

Library Service

Guide to Literature Searching Healthcare Databases Advanced Search

FROM WORK AND FROM HOME:

Go to:

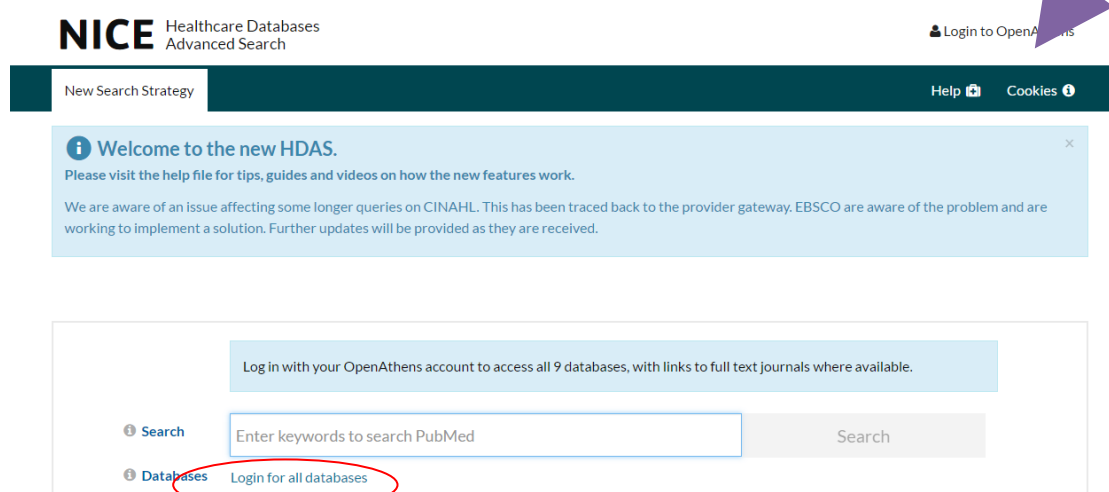
<http://www.libraryservicemusgrove.nhs.uk/> then follow the SEARCH TOOLS tab to DATABASES, then SEARCH HDAS

Logging in from: <https://hdas.nice.org.uk/>

THE DATABASES WORK BEST IN THE CHROME BROWSER



Login with your **OpenAthens** username and password,
or **login for all databases (also OpenAthens)**



NICE Healthcare Databases
Advanced Search

Login to OpenAthens

New Search Strategy Help Cookies

Welcome to the new HDAS.
Please visit the help file for tips, guides and videos on how the new features work.
We are aware of an issue affecting some longer queries on CINAHL. This has been traced back to the provider gateway. EBSCO are aware of the problem and are working to implement a solution. Further updates will be provided as they are received.

Log in with your OpenAthens account to access all 9 databases, with links to full text journals where available.

Search Enter keywords to search PubMed Search

Databases Login for all databases

Library Service, Musgrove Park Academy, Musgrove Park Hospital
01823 342433

Feb 2020

Choosing the Database

Click on the database you want to search in. The selected database will then turn **green**. More details on each database are available by hovering over each button. Each database covers different aspects of healthcare.

We recommend that you search one database at a time.

NICE Healthcare Databases
Advanced Search

New Search Strategy

My Search Strategies

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Alerts

Import

Help

Cookies

Provided in partnership by HEE and NICE

NICE

NHS
Health Education England

Search

Databases

Select databases and search, or query thesaurus

SearchThesaurus

☐ Select All

☐ AMED

☐ BNI

☐ CINAHL

☐ EMBASE

☐ EMCARE

☐ HMIC

☐ Medline

☐ PsycINFO

☐ PubMed

Hover over a database for more information...

PICO

Before you start your search, think about the clinical question you want to answer. It's a good idea to jot down a couple of sentences describing your scenario; then you can break it down into bite-sized chunks. The PICO approach will help you define what you are looking for and create a good clinical question on which to base your search. You can divide your search into the following key areas:

