

Step 8: View abstracts and select articles

View the articles by clicking on the number of results. To see abstracts and other information select the article title.

Select articles of interest from the results by clicking on the box.

Step 9: View articles online

Where a Full Text link is available, Use the blue supplier link to open a copy of the full article online. Save or print it. You may need to use your Athens password again. If the link does not take you straight to the article, look for an Athens log-in prompt.

If the link is to a print copy at one of your local libraries select the blue library link to get more details on how to request the article.

Step 10: Save, Print or email the articles

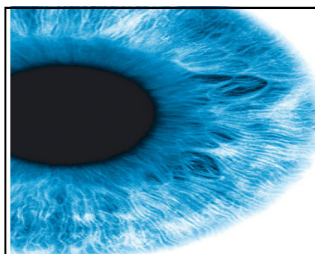
When you have selected your results you can *email* them or *Export* them. Choose a Format short, medium or Full. To Print or Save results first Export in PDF or Word then save/print as normal.

Results Selected	Output Format	Display Format	Actions
3 unique results selected. Select all on this page Select all results Deselect all	Choose output document format. <input checked="" type="radio"/> HTML <input type="radio"/> PDF <input type="radio"/> MS Word <input type="radio"/> Text <input type="radio"/> XML <input type="radio"/> RIS (inc RefMan, ProCite, EndNote and RefWorks)	Choose output fields. <input checked="" type="radio"/> Short ⓘ <input type="radio"/> Medium ⓘ <input type="radio"/> Full ⓘ <input type="checkbox"/> Include Search History	Display, save or email results with selected fields and output formats. <input type="button" value="Export Results"/> <input type="button" value="Email Results"/>

FINALLY Critically appraise your articles.

Online and face to face training sessions on this and other relevant topics are available. Contact your local NHS library for more information.

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Searching Healthcare Databases Advanced search Quick guide

Step 1: Think about your question!

Breakdown your question into its constituent parts for example: What patient group, intervention, comparison, or outcome are you interested in? Think of alternative terms for your topics.

Are you interested in a particular date range or Publication type? Do you only require articles in English?

Step 2: Choose a database

Log onto the following web address
<http://www.evidence.nhs.uk>

Select **Healthcare Databases from the NHS Athens Resources** option. Then log in with a current NHS Athens username and password.

Choose the most relevant database from the list provided. More details are available about each database by selecting the **[about]** link.

NHS Athens Resources

[About NHS Athens Resources](#)

[Register for NHS Athens](#)

[Healthcare Databases](#)

[E-Books](#)

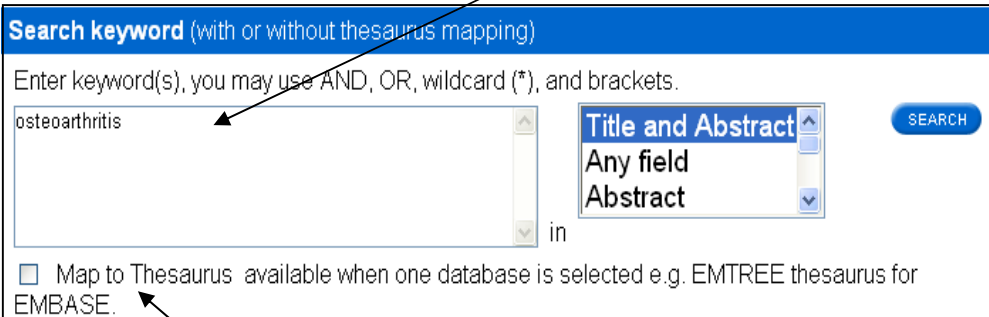
[E-Journals](#)

[Login to NHS Athens](#)

Step 3: Enter your search terms

Type in the your first term, **Title and abstract** is the default setting, select different criteria if required. Press **SEARCH**. This will return documents with the exact words in the title and abstract.

Use the **OR** command between synonyms and American/UK spellings e.g., Estrogen OR oestrogen.



Search keyword (with or without thesaurus mapping)

Enter keyword(s), you may use AND, OR, wildcard (*), and brackets.

osteoarthritis

Title and Abstract
Any field
Abstract

SEARCH

Map to Thesaurus available when one database is selected e.g. EMTREE thesaurus for EMBASE.

Step 4: Use the database indexing

Enter the same term again and tick the **Thesaurus Mapping** box, **SEARCH** again. You cannot thesaurus map to a truncated word. Select the index term that matches your search term. Use the **[scope]** link for more information on index terms.

Select an appropriate heading from the list, click on the **Explode** box adjacent to it. This selects more specific related subject headings.

TIP: Use **OR** where you want **EITHER** term or concept to be included in your results. Use **AND** where you require **BOTH** terms or concepts to be included in your results.

TIP: You can use * to replace any number of characters at the end of a word e.g., Pregnant* will find pregnant, pregnancy, pregnancies etc. Add a number to determine the maximum number of characters replaced.

TIP: Use double quotes around phrases and numbers e.g., “frozen shoulder” or “tennis elbow”.

Step 5: Combine word and thesaurus results

Combine the results of steps 3 and 4 using the **OR** command. You may use the buttons provided and select appropriate search lines or type directly into the search box eg. 1 or 2.

Repeat Steps 2 - 4 with the other subjects in your search.

No.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Database	Search term	Hits
1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MEDLINE	osteoarthritis.ti,ab	22938
2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MEDLINE	*OSTEOARTHRITIS/	15554
3	<input type="checkbox"/>	MEDLINE	acupuncture.ti,ab	10302
4	<input type="checkbox"/>	MEDLINE	*ACUPUNCTURE/	645

Combine with: AND OR **COMBINE SELECTED SEARCHES** **DELETE SELECTED SEARCHES**

REMOVE DUPLICATES

Step 6: Combine different topic searches

Using the **AND** command link your different topic searches.

Step 7: Limit your search

Use the limits section to narrow your search. Open a relevant limit by selecting the arrow on the right. The limits use Menus, click on the option you require in the menu. Hold down the **Ctrl** key when you select to choose multiple options

Type the number of the search line you wish to apply Limits to into the search box. Then **SEARCH**.

Deselect Limits before you enter more search terms.

TIP: To search for an author, select author in the drop down box and use the format “Smith R” Smith* “Smith R*” or Smith-R.