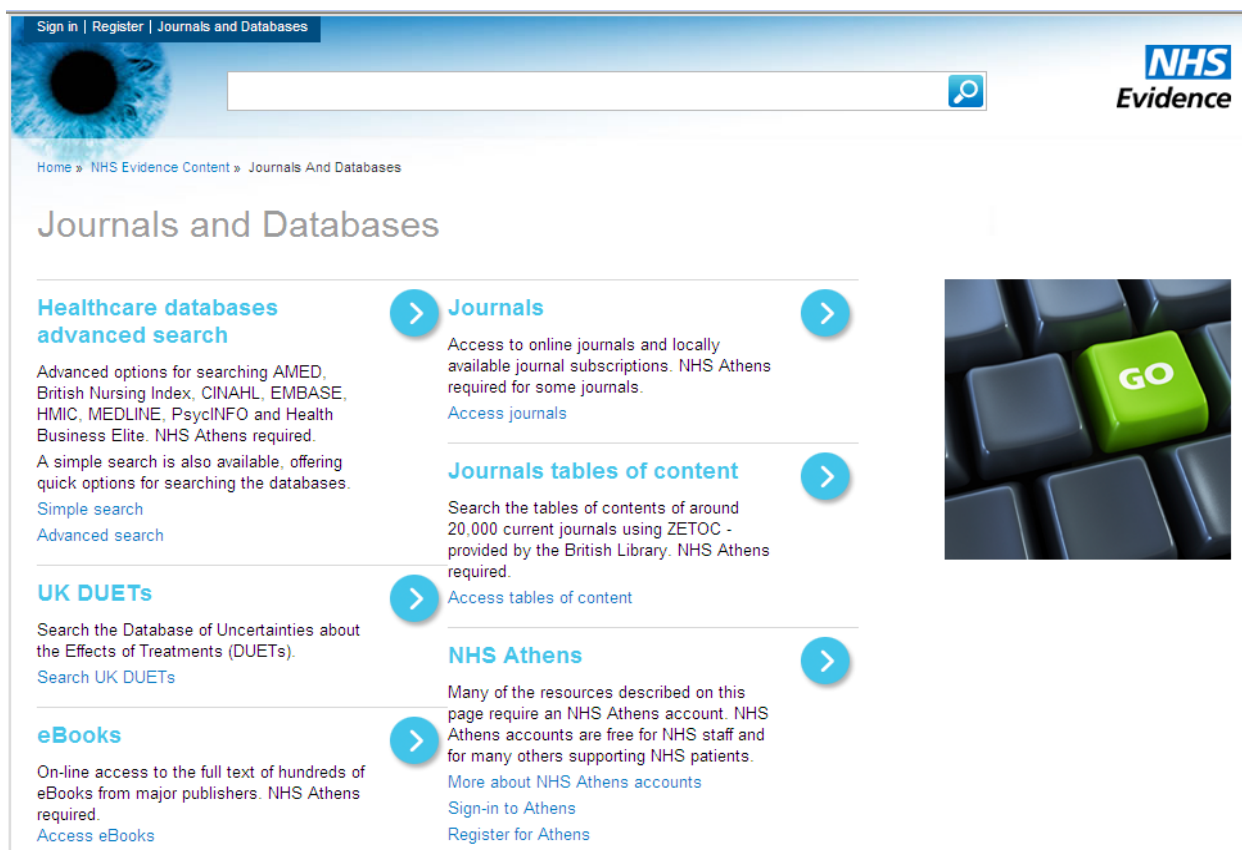


Searching Healthcare Databases for medical Information using NHS Evidence - Journals and Databases Quick guide



The screenshot shows the NHS Evidence website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Sign in | Register | Journals and Databases' and a search bar. The main heading is 'Journals and Databases'. Below this, there are several sections with right-pointing arrow icons:

- Healthcare databases advanced search**: Advanced options for searching AMED, British Nursing Index, CINAHL, EMBASE, HMIC, MEDLINE, PsycINFO and Health Business Elite. NHS Athens required. A simple search is also available, offering quick options for searching the databases. [Simple search](#) [Advanced search](#)
- Journals**: Access to online journals and locally available journal subscriptions. NHS Athens required for some journals. [Access journals](#)
- Journals tables of content**: Search the tables of contents of around 20,000 current journals using ZETOC - provided by the British Library. NHS Athens required. [Access tables of content](#)
- UK DUETs**: Search the Database of Uncertainties about the Effects of Treatments (DUETs). [Search UK DUETs](#)
- NHS Athens**: Many of the resources described on this page require an NHS Athens account. NHS Athens accounts are free for NHS staff and for many others supporting NHS patients. [More about NHS Athens accounts](#) [Sign-in to Athens](#) [Register for Athens](#)
- eBooks**: On-line access to the full text of hundreds of eBooks from major publishers. NHS Athens required. [Access eBooks](#)

On the right side of the screenshot, there is an image of a computer keyboard with a prominent green 'GO' key.

**Training sessions on this and other relevant topics are available.
See the Library web pages or contact the library**

 **Website:** www.sssft.nhs.uk/library
 **E-mail:** library@sssft.nhs.uk
 **Skype:** [library_sssft](#)
 **Twitter:** [@library_sssft](#)

Stafford Library
Tel: 01785 221584

Redwoods Library
Tel: 01743 210110

Step 1: Think about your question!

What are the important subject areas and words that will need to be in your search? Are there alternative terms for your topics? How many subjects does your search cover?

What patient group, intervention, comparison, or outcome are you interested in?

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

Step 2: Choose a database

Go to the following web address <http://www.library.nhs.uk/> and log in with a current NHS Athens username and password.

Select **Healthcare Databases Advanced Search**.

Choose a database from the list provided. We recommend that you search in at least two different databases but one at a time.

Step 3: Enter your search terms

Type in the your subject, Choose **Title and Abstract**. Press **SEARCH**. This will return documents with the exact words in the title OR abstract.

Use the **OR** command between synonyms and American/UK spellings e.g., Estrogen OR oestrogen. Use double quotes around phrases and numbers e.g., "frozen shoulder".
"diabetes type 2"

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 e.g., Pregnant*2 will not retrieve pregnancies.

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.

Step 5: Combine word and thesaurus results

Combine the results of step 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 3 - 4 with the other subjects in your search.

Step 6: Combine different topic searches

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

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.

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 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*" or "Smith R*"

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 make a note of the details for placing a request. Library contact details are available by clicking on the named library.

Step 10: Print or email the articles

When you have selected your results you can either *Email* them or *Export* them. Choose a Format short, medium (includes abstract) or Full. To Print or Save results first Export in HTML, PDF or MS Word then save/print as normal.