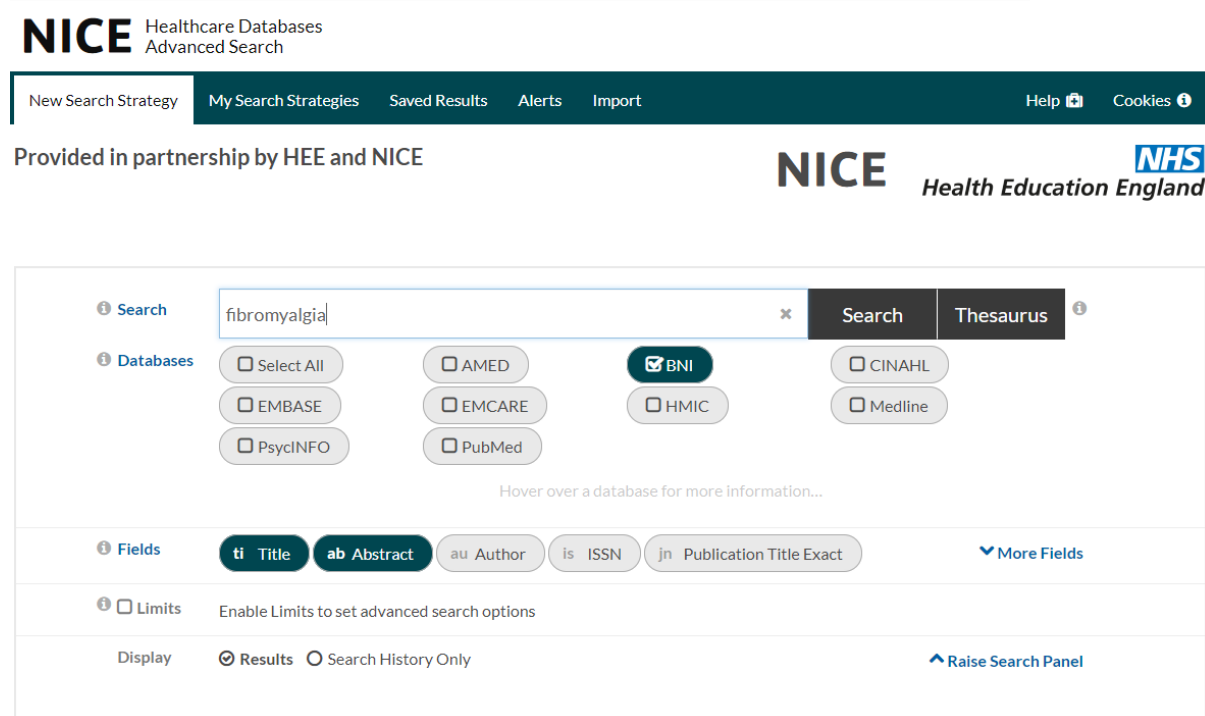
Patient/Population/ Problem	Intervention	Comparison	Outcome
Alternative Words			

Your question may not always fit exactly into these categories, but this will help you pick out the keywords you need for your search strategy.

Searching

Type your first search term in the box. Select  to complete the action.

The default is set to search for that word in the title and abstract. You can select different fields to search, eg Author, ISSN or Journal name.



NICE Healthcare Databases
Advanced Search

New Search Strategy My Search Strategies Saved Results Alerts Import Help Cookies

Provided in partnership by HEE and NICE **NICE** **NHS** Health Education England

Search fibromyalgia **Search** **Thesaurus**

Databases

☐ Select All ☐ AMED ☒ BNI ☐ CINAHL

☐ EMBASE ☐ EMCARE ☐ HMIC ☐ Medline

☐ PsycINFO ☐ PubMed

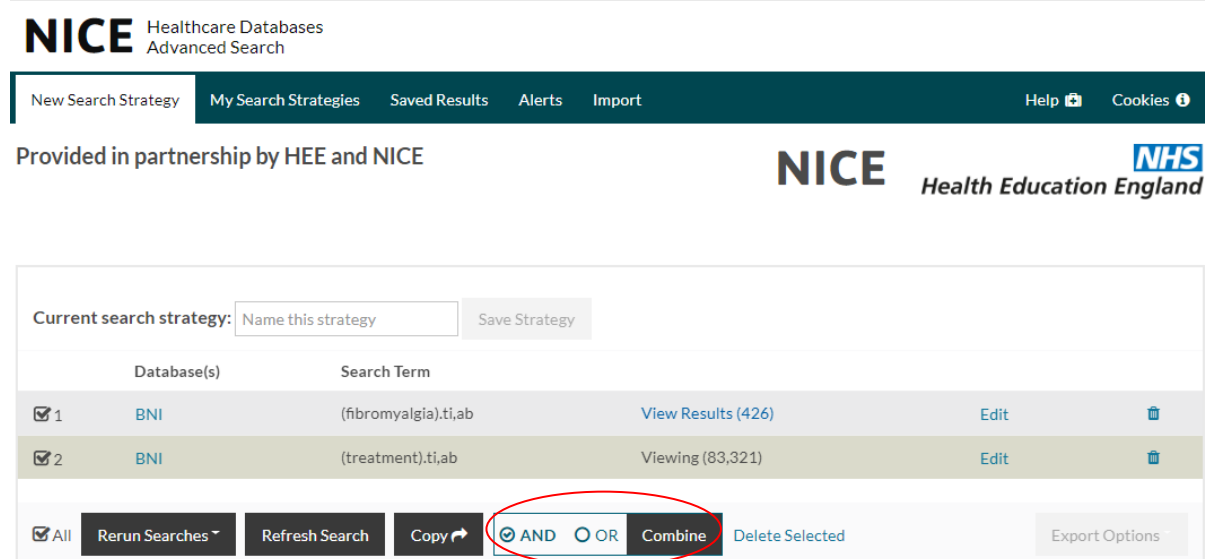
Hover over a database for more information...

