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Healthcare Database Advanced Search (HDAS) a guide for NHS Staff

You will need an OpenAthens account to use this resource. Registration is available here:

<https://openathens.nice.org.uk/>

Please see the library webpages for more help on creating an account.

<https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/library/hsl/nhs/index>

The databases available are:

Database	Subject Coverage
AMED 1985- Allied and Complementary Medicine is a unique database covering the fields of complementary or alternative medicine.	Allied health professions, complementary medicine
BNI 1992- British Nursing Index is a leading database for support of practice, education, and research for nurses, midwives, and health providers.	Nursing & Midwifery
CINAHL 1982- CINAHL covers all aspects of nursing and allied health disciplines.	Nursing & allied health
EMBASE 1974- EMBASE provides current and comprehensive information on drugs and pharmacology, and all other aspects of human medicine.	General medical with European focus, pharmacology
HBE 1922- Health Business Elite is a Resource for Healthcare Administration and Other Non-Clinical Aspects of Healthcare Institution Management.	Healthcare Admin
HMIC 1979 - Health Management Information Consortium is a compilation of data from the Department of Health's and King's Fund information service.	Health and social care management
Medline 1950- This is a large US database of medical information. Other subjects covered include dentistry, veterinary medicine, medical psychology, genetics and advanced nursing practice.	General medical

PsycINFO 1806- Subjects covered relate to clinical, social and biological areas of psychology. These include addiction, anthropology and law.	Psychiatry, psychology, social sciences
Pubmed Medical and life sciences content.	General Medical

Logging on

- Go to the NHS Evidence Journals and Databases page:
<http://www.evidence.nhs.uk/nhs-evidence-content/journals-and-databases>
- Select *Begin a search* under Healthcare Databases advanced Search.
- Login to OpenAthens (top right) if you haven't already.
- Choose your Database.

Searching in a single databases

It is recommended that you search using a single database. This will allow you to build a flexible and systematic search. Most importantly, you can use the thesaurus to construct a comprehensive search, tailored to your needs. Additional limits are also available when databases are searched separately.

Planning your search

Be clear about your question; write down exactly what you want to know. You will not obtain good results by entering whole sentences or questions; you need to break questions down into search topics. One useful acronym to help is PICO. You may not need all four elements to construct your search; at least two will give useful results.

Query example: Does the routine use of inhaled oxygen (during the first 24 hours) improve outcomes for patients with Acute Myocardial Infarction?

P	Patient/problem/population	Acute Myocardial Infarction
I	Intervention/exposure	Oxygen
C	Comparison	Air
O	Outcome	Mortality, Pain. Other outcomes

The Thesaurus

Most databases have the thesaurus option available (next to the search button.) Use the thesaurus to select the exact terms that you want to search for. Type in your key word(s) and press the thesaurus button.

- The first screen lets you choose exactly which term you want.

 Search	multiple sclerosis
Thesaurus	Term
	Acute Relapsing Multiple Sclerosis
	Chronic Progressive Multiple Sclerosis
	MS (Multiple Sclerosis)
	Multiple Sclerosis
	Multiple Sclerosis, Acute Fulminating
	Multiple Sclerosis, Acute Relapsing
	Multiple Sclerosis, Chronic Progressive
	Multiple Sclerosis, Primary Progressive
	Multiple Sclerosis, Progressive Relapsing
	Multiple Sclerosis, Relapsing-Remitting

- Choose the term and then check the **Select** box for your chosen subject heading.

multiple sclerosis			
Select	Explode	Major	Term
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Demyelinating Autoimmune Diseases, CNS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Multiple Sclerosis
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Multiple Sclerosis, Chronic Progressive
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Multiple Sclerosis, Relapsing-Remitting

- Selecting **Explode** broadens the search to include the term you have chosen, as well as any narrower terms that branch off underneath your choice. Note that articles are always indexed under the most specific term available – use of the explode function is recommended if you are unsure.
- Selecting **Major** limits the retrieval of articles in which that term is one of the most important i.e. it represents one of the main concepts of the article.

Searching the database

- Type your search term in the box
- Where available, make sure you use the thesaurus (see above.)
- Click the search button

The screenshot shows the HDAS search interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the text "multiple sclerosis" and a "Search" button. To the right of the search bar is a "Thesaurus" button. Below the search bar, there are several database selection buttons: "Select All", "AMED", "BNI", "CINAHL", "EMBASE", "HBE", "HMIC", "Medline" (which is checked), "PsycINFO", and "PubMed". A tooltip message says "Hover over a database for more information...". Below the database selection, there are "Fields" buttons: "ti Title", "ab Abstract", "au Author", "is ISSN", "jn Journal Name", and a "More Fields" dropdown. Below the fields, there is a "Limits" section with a checkbox and the text "Enable Limits to set advanced search options". At the bottom, there is a "Display" section with radio buttons for "Results" (selected) and "Search History Only", and a "Lower Search Panel" dropdown.

Current search strategy:

	Database(s)	Search Term		
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 Medline	(multiple sclerosis).ti,ab	Viewing (65,648)	Edit <input type="button" value=""/>

Combining searches

To retrieve relevant information you need to be able to link concepts/keyword together. HDAS uses Boolean operators **OR** and **AND** to do this.

OR – used for words which have similar meaning. This broadens your search and increases the terminology

AND – used to link different concepts. This narrows your search and reduces the number of references.

To combine your searches tick the boxes on the applicable result lines. Choose between **AND** and **OR** then click Combine. Combining two or more concepts with **AND** is the key to getting meaningful results from HDAS.

