

EBSCO DATABASES

A User Guide

Includes: CINAHL, Medline, Health Business Elite

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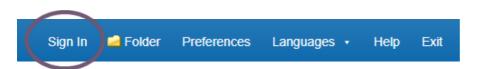
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ACCESSING THE DATABASES AND CREATING A PERSONAL ACCOUNT

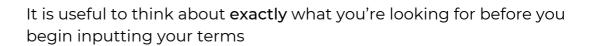
- Go to the Library Website: https://www.sonhslks.com/
- Select the link to Search Healthcare Databases
- This will bring up an alphabetical listing of all the databases you can get access to. Scroll down and select either CINAHL or Medline
- At this point you will be prompted to sign in using your OpenAthens account
- Once logged in, if you would like to change your database, you can do so by clicking on the Change Databases link from the menu above the search bar





To enable full functionality (save searches and results) and allow access to your **Folder** (previous searches etc.), click the **Sign In** link on the top bar. You will automatically be signed in through Athens authentication.

PLANNING YOUR SEARCH



This will ensure that you find relevant and appropriate information

- What type of patient/population are you looking at?
- Are you using a specific test or intervention, or a broad group?
- If you are looking for better outcomes, what are examples of those outcomes?



PICO

You may find it useful to use the PICO formula to plan your search

Р	Patient, Problem, or Population	How would I describe the problem or a group of patients similar to mine?
I	Intervention	What main intervention, prognostic factor, test or exposure am I considering?
С	Comparison	Is there an alternative to compare with the intervention?
0	Outcome	What do I hope to accomplish, measure, improve or affect?



Think of all the different CONCEPTS that make up your topic

Write your different concepts down. Searching for each concept individually and in a variety of ways will ensure your results are more specific and relevant to you

SEARCHING FOR KEYWORDS

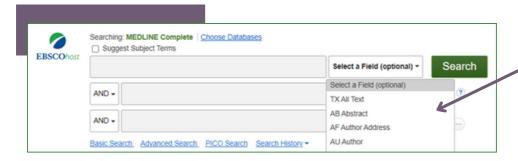
Note: * is used as a wildcard to truncate a word eg. clinic*
For American /British spelling you can use the # symbol: p#ediatric, colo#r, etc.

The default setting is for the Advanced Search option This allows your search to be much more specific

You can now start entering your search terms in the fields

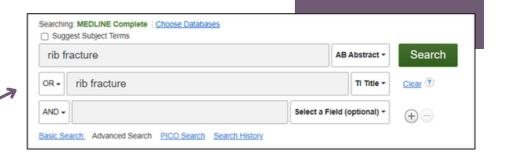
Remember to think about....

Synonymous terms
Potential alternative spellings (e.g. American)
Singular and plurals



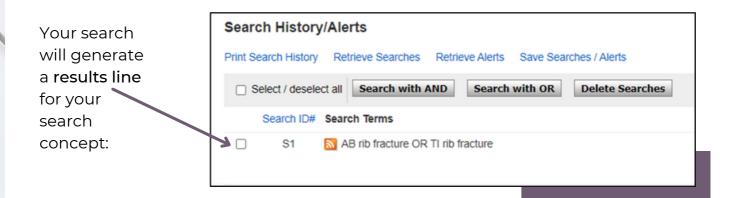
You can choose which fields to search by using the drop-down menus

If you want to search more than one specific field, for example, Title and Abstract, you need to search for these on separate rows using OR





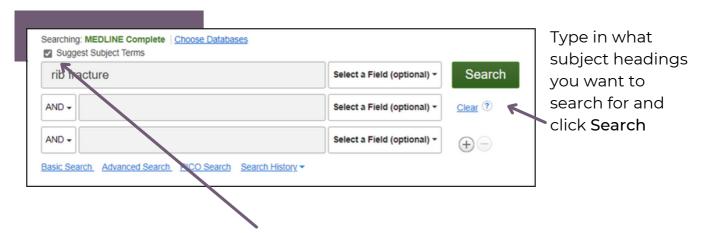
Note that EBSCO may suggest similar concepts which may be useful as you type. These can be selected by clicking on them



SEARCHING FOR SUBJECT HEADINGS

When doing a comprehensive literature search you want to search for keywords combined with subject headings (also referred to as a Thesaurus Search)

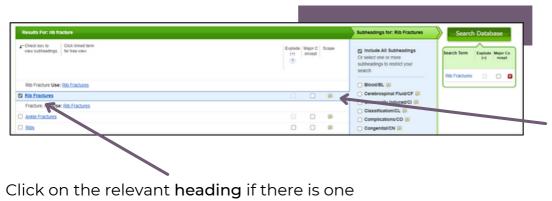
- Subject headings are what the databases use to index articles
- Because each database uses its own unique subject headings it is important to search each database individually and one at a time



Make sure you tick the Suggest Subject Terms box

The thesaurus may have *exactly* what you're looking for, or offer suggestions to other subjects

.... have a go at searching for alternative terms too



If we want to make certain the term is appropriate, we can click on the **Scope Note** to see if it is relevant for our search



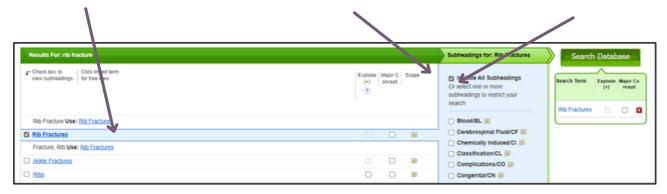
The database will also give you options to apply EXPLODE or MAJOR CONCEPT to the term selected