Fields **ti Title** **ab Abstract** au Author is ISSN jn Publication Title Exact **More Fields**

Limits ☐ Limits Enable Limits to set advanced search options

Display ☒ Results ☐ Search History Only **Raise Search Panel**

As you carry out searches they are added to your search strategy. To combine your results, tick the appropriate lines, select either And / OR and then click the black **Combine** button.



NICE Healthcare Databases
Advanced Search

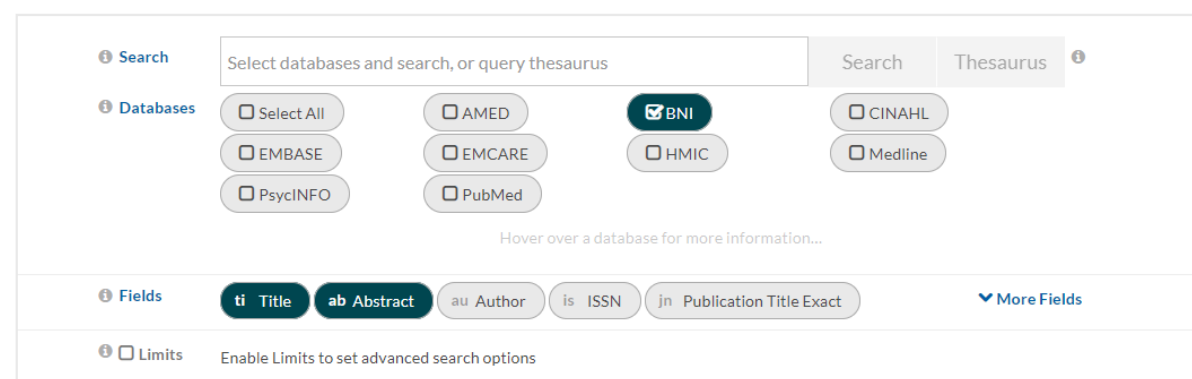
New Search Strategy My Search Strategies Saved Results Alerts Import Help Cookies

Provided in partnership by HEE and NICE **NICE** **NHS** Health Education England

Current search strategy: Name this strategy Save Strategy

	Database(s)	Search Term		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	BNI	(fibromyalgia).ti,ab	View Results (426)	Edit
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2	BNI	(treatment).ti,ab	Viewing (83,321)	Edit

☒ All Rerun Searches Refresh Search Copy **AND** **OR** **Combine** Delete Selected Export Options



Search Select databases and search, or query thesaurus **Search** **Thesaurus**

Databases

☐ Select All ☐ AMED ☒ BNI ☐ CINAHL

☐ EMBASE ☐ EMCARE ☐ HMIC ☐ Medline

☐ PsycINFO ☐ PubMed

Hover over a database for more information...

Fields **ti Title** **ab Abstract** au Author is ISSN jn Publication Title Exact **More Fields**

Limits ☐ Limits Enable Limits to set advanced search options

Limits

Various limits can be applied to refine your search eg date, language, and publication type. **These vary according to the database you are using.**

Type into the search box the line number to which you want to apply limits. Line number can be found as in red circle below.

☐ Limits

Click the limits button: _____
Available limits will then be displayed.
eg in this example a date limit has been selected.

Select  to apply options.

PLEASE NOTE- once you have added any limits to a line you will not be able to use the limited line in combination with any other line of your search.

NICE Healthcare Databases
Advanced Search

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NICE 
Health Education England

Current search strategy:

Save Strategy

	Database(s)	Search Term		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	BNI	(fibromyalgia).ti,ab	View Results (426)	Edit
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	BNI	(treatment).ti,ab	View Results (83,321)	Edit
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	BNI	(1 AND 2)	Viewing (117)	Edit

☐ All

Rerun Searches

Refresh Search

Copy

☒ AND

☐ OR

Combine

Delete Selected

Export Options

Search

3

x

Search

Thesaurus

Databases

☐ Select All

☐ AMED

☒ BNI

☐ CINAHL

☐ EMBASE

☐ EMCARE

☐ HMC

☐ Medline

☐ PsycINFO

☐ PubMed

Hover over a database for more information...

Fields

Fields are not available for existing search rows

Limits

☒ Retain limits ☐ Do not retain limits

Article Type

Dates

[Reset Limits](#)

Date of Publication

From

2007

To

2017

Display

☒ Results

☐ Search History Only

[Raise Search Panel](#)

Viewing Results

The results for the last line listed in the search strategy will automatically open beneath the search. To select a different line of results to view, click on View Results

Current search strategy:

	Database(s)	Search Term		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	BNI	(fibromyalgia).ti,ab	View Results (426)	Edit
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	BNI	(treatment).ti,ab	View Results (83,321)	Edit
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	BNI	(1 AND 2)	View Results (117)	
<input type="checkbox"/> 4	BNI	3 [DT 2007-2017]	Viewing (75)	

☐ All ☒ AND ☐ OR

Databases

☐ Select All ☐ AMED ☒ BNI ☐ CINAHL

☐ EMBASE ☐ EMCARE ☐ HMIC ☐ Medline

☐ PsycINFO ☐ PubMed

Hover over a database for more information...

