

EBSCO User Guide

1. [What is Ebsco?](#)
2. [How do I access CINAHL through Ebsco?](#)
3. [How to start a search](#)
4. [How to search with subject headings?](#)
5. [How to combine search terms with OR and AND](#)
6. [Wildcard searching and truncation](#)
7. [Adjacency Searching](#)
8. [How to filter or limit your search results](#)
9. [How to save individual results](#)
10. [How to export results](#)

1. What is Ebsco?

Ebsco is a platform that allows you to access:

CINAHL

Medline

EBSCO Psychology and Behavioural Sciences Collection

2. How do I access CINAHL through Ebsco?

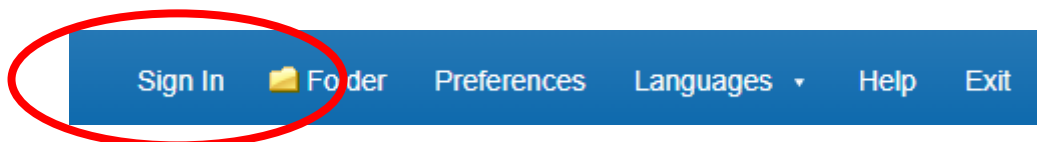
You can access them individually through links on the library website:

<https://www.bsuh.nhs.uk/library/accessing-information/find-information-on-a-topic/>

Or you can access them through [NHS Library and Knowledge Hub](#).

3. How to start a search

To enable full functionality (save searches and results) and allow access to your **Folder** (previous searches etc.), click the **Sign In** link on the top bar



Once you have selected a database, you can begin searching. If the screen displayed is not shown, click the **New Search** button in the top left and make sure **Advanced search** is selected.



Searching: CINAHL | [Choose Databases](#)

Suggest Subject Terms

Select a Field (optional) ▾

AND ▾

Select a Field (optional) ▾

[Clear](#) ?

AND ▾

Select a Field (optional) ▾

+ -

[Basic Search](#) [Advanced Search](#) [Search History](#)

You can now start entering your natural language search terms in the fields. Please note, to search for a phrase you will need to use inverted commas.

To select which fields you would like to search, use the drop-down menus. You can choose to search all text in an item's record, or narrow your search down to specific fields. If you want to search more than one specific field, for example, Title and Abstract, you need to search for these on separate rows using 'OR'. Once you've entered your search term, select 'Search':



Searching: CINAHL | [Choose Databases](#)

Suggest Subject Terms

TX All Text ▾

OR ▾

AB Abstract ▾

[Clear](#) ?

AND ▾

Select a Field (optional) ▾

+ -

[Basic Search](#) [Advanced Search](#) [Search History](#)

This will generate a results line for your search concept:

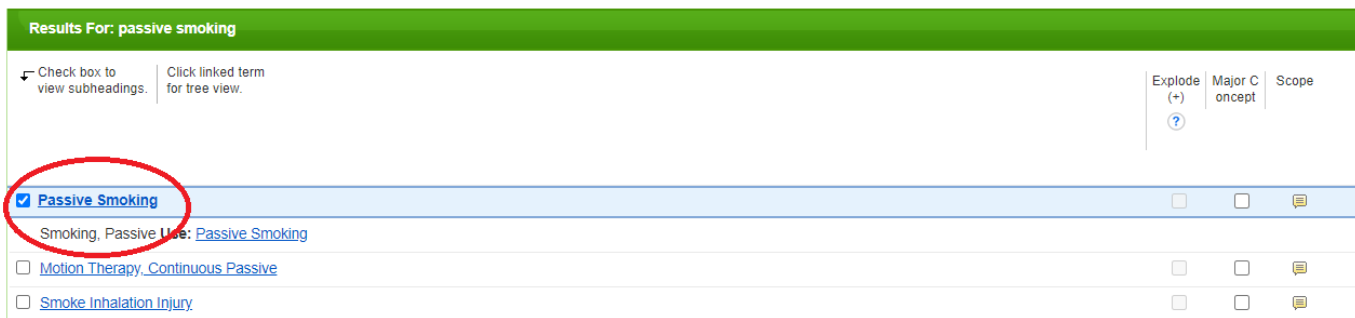
The screenshot shows the EBSCOhost search interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'New Search', 'Publications', 'CINAHL Subject Headings', 'Cited References', 'Citation Matcher', and 'More'. Below this, the search area includes the EBSCOhost logo, a search bar containing 'passive smoking', and a 'Suggest Subject Terms' checkbox which is checked. There are three search rows, each with a dropdown menu set to 'AND' and a 'Select a Field (optional)' dropdown. A green 'Search' button is on the right. Below the search area, there are links for 'Basic Search', 'Advanced Search', and 'Search History'. The 'Search History/Alerts' section is visible, with links for 'Print Search History', 'Retrieve Searches', 'Retrieve Alerts', and 'Save Searches / Alerts'. Below these links are buttons for 'Search with AND', 'Search with OR', and 'Delete Searches'. A table below shows a search history entry with a checkbox, 'S1', and a search term 'TI "passive smoking" OR AB "passive smoking"'. A red arrow points from the text above to the search term in the history table.

