




**THE COCHRANE LIBRARY**

Independent high-quality evidence for health care decision making



# Quick Reference Guide



**WILEY-  
BLACKWELL**

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to discover this essential resource today



# THE COCHRANE LIBRARY

Independent high-quality evidence for health care decision making

## What is in THE COCHRANE LIBRARY?

The *Cochrane Library* consists of seven databases and is used by a broad range of people interested in Evidence-Based Health Care, including consumers, clinicians, policy-makers, researchers, educators, students and others:

### Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (Cochrane reviews)

The primary output of **The Cochrane Collaboration**. Each Cochrane review identifies an intervention for a specific disease (or other problem in health care) and determines whether or not this intervention works by summarising the results of research gathered from randomised controlled trials.

### Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (other reviews)

Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE) is a unique database, containing abstracts of systematic reviews that have been quality assessed. Each abstract includes a summary of the review together with a critical commentary about the overall quality. DARE contains 11,000 such abstracts and over 6,000 quality assessed reviews. Produced by the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) in York, UK.

### Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (clinical trials)

Known as CENTRAL, this database includes details of published trials taken from bibliographic databases and other published resources. CENTRAL includes the title of the article, information on where it was published and, in many cases, the abstract.

### The Cochrane Methodology Register (method studies)

A bibliography of publications that report on methods used when conducting controlled trials, studies of methods used in reviews, and more general methodological studies which could be relevant to anyone preparing systematic reviews. Records include journal articles, books and conference proceedings.

### Health Technology Assessment Database (technology assessments)

Details of completed and ongoing health technology assessments (studies of the medical, social, ethical and economic implications of healthcare interventions) from around the world. Produced by the CRD in York, UK.

### The NHS Economic Evaluation Database (economic evaluations)

Economic evaluations from around the world, evaluated for quality and highlighting relative strengths and weaknesses of each study. Produced by the CRD in York, UK.

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## Getting Started

It is useful to register with Wiley InterScience, as it offers a number of benefits, and allows you to save searches.

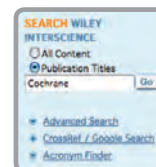
To register go to <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/user/register/form>

Following registration, an authentication e-mail will be sent to your e-mail address. **You must click the link in the message (within 24 hours) to validate your new login.** This will take you to the My Profile area, which includes your personal navigation bar. You are now logged onto Wiley InterScience and your name appears at the top of the screen.



## Accessing THE COCHRANE LIBRARY

- 1 Go to the Search box, select Publication Titles, type Cochrane and press Go
- 2 Click on "The Cochrane Library" from the returned results

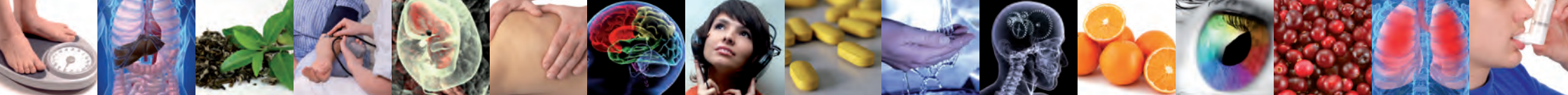


- 3 You are now on *The Cochrane Library* home page.



This is *The Cochrane Library* homepage. From here you can easily navigate around the whole site;

- Browse or search across all databases
- Read this month's editorial
- View the "Special Collections"
- Listen to new podcasts each month
- Access the Cochrane Journal Club



## Basic navigation



There are several options to browse and search *The Cochrane Library* Databases.

You can browse all databases from the homepage, conduct a simple search, or click on Advanced Search to access the Advanced and MeSH Searches as well as Search History where you can edit and combine searches.