Fields Fields are not available for existing search rows

Limits ☒ Retain limits ☐ Do not retain limits [Reset Limits](#)

Article Type ▶ Dates ▶

Your first 10 results plus your search strategy will be displayed. You can choose to change the number of records displayed. You can also choose to display the abstracts and sort your results by publication date, title or author.

To save your search

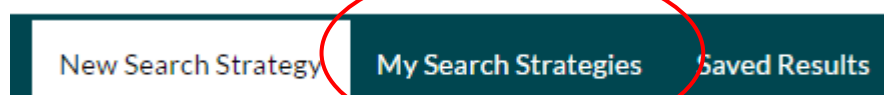
You can name your search, which makes it easy for you to find. You can save your selected articles against a particular search; your search will automatically save if you add to it, and will be accessible on any PC when you log in with your OpenAthens account.

To save the search, go to

Current search strategy:

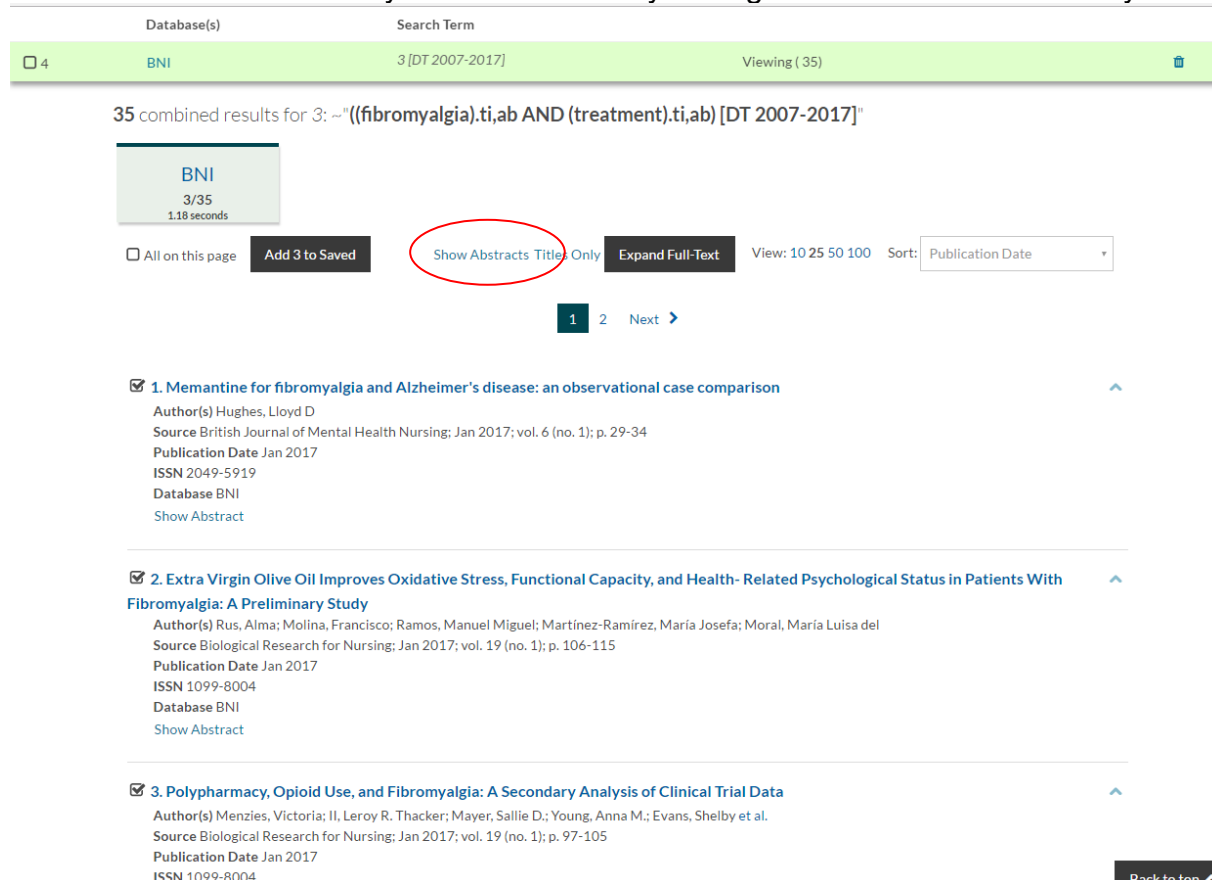
Type in a name for your search and then click “save strategy”

You can then find this search in the “My Search Strategies” tab at the top of the page.



Selecting references

In this example the references have been sorted by publication date with no abstracts displayed. **You can see the abstract by clicking “show abstracts” as below.** Select the references that you wish to save by ticking the box beside each entry.



