bloom, Ingrid; Dunn, Charity; Moore, Renee'; Chen, Jiandong; Yancey II, Arthur H.; Sevransky, Jonathan E.; Yancey, Arthur H 2nd American Journal of Emergency Medicine, Jul2022; 57 34-38. 5p. (journal article) ISSN: 0735-6757 PMID: NLM35500527

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Subjects: Wounds, Gunshot; Leg Injuries Surgery; Amputees; Limb Prosthesis; Adolescent: 13-18 years; Male

Full Text via LibKey Link

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
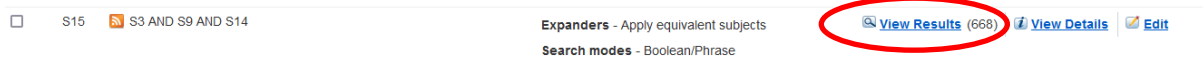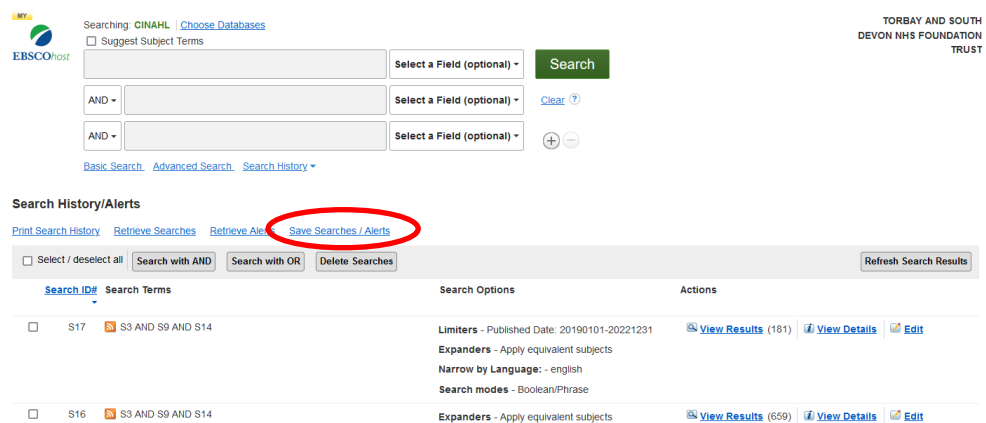

2. In the results screen you can view summaries and abstracts by clicking on the document and magnifying glass icon on the right of each result
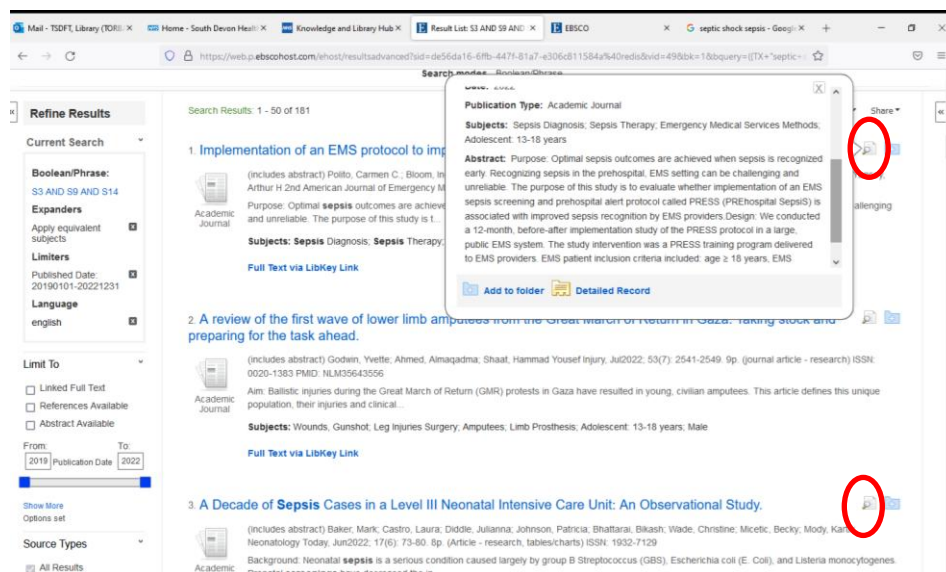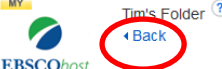

