Medline, CINAHL, Psychology & Behavioural Sciences Collection, Biomedical Reference Collection

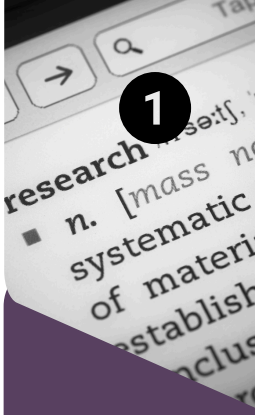
EBSCO host

Abridged Version



LKS

NHS
Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals
NHS Trust



Accessing Databases

Go to the **Library website**

library.merseywestlancs.nhs.uk

SCAN ME

Click on **Resources**

Followed by **Databases**

Select the EBSCO **database** to wish to access. Choose from:

- Medline
- CINAHL
- Psychology & Behavioural Sciences Collection
- Biomedical Reference Collection

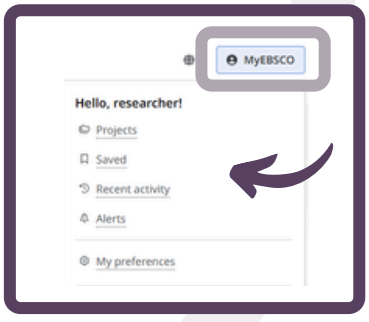
SCAN ME

You will be prompted to sign in using your **NHS Athens account.** If you don't have an account, you can register here **openathens.nice.org.uk**

Creating a Personal MyEBSCO Account

To enable full functionality (create projects, download eBooks, save your research and sync to the mobile app, click on the **MyEBSCO** link in the top right, followed by **Sign into MyEBSCO**. You will automatically be signed in through Athens authentication

Always make sure you log into your MyEBSCO account when carrying out a search



Planning Your Search

It is useful to think about **exactly** what you're looking for before you begin inputting your terms. This will ensure that you find relevant and appropriate information

- **What type of patient/population are you looking at?**
- **Are you using a specific test or intervention, or a broad group?**
- **If you are looking for better outcomes, what are examples of those outcomes?**

Carrying out a Text Word Search

The default setting is for the **Advanced Search** option. This allows your search to be much more specific

You can now start entering your search terms in the fields

Note: * is used as a wildcard to truncate a word eg. clinic*
For American /British spelling you can use the # symbol: p#ediatric, colo#r, etc.

Remember to think about....

Synonymous terms
Potential alternative spellings (e.g. American)
Singular and plurals

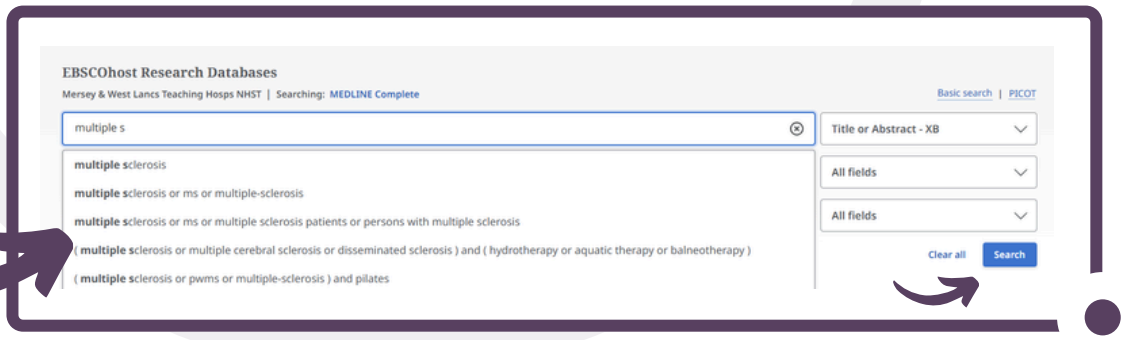
Make sure the **Suggest Subject Terms** box is unticked



You can choose which **fields** to search by using the drop-down menus

EBSCO may suggest **similar concepts** which may be useful as you type. These can be selected by **clicking** on them

Click on **Search**



Your search will generate a **results line** for your search concept. This will show you the number of results for your chosen term(s)