Every page throughout *The Cochrane Library* has one of the below headers – from which you can navigate around the rest of the site, get to advanced searching, the homepage or save a search.



use the links provided in the header, to browse The Cochrane Systematic Reviews by various criteria:

- By Review Group (to see all the reviews written by a specific Cochrane Review Group)
- New Reviews (if you only want to view new Cochrane Reviews)
- Updated Reviews (if you want to check the updates on existing reviews)
- A-Z (by reviews/protocol or by review group)
- By topic

### Key to Review Status Buttons

All Reviews have a key to help readers quickly identify their status

<b>Review</b>	A full review, complete with results and discussion, possibly including meta-analyses to combine results across studies.
<b>Protocol</b>	The outline of a review in preparation, including the background, rationale and methods.
<b>Methodology</b>	A full-text systematic review of methodological studies.
<b>Diagnostic</b>	A full-text systematic review of studies assessing accuracy of diagnostic tests.
<b>Overview</b>	An overview of multiple Cochrane intervention reviews addressing the effects of two or more potential interventions for a single condition or health problem.
<b>New</b>	A new protocol or review that has been published in the most recent issue.
<b>Conclusions changed</b>	There has been an important change to the conclusions of the review published in the most recent issue.
<b>Update</b>	A new search for studies has been conducted for an existing review as published in the most recent issue.
<b>Major change</b>	The protocol has been amended to reflect a change in scope published in the most recent issue.
<b>Withdrawn</b>	The review or protocol has been withdrawn, which may be because it was considered to be out of date. Reasons for withdrawal are specified in the document.
<b>Comment</b>	The review includes comments. Readers can submit comments, which are incorporated into the review together with answers and feedback from the review authors.



## Advanced Searching

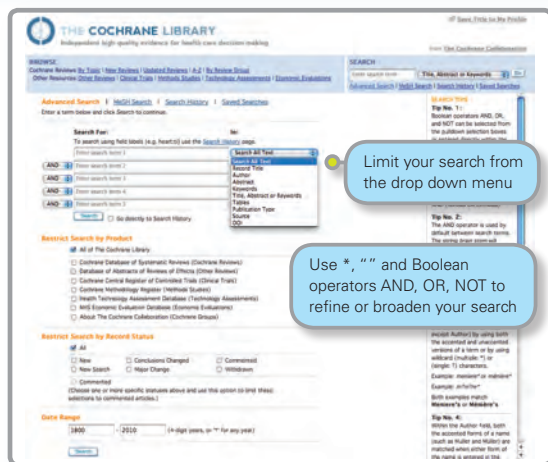
To reach the advanced search page simply click on one of the below links (depending on the page you're navigating from)



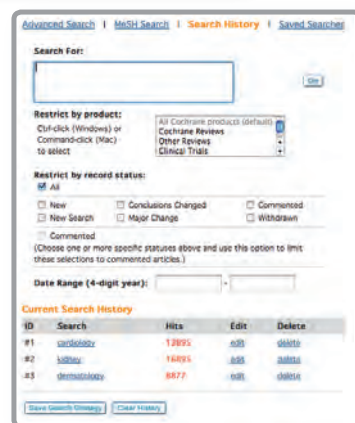
On the Advanced Search page, you can use the asterisk, double quotation marks and Boolean operators – AND, OR, NOT, to refine or broaden your search.

You can also limit your search to specific fields such as Full text, Title, Author, Abstract or Keywords

You can refine your search by selecting the databases you would like to search. Select one or more titles by clicking the boxes.