4. How to search with subject headings

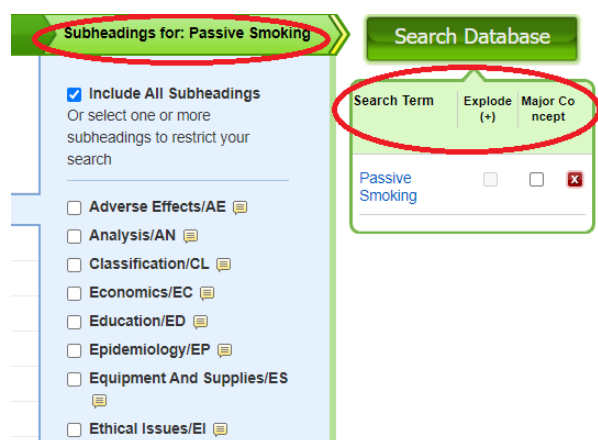
To search for Subject Headings, tick **Suggest Subject Terms** and then click **search**

The screenshot shows the EBSCOhost search interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'New Search', 'Publications', 'CINAHL Subject Headings', 'Cited References', 'Citation Matcher', and 'More'. Below this, the search area includes the EBSCOhost logo, a search bar containing 'passive smoking', and a 'Suggest Subject Terms' checkbox which is checked. There are three search rows, each with a dropdown menu set to 'AND' and a 'Select a Field (optional)' dropdown. A green 'Search' button is on the right. Below the search area, there are links for 'Basic Search', 'Advanced Search', and 'Search History'.

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. **Click on the relevant heading if there is one.**



The database will also give you options to apply **Explode** or **Major concept** to the term selected, or to apply **subheadings** to the term; these options can widen or narrow the search:

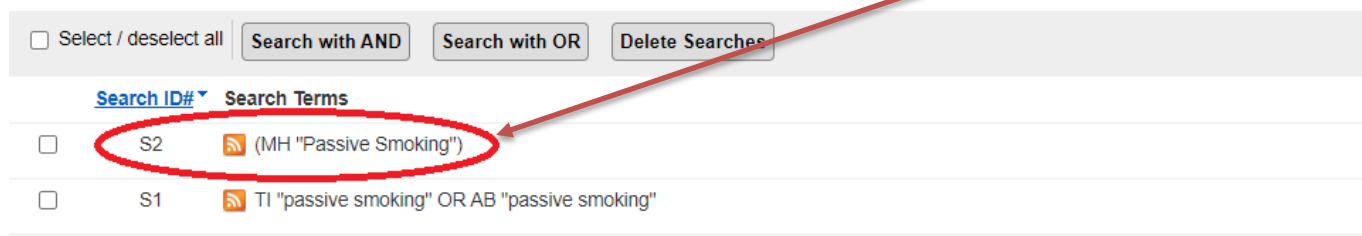


Hint: if you're not sure if a subject heading is the right one, click on the **scope notes icon**:



Click the **Search Database** button:

You will see that your subject headings search appears like this on your search history:



5. How to combine search terms with OR and AND

Combine your search terms and subject headings by selecting the line numbers you want to combine. Then click **Search with OR**:

Search interface showing search results for S1 and S2. The 'Search with OR' button is circled in red, and the checkboxes for S1 and S2 are also circled in red.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Select / deselect all	Search with AND	Search with OR	Delete Searches
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	S2	(MH "Passive Smoking")	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	S1	T1 "passive smoking" OR AB "passive smoking"	

In the below example, line S3 combines the results for one concept (passive smoking) and line S6 for the second concept (cancer). **Line S7 combines these two concepts with AND.**

Search interface showing search results for S1 through S7. The 'Search with AND' button is circled in red, and the checkboxes for S3 and S6 are also circled in red.