Database(s) Search Term Viewing (35)

4 BNI 3 [DT 2007-2017]

35 combined results for 3: ~"((fibromyalgia).ti,ab AND (treatment).ti,ab) [DT 2007-2017]"

BNI
3/35
1.18 seconds

☐ All on this page **Add 3 to Saved** **Show Abstracts Title Only** **Expand Full-Text** View: 10 25 50 100 Sort: Publication Date

1 2 Next >

☒ 1. Memantine for fibromyalgia and Alzheimer's disease: an observational case comparison
Author(s) Hughes, Lloyd D
Source British Journal of Mental Health Nursing; Jan 2017; vol. 6 (no. 1); p. 29-34
Publication Date Jan 2017
ISSN 2049-5919
Database BNI
[Show Abstract](#)

☒ 2. Extra Virgin Olive Oil Improves Oxidative Stress, Functional Capacity, and Health- Related Psychological Status in Patients With Fibromyalgia: A Preliminary Study
Author(s) Rus, Alma; Molina, Francisco; Ramos, Manuel Miguel; Martínez-Ramírez, María Josefa; Moral, María Luisa del
Source Biological Research for Nursing; Jan 2017; vol. 19 (no. 1); p. 106-115
Publication Date Jan 2017
ISSN 1099-8004
Database BNI
[Show Abstract](#)

☒ 3. Polypharmacy, Opioid Use, and Fibromyalgia: A Secondary Analysis of Clinical Trial Data
Author(s) Menzies, Victoria; Il, Leroy R. Thacker; Mayer, Sallie D.; Young, Anna M.; Evans, Shelby et al.
Source Biological Research for Nursing; Jan 2017; vol. 19 (no. 1); p. 97-105
Publication Date Jan 2017
ISSN 1099-8004

[Back to top](#)

To save results

Once you have selected the articles, go to either the top or bottom of the page and click

Add 3 to Saved

You will need to do this per page. The number shown will reflect how many articles you have selected.

Saved results will then appear in a line at the top of your search strategy, and are also accessible via the “saved results” tab at the top of the page.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Saved Results	View Results (3)	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	BNI	(fibromyalgia).ti,ab	View Results (192) Edit
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	BNI	(treatment).ti,ab	View Results (27,091) Edit

New Search Strategy

My Search Strategies

Saved Results

Links to full texts

If there is a link to the full text of the article, clicking on the supplier's link (shown below the abstract) should open a new tab and display the whole article, which can be saved or printed. You may be prompted to enter your OpenAthens details again so look for an OpenAthens login if the content is not immediately evident.

□ 14. Homeopathy in the treatment of fibromyalgia - a comprehensive literature review and meta-analysis

Author(s) Boehm, Katja; Raak, Christa; Cramer, Holger; Lauche, Romy; Ostermann, Thomas

Source Complementary Therapies in Medicine; Aug 2014; vol. 22 (no. 4); p. 731-742

Publication Date Aug 2014

ISSN 0965-2299

Database BNI

[Hide Abstract](#)

Coping with the complex nature of fibromyalgia symptoms (FMS) still remains a challenge for patients. Taking into account the possible adverse events of pharmacological treatments patients often seek additional treatments for the management of fibromyalgia and turn towards complementary and alternative medicine (CAM). Objective: In this review, we aimed to investigate the current state of literature of homeopathy in the treatment of FMS. Methods: We searched Medline, the Cochrane Register of Controlled Trials, Embase, AMED, PsycInfo and CAMbase for the terms "fibromyalgia AND homeopath*" through February 2013. In addition we searched Google Scholar, the library of the Carstens Foundation and that of the Deutsche Homöopathische Union (DHU). Standardized mean differences (SMD) with 95% confidence intervals (CI) were calculated and meta-analyzed using the generic inverse variance method. Results: We found 10 case-reports, 3 observational studies, 1 non-randomized and 4 randomized controlled trials (RCTs) on homeopathy for fibromyalgia. Both case reports and observational studies are naturally predominated by the use of qualitative and not validated outcome measures. Meta-analyses of CCTs revealed effects of homeopathy on tender point count (SMD=-0.42; 95%CI -0.78, -0.05; P=0.03), pain intensity (SMD=-0.54; 95%CI -0.97, -0.10; P=0.02), and fatigue (SMD=-0.47; 95%CI -0.90, -0.05; P=0.03) compared to placebo. Conclusion: The results of the studies as well as the case reports define a sufficient basis for discussing the possible benefits of homeopathy for patients suffering from fibromyalgia syndrome although any conclusions based on the results of this review have to be regarded as preliminary. [Publication] 42 references

◦ Available in full text at Complementary Therapies in Medicine from ProQuest

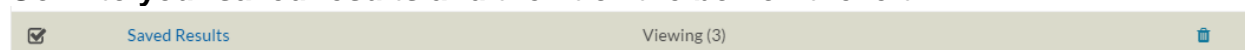
Information about print copies in the library, if available, is labelled

Available in print at [Library](#). You can then visit the library and photocopy or request a copy to be sent to you.

Any articles which are not available as full text can be requested from the library- see next section.

To export results

Go in to your saved results and then tick the box on the left.