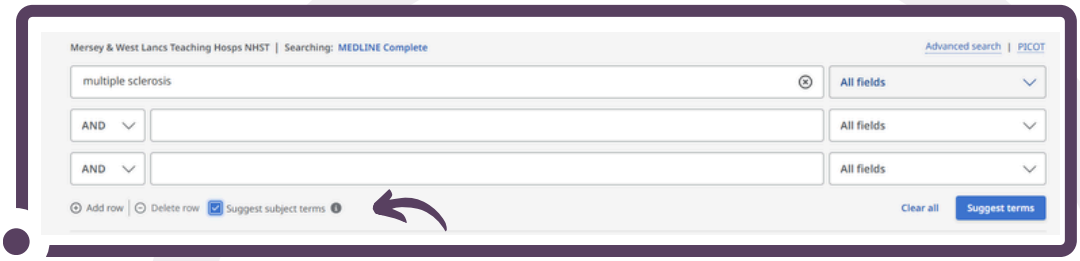
Repeat steps for **ALL keyword concepts**

Searching for Subject Terms

When doing a comprehensive literature search you want to search for **keywords AND subject headings** (also referred to as a Thesaurus Search)

- **Subject headings** are what the databases use to index articles
- Because each database uses its own unique subject headings it is important to **search each database individually and one at a time**

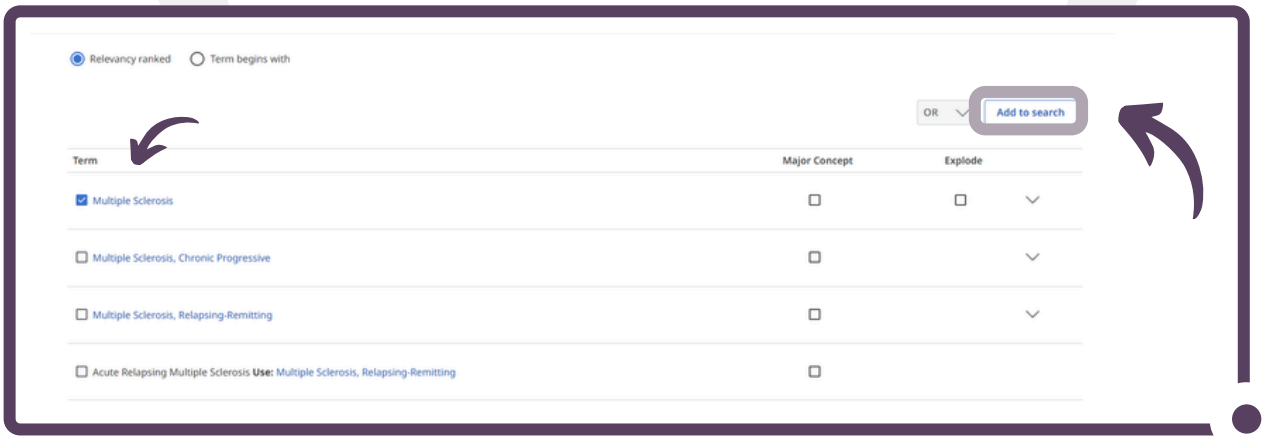
Make sure the **Suggest Subject Terms** box is ticked



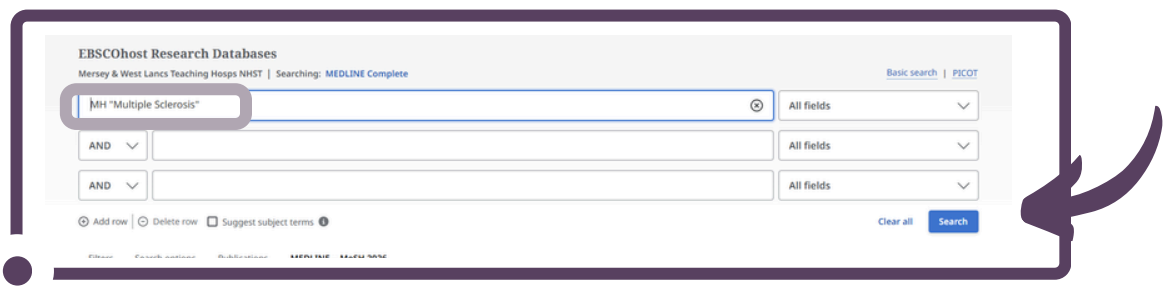
Type in the **subject** you want to search for and click **Suggest Terms**