Saving and exporting searches and results

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'
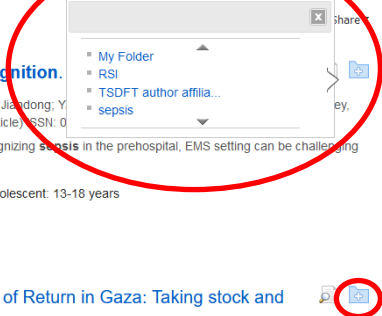
3. To save individual articles from the results page, click on the folder icon on the right of the article and select a folder to save it to (default is 'My Folder' but you can create individual folders for different searches – see point 4 below)
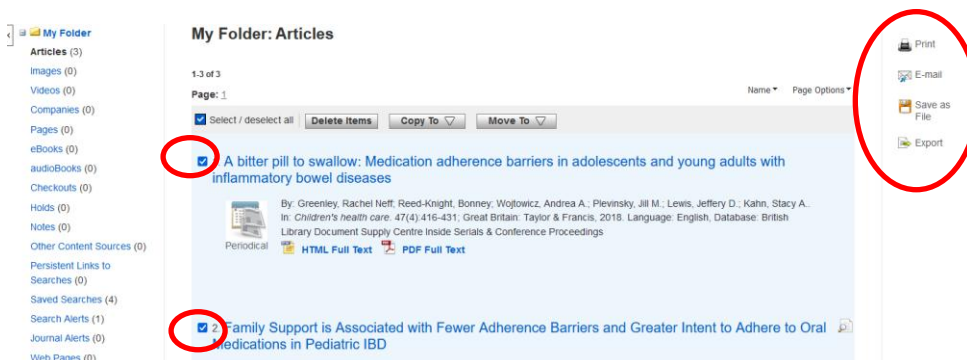
4. Access your saved searches and results in the 'Folder' icon in the blue menu bar at the top of the page
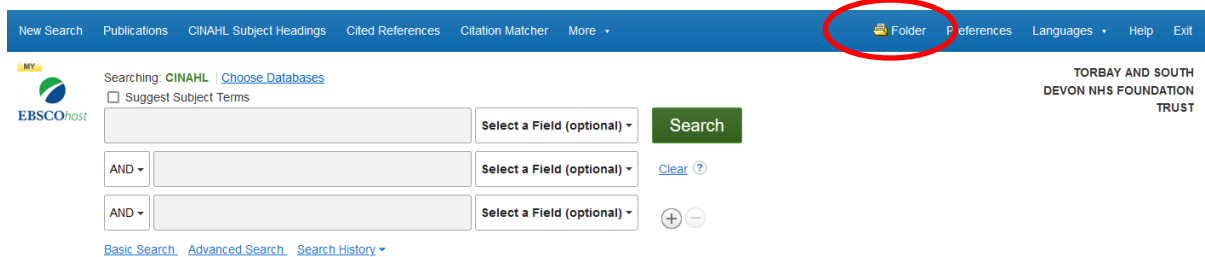
5. In 'Folders' you will see links to saved articles, searches and folders you have created
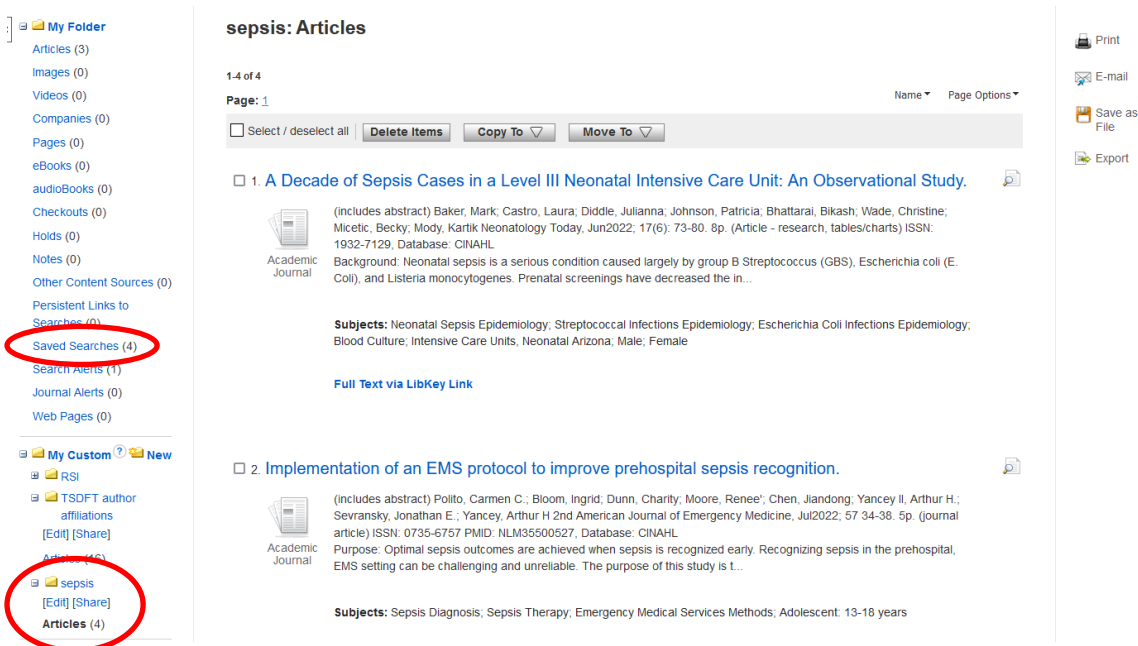
6. To export, print or email results from a folder select the results and click the required action from the pane on the right

Syntax Operators

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

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