Export Options ▾

Click on **Export Options ▾**, found at the bottom of your search strategy.

You will have the option to save the results as a file on your computer, or alternatively email them to yourself.

If you type the library email address in here you can send the results to us and we can process the articles for you. We ask that you put your name in the subject box so that we can identify who they are from!

Rerunning on another database

Select the line(s) you want to rerun.

The database will recognise any combined terms and so this will carry across into the new database.

Click “rerun searches”, and then “rerun selected”.

REMEMBER TO ONLY SELECT ONE DATABASE

Current search strategy:

	Database(s)	Search Term		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	CINAHL	(fibromyalgia).ti,ab	View Results (4,990)	Edit
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	CINAHL	(treatment).ti,ab	View Results (683,228)	Edit
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3	CINAHL	(1 AND 2)	View Results (1,522)	
<input type="checkbox"/> 4	CINAHL	3 [DT 2007-2017]	Viewing (972)	
<input type="checkbox"/> 5	CINAHL	exp *FIBROMYALGIA/bl,cl,dh	View Results (79)	Edit

☐ All **Rerun Searches** Refresh Search Copy ☒ AND ☐ OR Combine Delete Selected **Export Options**

Rerun 1 composite searches (3)

☐ AMED ☐ BNI ☐ CINAHL ☐ EMBASE ☐ EMCARE ☒ HMIC **Medline** ☐ PsycINFO **Rerun Selected**

☐ PubMed

The search will then replicate in the new database and will display results below the original search:

Current search strategy:

	Database(s)	Search Term		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	CINAHL	(fibromyalgia).ti,ab	View Results (4,990)	Edit
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	CINAHL	(treatment).ti,ab	View Results (683,228)	Edit
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	CINAHL	(1 AND 2)	View Results (1,522)	
<input type="checkbox"/> 4	CINAHL	3 [DT 2007-2017]	View Results (972)	
<input type="checkbox"/> 5	CINAHL	exp *FIBROMYALGIA/bl,cl,dh	View Results (79)	Edit
<input type="checkbox"/> 6	Medline	(fibromyalgia).ti,ab	View Results (9,395)	Edit
<input type="checkbox"/> 7	Medline	(treatment).ti,ab	Viewing (3,954,641)	Edit
<input type="checkbox"/> 8	Medline	(6 AND 7)	View Results (3,088)	

☐ All Rerun Searches Refresh Search Copy ☒ AND ☐ OR Combine Delete Selected **Export Options**

-PLEASE NOTE-

- LIMITS DO NOT CARRY ACROSS BETWEEN DATABASES AND WILL NEED TO BE ADDED MANUALLY**
- THESAURUS TERMS DO NOT CARRY ACROSS BETWEEN DATABASES-**

You will need to retype these and search for them in the appropriate database

Advanced Searching

- Thesaurus/Medical Subject Headings (MeSH)

Thesaurus searching (MeSH) is recommended for systematic focussed searches. This tool allows you to match your search term to the indexed vocabulary of a particular database.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT EACH DATABASE HAS ITS OWN THESAURUS-
THESAURUS TERMS DO NOT CARRY ACROSS BETWEEN DATABASES**

Enter your search term and click on Thesaurus-

The screenshot shows a search interface with a search bar containing 'fibromyalgia'. To the right of the search bar are two buttons: 'Search' and 'Thesaurus'. The 'Thesaurus' button is highlighted with a red circle. Below the search bar, there are several database selection buttons: 'Select All', 'AMED', 'BNI' (which is selected), 'CINAHL', 'EMBASE', 'EMCARE', 'HMIC', 'Medline', 'PsycINFO', and 'PubMed'. Below these are 'Fields' buttons: 'ti Title', 'ab Abstract' (selected), 'au Author', 'is ISSN', and 'jn Publication Title Exact'. There is also a 'Limits' section with a checkbox and a 'Display' section with 'Results' selected. A red arrow points from the text 'Enter your search term and click on Thesaurus-' to the 'Thesaurus' button.

Terms which match the concepts of your keyword search will then be displayed., and the thesaurus will display in a white bar across the top of the page

The screenshot shows the search results page for 'fibromyalgia' in the CINAHL database. At the top, there is a thesaurus bar with the text 'CINAHL > fibromyalgia' and a red 'X' icon. Below this is a table with the following columns: 'Database(s)', 'Search Term', 'View Results', 'Edit', and a trash icon. The table contains four rows of search results. The first two rows are for 'fibromyalgia,ti,ab' and '(treatment),ti,ab'. The third and fourth rows are for '(1 AND 2)' and '3 [DT 2007-2017]'. Below the table, there are buttons for 'Clear Selection', 'Close Thesaurus', 'Search Now', and 'Search as individual Queries'. At the bottom, there is a 'Current search strategy' section with a 'Name this strategy' button and a 'Save Strategy' button. Below this is a table with the following columns: 'Database(s)', 'Search Term', 'View Results', 'Edit', and a trash icon. The table contains four rows of search results. The first two rows are for 'fibromyalgia,ti,ab' and '(treatment),ti,ab'. The third and fourth rows are for '(1 AND 2)' and '3 [DT 2007-2017]'. Below the table, there are buttons for 'Rerun Searches', 'Refresh Search', 'Copy', 'AND', 'OR', 'Combine', 'Delete Selected', and 'Export Options'. At the bottom, there is a 'Thesaurus' section with a 'Term' column. The 'Term' column contains three terms: 'Fibromyalgia', 'Fatigue Syndrome, Chronic', and 'Pregabalin'. The 'Fibromyalgia' term is highlighted with a red circle.