The thesaurus may have *exactly* what you're looking for, or offer suggestions to other subjects .....have a go at searching for **alternative terms** too

Select the most relevant term. Click on **Add to Searc**h



This moves your chosen Subject term into your main search box. Now click on **Search** to complete the search



This will generate a separate results line in your Search History

Widening & Narrowing Your Search

The database will also give you options to apply **EXPLODE** or **MAJOR CONCEPT** to the term selected

These options can **widen** OR **narrow** the search

If we select the **TERM ITSELF** the database will bring up results where your term is used both as a major *and* minor focus, so it will be **broader**

Selecting **MAJOR CONCEPT** will bring up results where your term is more of a key element, so fewer but potentially more focussed results

If we click **EXPLODE** the database will bring up results from that term and everything indented after it in its index tree, so a broader result

To see how the term explodes you can click on the term itself to see where it sits within its index tree



Combining Search Terms and Subject Headings

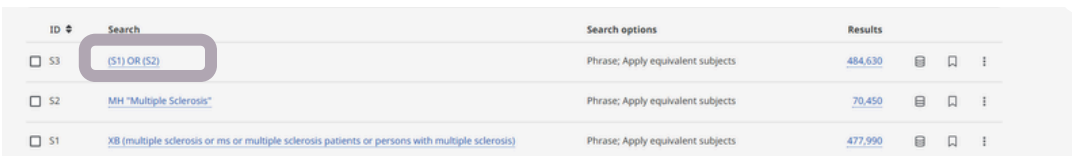
To get the best results, you should **COMBINE** the Keyword searches ***and*** the Subject Heading searches you have done previously

Select the **line numbers** you want to combine



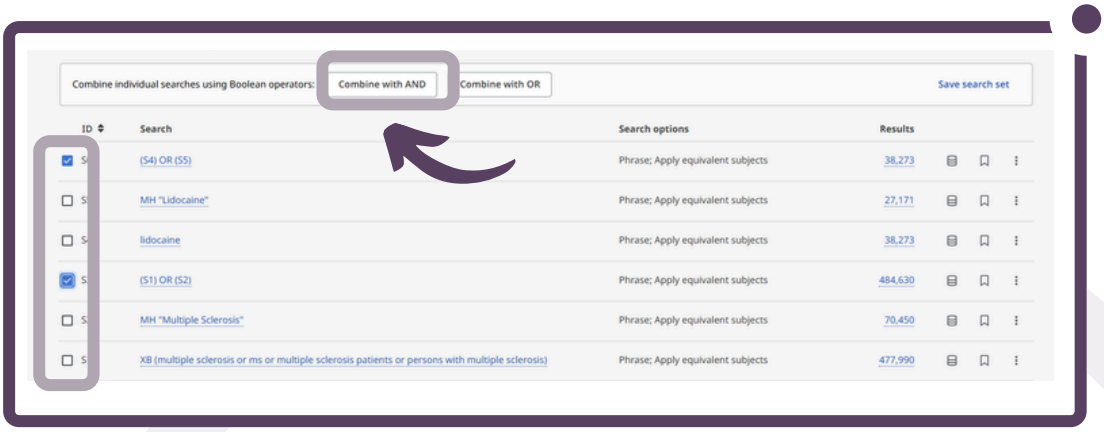
Then click **Combine with OR**

This moves your chosen terms into your main search box. Now click on **Search.** Your combined search result will now be displayed



Repeat steps for ALL keyword concepts

Searching each subject **individually** and then **JOINING** your searches will ensure the best results



Once you have searched all your concepts, select the ones you want to join together and click on **Combine with AND**

Limiting Your Results

You can reduce your results further by using the **LIMIT** function

On the results page, you can limit your results by **publication date**, **language**, **gender** etc.