<input type="checkbox"/> Select / deselect all	Search with AND	Search with OR	Delete Searches
<input type="checkbox"/>	S7	S3 AND S6	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	S6	S4 OR S5	
<input type="checkbox"/>	S5	(MH "Lung Neoplasms")	
<input type="checkbox"/>	S4	T1 "lung cancer" OR AB "lung cancer"	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	S3	S1 OR S2	
<input type="checkbox"/>	S2	(MH "Passive Smoking")	
<input type="checkbox"/>	S1	T1 "passive smoking" OR AB "passive smoking"	

6. Wildcard searching and truncation

In CINAHL, a wild card is represented by the # symbol. To use the # wildcard, enter your search terms, adding the # in places where an alternate spelling may contain an extra character. CINAHL finds all citations of the word that appear with or without the extra character.

For example, type **colo#r** to find all citations containing **color** or **colour**.

In CINAHL, truncation is represented by an asterisk (*).

To use truncation, enter the root of a search term and replace the ending with an *. The database finds all forms of that word.

For example, type **nurs*** to find **nurse**, **nurses**, and **nursing**, etc

7. Adjacency Searching

Adjacency searching is a way to search for two or more words that occur within a certain number of words from each other. The proximity operator is the letter **N** and a number (to specify the number of words). The number cannot exceed 255.

For example, **child* N3 asthma***

Would include “child with asthma”, “asthma in children” and “children who are asthmatic”

8. How to filter or limit your search results

Click on **View Results**

The screenshot shows a search interface with several buttons: "Select / deselect all", "Search with AND", "Search with OR", and "Delete Searches". Below these are "Search ID#:" and "Search Terms:" fields. The "Search Terms" field contains "S7" and "S3 AND S6". To the right, there are "Search Options" and "Search modes - Boolean/Phrase". In the top right corner, under "Actions", the "View Results (321)" button is circled in red.

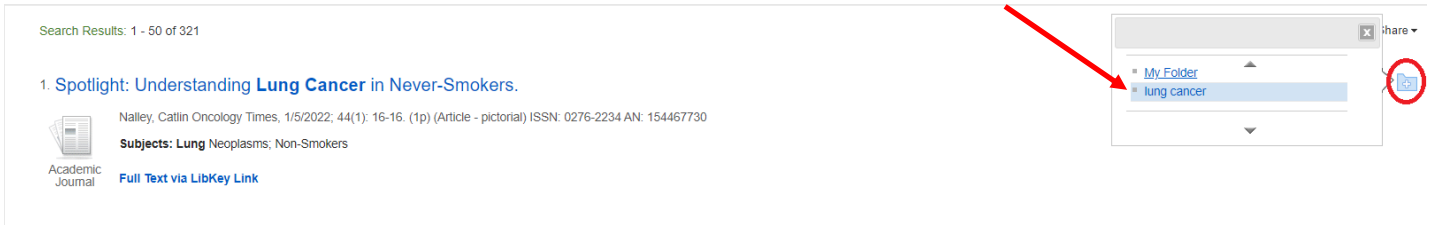
Your results will look like this:

The screenshot shows search results for "1 - 50 of 321". The left sidebar is titled "Refine Results" and includes sections for "Current Search" (Boolean/Phrase: S3 AND S6), "Limit To" (with checkboxes for Linked Full Text, References Available, and Abstract Available), "From:" and "To:" date fields (1983 to 2022), "Source Types" (with checkboxes for All Results, Academic Journals (242), Magazines (38), CEUs (3), Books (1), and Dissertations (1)), "Subject Major Heading", and "Publication". The main results area shows three items, each with a title, abstract, subjects, and a "Full Text via LibKey Link" button. A red arrow points from the "Publication Date" filter in the sidebar to the "Full Text via LibKey Link" button of the first result.

On the results page, **you can filter down or limit your results** by publication date, language, gender etc. on the left-hand side options bar.