These options can widen OR narrow the search

If we select the TERM ITSELF the database will bring up results where your term is used both as a major and minor focus, so it will be broader

If we select
EXPLODE, the
database will bring
up results from that
term and everything
indented after it in
its index tree, so a
broader result

Selecting MAJOR
CONCEPT will bring
up results where
your term is more
of a key element, so
fewer but
potentially more
focussed results

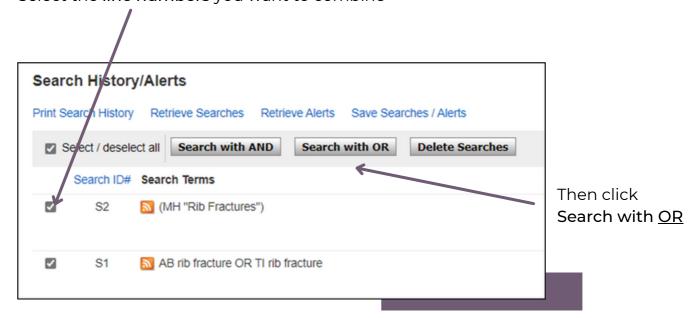


To see how the term explodes you can click on the term itself to see where it sits within its index tree

COMBINING KEYWORDS AND SUBJECT HEADINGS

To get the best results, you should **COMBINE** the Search Term searches **with** the Subject Heading searches you have done previously

Select the line numbers you want to combine

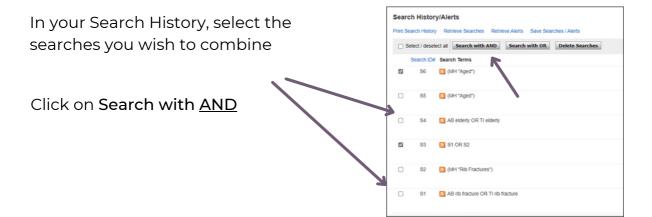


This will ensure you have found the best results possible on your topic

JOINING YOUR CONCEPTS TOGETHER

You should search for both **KEYWORDS** and **SUBJECT HEADINGS** for EVERY concept you have

Once you have combined your keywords and subject headings for each subject, you can ADD your concepts together

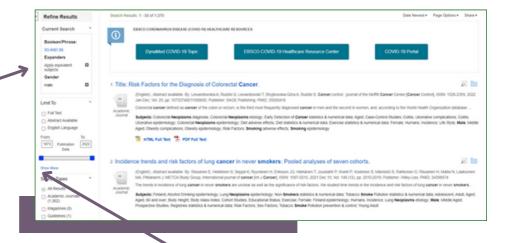


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LIMITING YOUR RESULTS

You can reduce your results further by using the LIMIT function

On the results page, you can limit your results by publication date, language, gender etc.





If you want to see more **detailed** limits you should click on **Show More**

This will allow you to drill down further and be even more specific in your searching eg. you may wish to search for a specific **PUBLICATION TYPE** eg Systematic Review or Meta-Analysis

SAVING RESULTS

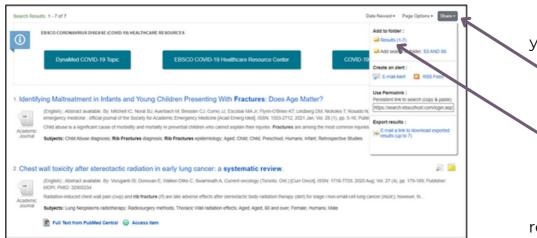


You can save individual results by clicking the folder icon next to the result you wish to save

Click on the FOLDER Icon at the top of the page to access your saved article



It is a good idea to create individual subfolders if you are saving lots of different topics



You can also save all your results at once by clicking on SHARE

From here you can click on **Results**

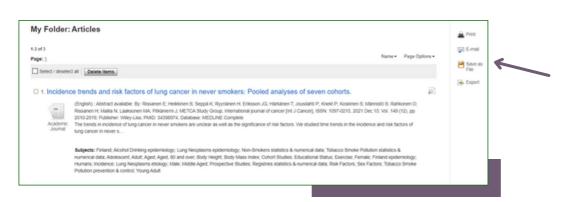
This will move all your results into your Folder

EXPORTING AND PRINTING YOUR RESULTS



You must first SAVE the searches you wish to export to your Folder before you can export them

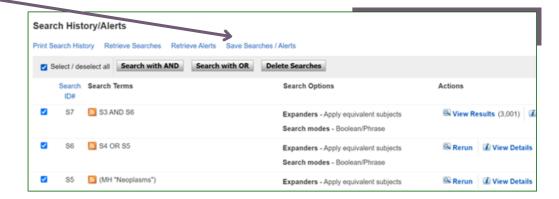
Click on Folder



From here you can PRINT your results, send them via EMAIL, or EXPORT to reference management software

Select the search lines you wish to save and click Save Searches / Alerts

Give your search strategy a **name** and add a description if you wish



You can access your saved searches and saved results from your Folder at any time

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CONTACT US



If you have any questions or need any help or advice, please contact the Library Team

soh-tr.hanleylibrary@nhs.net

01704 704202