Saving Results

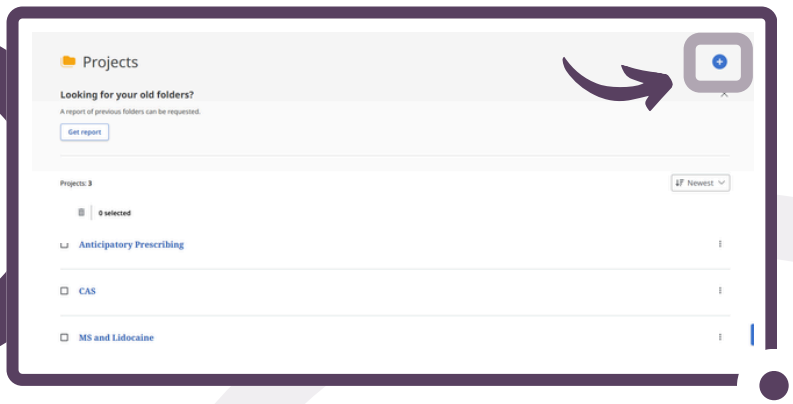


You can save individual results by clicking the **save icon** next to the result(s) you wish to save

Click on **MyEBSCO** at the top of the page, followed by **Saved** to access your saved article(s)

Creating Projects

You may wish to set up projects where you can keep all your saved articles in one place



Click on **MyEBSCO**, then **Projects**

Click on the **+** sign to allow you to create and name your new project

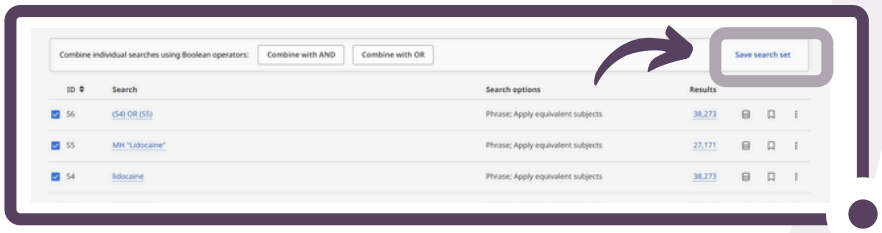
Your projects will stay in your MyEBSCO account unless you choose to delete them

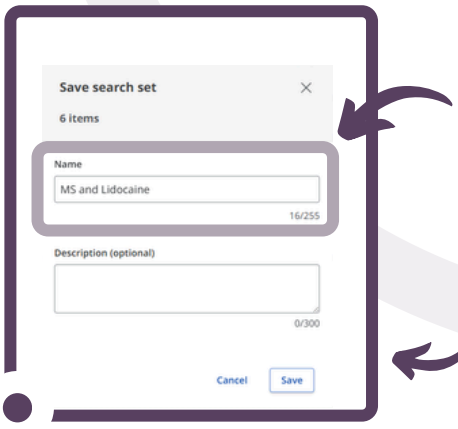
Saving Your Search Strategies

As well as saving the results, we highly recommend **saving your search strategy itself**

Select the searches you want to save

Click on **Save Search Set**





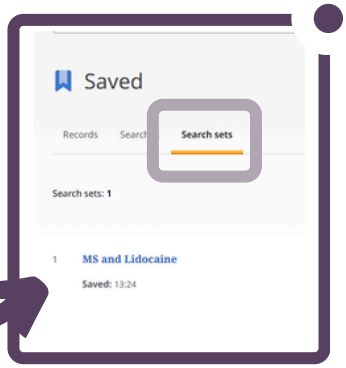
A pop-up box will appear. Give your Search Set a **name**

You can add a description if you would like but this is optional

Click on **Save**

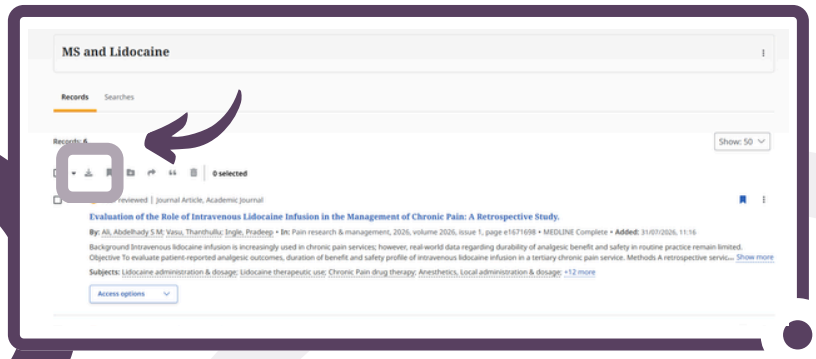
You can access your saved searches *and* saved results from your MyEBSCO page