Advanced Searching

- Thesaurus/Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) continued...

Clicking on your topic will bring up the thesaurus mapping for that term within the database.

➤ CINAHL ➤ fibromyalgia ➤ Fibromyalgia

Build a search with thesaurus terms

Clear Selection ✖ Close Thesaurus Or And Search Now Search as Individual Queries

Thesaurus	Select	Explode	Major	Term	Broad	Narrow	Sibling	Used For	Related	Subheadings	Notes
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Muscular Diseases						Subheadings	Scope
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fibromyalgia	1		24			Subheadings	Scope
Sibling Terms											
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Arthrogryposis						Subheadings	Scope
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Compartment Syndromes						Subheadings	Scope
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Contracture						Subheadings	Scope
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Craniofacial Disorders						Subheadings	Scope
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Diastasis, Muscle						Subheadings	Scope
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eosinophilia-Myalgia Syndrome						Subheadings	Scope
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Genu Recurvatum						Subheadings	Scope
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Isaacs' Syndrome						Subheadings	Scope
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mitochondrial Myopathies						Subheadings	Scope

Scope notes

More information on each thesaurus term is available using the **Scope** link.

Thesaurus

Scope notes for Fibromyalgia

Notes

A common nonarticular rheumatic syndrome characterized generally by chronic musculoskeletal pain and diagnosed chiefly by the presence of multiple tender points at characteristic locations. Often associated with general symptoms, such as sleep disturbances, fatigue, stiffness, swelling, chronic headaches, and pain in neck and shoulders.

Related Terms

- Myofascial Pain Syndromes

[Back](#)

Subheadings

These allow you to limit the search to different aspects of the subject heading and so focus your search even further.

To view the **Subheadings** attached to a thesaurus term, select the **Subheadings** link

These will then be displayed. Select the ones you want to apply.

➤ CINAHL ➤ fibromyalgia ➤ Fibromyalgia

Build a search with thesaurus terms

Clear Selection ✖ Close Thesaurus Or And Search Now Search as Individual

[Search](#) Search Thesaurus

Thesaurus	Select	Explode	Major	Term	Broad	Narrow	Sibling	Used For	Related	Subheadings	Notes
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Muscular Diseases						Subheadings	Scope
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fibromyalgia	1		24			40	2 Notes

bl Blood

cf Cerebrospinal Fluid

ci Chemically Induced

cl Classification

co Complications

dh Diet Therapy

di Diagnosis

dt Drug Therapy

ec Economics

ed Education

eh Ethnology

ei Ethical Issues

em Embryology

ep Epidemiology

et Etiology

fg Familial And Genetic

hi History

im Immunology

lj Legislation And Jurisprudence

me Metabolism

mi Microbiology

mo Mortality

nu Nursing

og Organizations

pa Pathology

pc Prevention And Control

pf Psychosocial Factors

pp Physiopathology

pr Prognosis

ra Radiography

rf Risk Factors

rh Rehabilitation

rt Radiotherapy

ss Symptoms

su Surgery

td Trends

th Therapy

tm Transmission

ur Urine

us Ultrasonography

Advanced Searching

- Thesaurus/Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) continued...

Thesaurus headings options

To see the whole thesaurus relevant to your term, you will see the **heading under which your search term has been indexed**. You can then click into this, which may help find related, narrower or broader terms that might be useful. You may need to scroll up and down the page to see all the information you need.

If you select **Explode** this will broaden your search by searching for your thesaurus terms plus any related narrower terms listed.

If you select **Major** this will retrieve articles where the subject matter is predominantly that of your chosen thesaurus term. This will result in a focussed search but may exclude articles of interest.

The screenshot shows the CINAHL Thesaurus interface. At the top, a search bar contains 'exp *FIBROMYALGIA/bl,cl,dh'. Below this, the 'Thesaurus' section is active, displaying a table of terms related to 'fibromyalgia'. The table has columns for 'Select', 'Explode', 'Major', 'Term', 'Broad', 'Narrow', 'Sibling', 'Used For', 'Related', 'Subheadings', and 'Notes'. The term 'Fibromyalgia' is selected, and its subheadings are listed below it. A red circle highlights the 'Muscular Diseases' term, and a blue circle highlights the 'Fibromyalgia' term. The 'Explosion' button is also visible.

Once you have added any subheadings (if required) and selected your headings, you are now ready to add this thesaurus term into your search, and it will be **displayed in the bar at the top**.