Current search strategy:

	Database(s)	Search Term	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	Medline	(multiple sclerosis).ti,ab	View Results (65,648)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2	Medline	(vitamin D).ti,ab	Viewing (57,999)

All

 AND
 OR

Refining your searches

If you get too many results you may need to narrow the focus in order to increase the specificity of your search:

- Add additional keywords with AND
- Use more specific keywords
- Limit publication year, age groups, language, publication type (and other limits available within the database)

If you get too few articles you may need to expand the focus in order to increase the sensitivity of your search:

- Use freetext searching and include truncation
- Use all possible alternatives
- Use broader keywords

Limits

- To apply relevant limits to your search results type search number (from the results) into the search box. In the example below you would type in 3.

Current search strategy:

	Database(s)	Search Term		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Medline	(multiple sclerosis).ti,ab	View Results (65,648)	Edit
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Medline	(vitamin D).ti,ab	View Results (57,999)	Edit
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Medline	(1 AND 2)	View Results (982)	

The screenshot shows a search interface with the following elements:

- Search:** A search box containing the number '3'. To its right are two tabs: 'Adding' (selected) and 'Thesaurus'.
- Databases:** A grid of buttons for selecting databases: Select All, AMED, BNI, CINAHL, EMBASE, HBE, HMIC, PsycINFO, PubMed, and Medline (which is highlighted in dark green).
- Fields:** A section stating 'Fields are not available for existing search rows'.
- Limits:** A section with a 'Limits' tab selected. It includes radio buttons for 'Retain limits' (selected) and 'Do not retain limits'. Below are dropdown menus for 'Article Type', 'Dates' (selected), 'Gender', 'Age Group', 'Language', and 'Other'. A 'Reset Limits' link is also present. At the bottom, 'Publication Date' is set with 'From' 2015 and 'To' 2017.

- Click the **Limits** tab, just below the search box
- To limit your results by date, select the required years from the drop down menus.
- Click the **Language** tab to limit by language.
- You can also limit by demographic criteria, article type and more.

Author searching

You can construct a search to retrieve articles by a particular author. Type the author's name in the following way: "Kendrick t*" or "Kendrick tm" and change the field from Title and Abstract to Author. If you don't know the author's initial, you need to type "Kendrick*". **Quotation marks must be used.**

The screenshot shows a search interface with the following elements:

- Search:** A search box containing the text 'Kendrick t*'. To its right are two tabs: 'Search' (selected) and 'Thesaurus'.
- Databases:** A grid of buttons for selecting databases: Select All, AMED, BNI, CINAHL, EMBASE, HBE, HMIC, PsycINFO, PubMed, and Medline (which is highlighted in dark green).
- Fields:** A section with buttons for selecting search fields: 'ti Title', 'ab Abstract', 'au Author' (selected), 'is ISSN', and 'jn Journal Name'. A 'More Fields' dropdown arrow is also present.
- Limits:** A section with a 'Limits' tab selected and a checkbox for 'Limits' which is currently unchecked. Below it, the text reads 'Enable Limits to set advanced search options'.
- Display:** A section with radio buttons for 'Results' (selected) and 'Search History Only'. A 'Lower Search Panel' dropdown arrow is also present.

Results

The results of a search are displayed at the bottom of the page. You can display the results of a previous search by clicking **view results** on that search line.

You can sort the results by publication date. You can choose to display just the title of each result, or include details, or display the whole abstract.

If there is a link to the full text article, clicking on the supplier's link under *Show abstract* (shown in blue) should display the whole article which can be saved or printed free of charge. You may be prompted to enter your NHS Athens details again so look for an Athens login if the content is not immediately evident.

□ [12. The influence of vitamin D on postpartum relapse and quality of life in pregnant multiple sclerosis patients.](#)

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Source European journal of neurology; Mar 2015; vol. 22 (no. 3); p. 479-484

Publication Date Mar 2015

DOI [10.1111/ene.12594](#)

ISSN 1468-1331

Database Medline

Show Abstract

- [Available at European journal of neurology from EBSCO \(MEDLINE Complete\)](#)
- [Available at European journal of neurology from EBSCO \(MEDLINE Complete\)](#)
- [More full-text links...](#)

The OpenAthens Login can be hard to find.

Accessing your articles

If you find an article that you would like to read that you cannot access directly you will be able to get it through the Health Science Library. Please see the [StarPlus](#) catalogue, and the library webpages for [details](#) of [walk-in access](#) and the [InterLibrary Request](#) service.

Saving your search and results

You can save your search strategy. Name your strategy and then click **save strategy**. You will be able to access it the next time you logon to HDAS by clicking **My Search Strategies** at the top of the screen.

You can save individual results by checking the boxes next to articles of interest. Once you've chosen click **Add to Saved**. The results are now accessible the next time you logon to HDAS by clicking **Saved Results** at the top of the screen.

You can export your results via email or as a PDF or Word document. Check one of the numbered boxes in your search strategy. This can be all the results of one of your searches or (if you've saved a subset of results as above) check **Saved Results** at the top of the search strategy box. Now click **Export options**. From here you can save the results as one of the various file types, or email them as you wish.

Current search strategy: multiple sclerosis

	Database(s)	Search Term	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Medline	exp *"MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS"/	Viewing (11)
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Medline	exp *"MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS"/	View Results (43,237)
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Medline	("vitamin D").ti,ab	View Results (50,380)
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Medline	(vitamin D therapy).ti,ab	View Results (6,294)

Contact for further information

If you have further queries or would like to arrange a session using these or other resources please contact Matt Cooper – Outreach Librarian for STH: matt.cooper@sheffield.ac.uk