Click on **Saved,** then **Search Sets.** Your saved Sets will appear in a list



Printing Results

To print, **select the records** you wish to print, then click on the **DOWNLOAD** icon. Once downloaded, your results can be **printed**

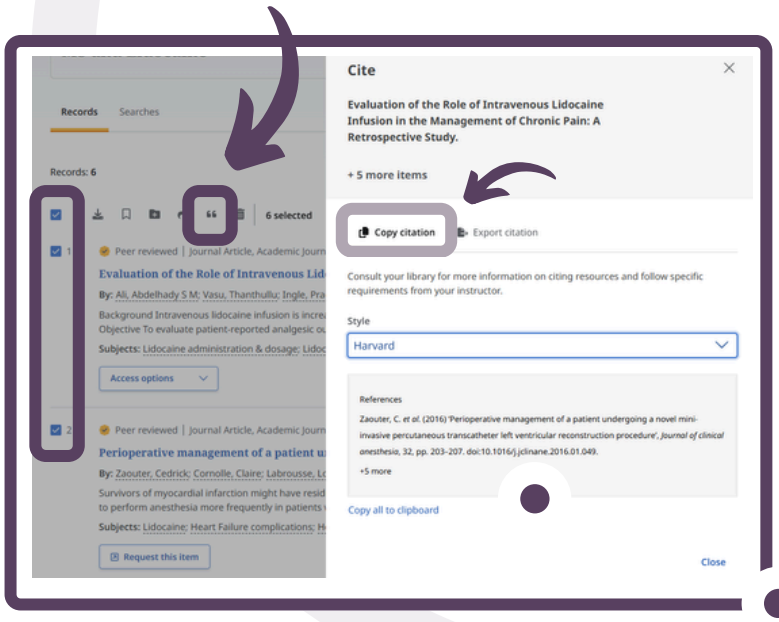


Alternatively, you can print from one of your Projects

To do this, click on **MyEBSCO,** then follow the above instructions

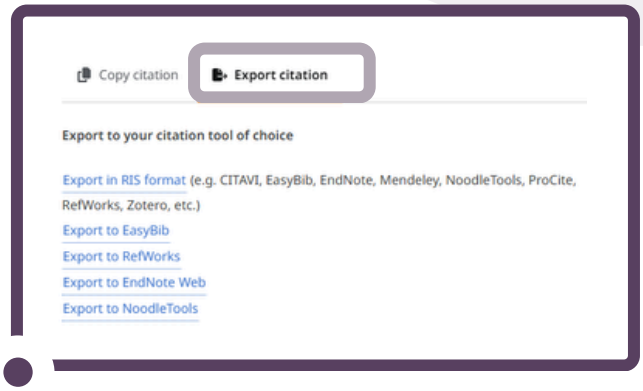
Citing or Exporting Results

To cite OR export your results, **select the records** you wish to cite or export and click on the **CITE** icon



You can now choose to **CITE** your articles in a particular style eg. Harvard or APA

Click on **Copy Citation** and choose your style



OR

You can choose to **EXPORT** your articles to your citation tool of choice

Further Resources

This guide is designed to **demonstrate and explain how to carry out a successful basic search** using the EBSCOhost database. However, **further resources are available** if you wish to go into more detail about how EBSCOhost works or how to search for literature in general

We have links to a number of **guides and video tutorials** on our website **here**

library.merseywestlancs.nhs.uk /literature-searching-guidance

SCAN ME

The Library and Knowledge Service also has a **number of books** available on how to carry out a literature search.

Search the Library Catalogue **here**

SCAN ME

Contact Us & Help

If you have any questions or need further help, please contact us



01704 704202 (Southport & Ormskirk)
0151 430 1342 (Whiston & St Helens)

library@merseywestlancs.nhs.uk