This will now be added into your search:

The screenshot shows the CINAHL search strategy interface. At the top, there is a 'Current search strategy' section with a text input field 'Name this strategy' and a 'Save Strategy' button. Below this is a table with columns for 'Database(s)', 'Search Term', 'View Results', 'Edit', and a trash icon. The table lists five search strategies, all in CINAHL. The third and fourth strategies are highlighted in green. At the bottom, there is a 'Copy' button, a 'Combine' button with 'AND' and 'OR' options, a 'Delete Selected' button, and an 'Export Options' button.

	Database(s)	Search Term	View Results	Edit	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	CINAHL	(fibromyalgia).ti,ab	View Results (4,990)	Edit	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	CINAHL	(treatment).ti,ab	View Results (683,228)	Edit	
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	CINAHL	(1 AND 2)	View Results (1,522)		
<input type="checkbox"/> 4	CINAHL	3 [DT 2007-2017]	Viewing (972)		
<input type="checkbox"/> 5	CINAHL	exp *FIBROMYALGIA/bl,cl,dh	View Results (79)	Edit	

Thesaurus terms can be combined with free text using the **AND OR combine functions**.

Further Help

e-Learning Modules

Health Education England

The STEP e-learning modules are aimed at anyone doing a literature search on a health related topic. They are primarily targeted towards novice searchers or those who would like a refresher. Each module has a glossary explaining key terminology in further detail. A login is not required to access the modules. To by-pass the need to log in, click on continue. However you can track learning along with other modules with e-Learning for Healthcare with an NHS OpenAthens account. Each module has the option to download a certificate.

Module 1: Introduction to searching This module provides an overview of the searching process and its main purpose is to get the user to think about their current level of knowledge. Where gaps are identified, users are directed to the most relevant modules.

Module 2: Where do I start searching? This module aims to help the user look in the right places for information based on the topic and the type of information required. It starts with some limitations of using Google and signposts users to other resources including Core content.

Module 3: How do I start to develop a search strategy? This module aims to show the user the benefits of planning a search strategy using tools such as PICO and 4Ws as well as identifying keywords and synonyms. It also covers when to use AND and when to use OR using a short video animation.

Module 4: Too many results? How to narrow your search This module aims to help the user identify and use different techniques to narrow their search and find more relevant articles in less time. techniques covered include applying limits, phrase searching and amending the search strategy.

Module 5: Too few results? How to broaden your search This module aims to help the user identify and use different techniques to increase their search results even when there doesn't seem much available at first. Methods covered include altering search term endings, removing keywords and limits and amending the search strategy.

Module 6: Searching with subject headings This module provides an overview of how to use subject headings to broaden or narrow a search and find more relevant articles in less time.

Module 7: How to search the Healthcare Databases (HDAS) The aim of this module is to help you use the Healthcare Databases (HDAS) to find relevant articles.

These modules can be found on the library webpage:

<http://www.libraryservicemusgrove.nhs.uk/search-tools/databases/hdas/>

YOUR NOTES

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Search Tips

Phrase searching

If you type 2 words into the search box, an **AND** is automatically inserted
eg **breast cancer** will retrieve articles containing the words breast and cancer in any order.
To search as a phrase you need to use speech marks
eg **"breast cancer"** will retrieve articles which have these words side by side as a phrase.

ADJ (adjacency operator)

This will find words next to each other, in the same order.
eg **breast ADJ cancer**.

Wildcard/Truncation

Use the ***** to search for all possible word endings.
eg **paediatric*** will find paediatric, paediatrics, paediatrician, paediatricians.

Truncation will cut off at 5 characters after the *****

In order to search beyond this, you will need to specify how far you want the database to search, up to 9 characters:

Eg-

This does not work in conjunction with quotation marks **"bowel prep*9"**

You will need to use the adjacency operator: **bowel ADJ prep*9**

American Spelling

American spelling will not automatically find British spelling and vice-versa. Be sure to search both spellings.

Eg **pediatric, paediatric**
center, centre

Combining search terms – Boolean operators

Boolean operators are specific words that you can type between your search terms to combine them together and produce the most relevant results. Boolean operators can be entered in lower case.

AND combines two terms or searches together. **AND** will only give you articles which contain both your search terms – this makes your search more specific.
eg **heart attack and aspirin**

OR retrieves any articles that contain one or other (or both) of the terms you enter. It is useful for broadening out a search and ensuring that you don't miss any relevant information that uses alternative terms.
eg **myocardial infarction or heart attack** will find articles that contain one or other or both terms, and will ensure you don't miss anything useful out.

NOT excludes any records that contain unwanted terms. This narrows down your search.
eg searching for **myocardial infarction not beta-blockers** will find any articles that are about myocardial infarction but which do not mention beta-blockers.

Creating Alerts- ADVANCED

An alert is an automatic update detailing any new references meeting your search criteria. This is run automatically by the database and results sent via email.

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[View Results \(972\)](#)



Click on the bell icon and follow the instructions to set up an alert.

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