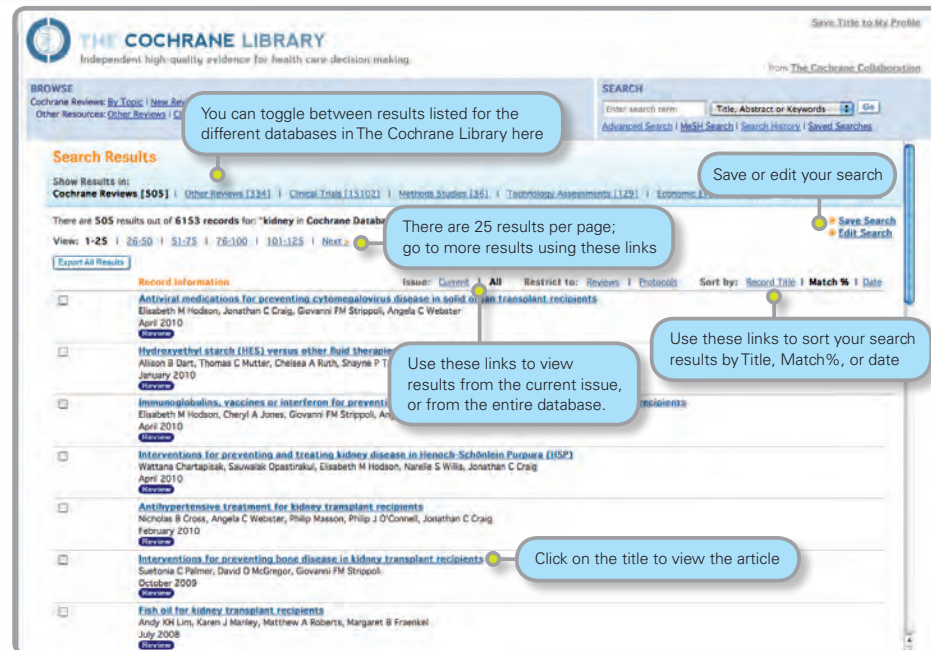


## Search History



- Provides a history of your searches in your current session.
- Your searches are numbered #1, #2 and so on. To combine them enter the # symbol followed by the search number.
- If you want to save your searches for future use in other sessions, you can either use the Save Search function, or you can use the Save Search Strategy function.

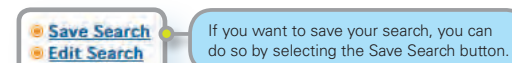
## Search Results



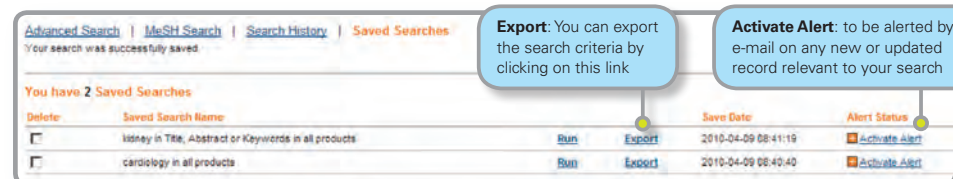
The number in brackets indicates the number of records that match your search in each database.

You can save or edit your search using the links on the right. The Save Search feature is only available if you are a registered Wiley user.

From the search results click on Record to view an article.



The "Saved Searches" page allows you to manage and view searches you have previously saved.





## Tips for Using the Advanced Search Feature

In general, an assumed “AND” operator is used for spaces between terms. Thus, a search for acute bronchitis will match any document that includes both terms.

Type	Description	Example
<b>Boolean operators</b>	Use AND, OR, and NOT to create a more complex search.	magnesium sulfate AND (eclampsia OR perinatal asphyxia)
<b>Proximity search using NEAR</b>	Use NEAR/ with a number to indicate proximity of terms either before or after each other. The default proximity value for the operator when no number is entered is 6.	antidepressant NEAR/10 narcolepsy
<b>Proximity search using NEXT</b>	Use NEXT with a number to match terms that appear next to each other. Note that the apostrophe within a term is treated as a space, thus to search for adjacent words in a term such as Down's Syndrome, the best search parameter to use is:	
<b>down* NEAR/2 syndrome</b>	cholera NEXT treat*	
<b>Combined Boolean and proximity searches</b>	Use combinations of Boolean operators and proximity operators to build a complex search.	breast NEAR (cancer OR carcinoma)
<b>Wildcard truncation</b>	Use an asterisk (*) to search for multiple characters before, within, or after a search string. A question mark can be used to search for a single character.	abdom* *eclampsia
<b>Comma instead of OR operator</b>	Use a comma in place of the OR operator	medical, health
<b>Exact phrase search</b>	Insert a term within quotation marks to create an exact match. Note that no search method is case sensitive, thus “PH” matches the same results as “ph”, “Ph”, or “ph”.	“mental health treatment” matches the phrase in exactly that word sequence
<b>Stemming</b>	The stemming feature within the search allows words with small spelling variants to be matched. The term tumor will also match tumour.	tumor cell
<b>Pluralization and singularization matches</b>	Pluralized forms of words also match singular versions, and vice versa. The term drugs will find both drug and drugs. To match either just the singular or plural form of a terms, use an exact match search and include the word in quotation marks.	“vaccine”
<b>Terms with multiple spellings</b>	Use the wildcard character with the NEXT operator to match all variations of a term. Note: Use NEAR between a word ending in “s” and another following word.	st* NEXT john* NEAR wort
<b>Diphthong characters</b>	Terms with spelling variations that include diphthongs should be searched with a wildcard character to ensure that all forms of a term are matched. Some more common terms with diphthongs such as “haemorrhage” are automatically matched to their variant spellings through stemming.	isch*mic stroke
<b>Stop words</b>	Words such as “in,” “the” and “of” are matched in the search. The Boolean search operators AND, OR, NOT, NEAR, and NEXT are the only terms treated as stop words.	
<b>Accented characters</b>	For all fields except Author, accented characters are not matched by their equivalent unaccented form. To match accented characters use the following options: 1) Use the wildcard characters (* or ?) for a broad match, 2) if the term is displayed on a page you are viewing, copy and paste it to the search box, 3) select the term from a list of accented characters. If entering an accented term in the search box, also include the unaccented version with an OR operator to match all cases.	Partial list of accent characters:
<b>Hyphenated terms</b>	Hyphens are treated as a space with an associated NEXT operator. The term heart-related will match the same results as heart NEXT related.	evidence-based NEXT medicine

