



Guide to The Cochrane Library

The critically appraised Cochrane systematic reviews are considered to be the highest quality source of evidence available to support decision making in medical practice. Along with other medical literature these reviews can be found at www.thecochranelibrary.com.

There are three ways that the Cochrane Library can be searched:

1. Simple search box


2. Browse through topic headings



3. Click on Advanced Search

This will open a new screen with four tabs allowing you to choose different methods of searching (Search, Search Manager, MeSH, Browse).

As an alternative to searching for everything in one go you can add each component to the Search Manager and combine your searches using Boolean operators (AND, OR or NOT)

 Log in / Register

Registration onto the Cochrane Library Website allows you to save Search histories for later use and to set e-mail alerts.

MeSH Use the Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) thesaurus tab for comprehensive searching of medical concepts. It also includes an auto-suggest feature.

You can then add your search to the Search Manager.

Search hints

- Truncate your search term using an asterisk (*) after the stem of your word. This will search for all the terms that begin with that stem: e.g. injury, injuries, injured etc.
- When combining using AND or OR use the numbers of the searches you wish to combine, preceded by the hash symbol, e.g. #3 AND #4.
- To search for a phrase it must be enclosed within double quotes. For example use "vitamin a", otherwise it will search for 'vitamin' AND 'a' because 'a' is a searchable term.
- The Search tips link, available both in the Search and the Search Manager modality, provides information on the most commonly used features.

Cochrane Reviews are freely available full text. In addition abstracts of other resources are available from the home page:

- The **Trials** tab allows you to limit your search to the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials
- The **More Resources** tab gives links to the following

- Other reviews (DARE)
- Methods Studies
- Technology Assessments
- Economic Evaluations



Further assistance

If you'd like more help with accessing or using this resource, library staff will be happy to help. You could attend one of our drop-in sessions - Wednesdays 2 pm to 4 pm (Whitechapel Library) or you can contact the Faculty Liaison Librarian Paula Funnell at p.a.funnell@qmul.ac.uk to arrange an appointment.

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