## MeSH Searching

To reach the MeSH search page simply click on the link in the top banner (if the page you’re navigating from has one) or directly from the Advanced Search page.

MeSH is the U.S. National Library of Medicine’s controlled vocabulary used for indexing articles for MEDLINE and PubMed. MeSH terminology provides a consistent way to retrieve information that may use different terminology for the same concepts (see <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>.)

Keywords drawn from the MeSH Thesaurus, published by National Library of Medicine, have been attached to many, but not all of the records in The Cochrane Library.



# Customer Training

To help you make the most of the site, take advantage of these free training resources:

## Online tutorials – available 24/7

Self-paced online tutorial. Available in 11 different languages.

TOPIC	MINUTES	AUDIENCE	
1 The Cochrane Library - an introduction	8	All users	<a href="#">Launch Module</a>
2 Tips on Advanced and MESH searching	7	All users	<a href="#">Launch Module</a>
3 Setting up Saved Searches and e-mail Alerts	7	All users	<a href="#">Launch Module</a>
The Cochrane Library - Farsi	13	All users	<a href="#">Launch Module</a>
The Cochrane Library - Japanese	12	All users	<a href="#">Launch Module</a>
The Cochrane Library - Thai	11	All users	<a href="#">Launch Module</a>
The Cochrane Library - Malaysian	11	All users	<a href="#">Launch Module</a>
The Cochrane Library - Indonesian	10	All users	<a href="#">Launch Module</a>
The Cochrane Library - Version Française	8	All users	<a href="#">Launch Module</a>
The Cochrane Library - Detached Version	12	All users	<a href="#">Launch Module</a>
The Cochrane Library - Italiano	9	All users	<a href="#">Launch Module</a>
The Cochrane Library - Polski	9	All users	<a href="#">Launch Module</a>
The Cochrane Library - em Português	9	All users	<a href="#">Launch Module</a>
The Cochrane Library - Español	9	All users	<a href="#">Launch Module</a>
The Cochrane Library - Türkçe	9	All users	<a href="#">Launch Module</a>

**e-learning opportunities!**  
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Journal RSS Feeds  
OpenURL Interface  
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Participate in live online sessions from our calendar or bespoke training on request.

<http://wiley-interscience.webex.com>

## How to Order

The Cochrane Library is available:

- Online
- On DVD
- On PDA (via Skyscape only - <http://www.skyscape.com/cochrane>)

## Institutional customers:

Contact your Account Manager for more details on this subscription option or e-mail: [cs-cochrane@wiley.com](mailto:cs-cochrane@wiley.com)

Additionally, institutional customers can choose a Basic Access Licence (BAL) - one site access for one concurrent user.

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