9. How to save individual results

You can save individual results by **clicking the folder icon**. The database will display folders to which you can save the result; **My Folder** is the default option, but you can set up other, named, folders. **Click this link** and the item(s) selected will be saved:



Search Results: 1 - 50 of 321

1. **Spotlight: Understanding Lung Cancer in Never-Smokers.**

Nalley, Catlin *Oncology Times*, 1/5/2022; 44(1): 16-16. (1p) (Article - pictorial) ISSN: 0276-2234 AN: 154467730

Subjects: Lung Neoplasms; Non-Smokers

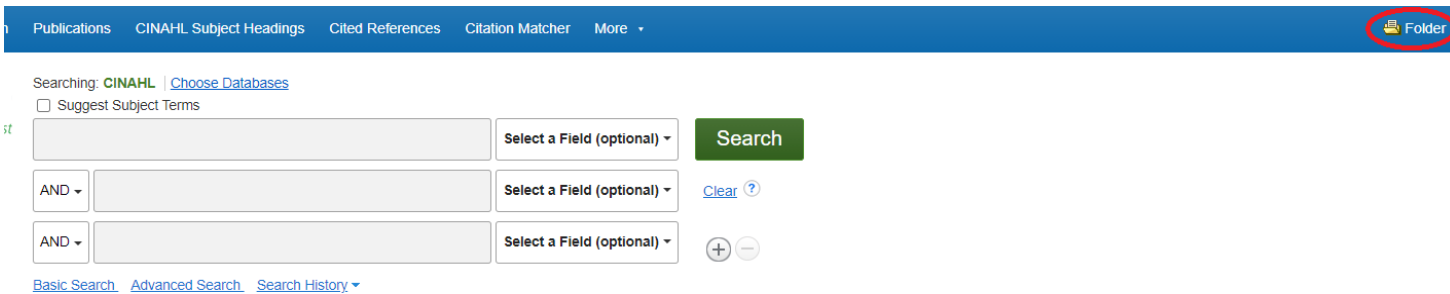
Full Text via LibKey Link

My Folder
lung cancer

A red arrow points to the folder selection dropdown, and a red circle highlights the folder icon in the top right corner.

10. How to export results

To export results, click on Folder:



Publications CINAHL Subject Headings Cited References Citation Matcher More

Searching: CINAHL | Choose Databases

Suggest Subject Terms

Select a Field (optional) Search

AND Select a Field (optional) Clear

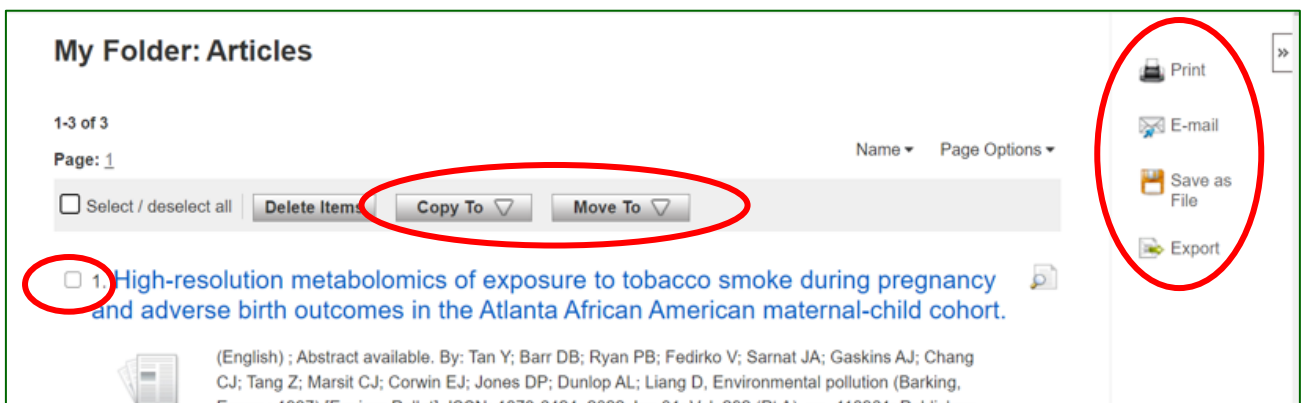
AND Select a Field (optional) + -

Basic Search Advanced Search Search History

Folder

Select the results you would like to export and click on the output format / action

From here you can print or save your results as a file, send them via email, export to reference management software:



My Folder: Articles

1-3 of 3

Page: 1

Select / deselect all Delete Items Copy To Move To

Print
E-mail
Save as File
Export

1. High-resolution metabolomics of exposure to tobacco smoke during pregnancy and adverse birth outcomes in the Atlanta African American maternal-child cohort.

(English) ; Abstract available. By: Tan Y; Barr DB; Ryan PB; Fedirko V; Sarnat JA; Gaskins AJ; Chang CJ; Tang Z; Marsit CJ; Corwin EJ; Jones DP; Dunlop AL; Liang D, Environmental pollution (Barking, Essex - 1987) [Environ Pollut]. ISSN: 1873-6424. 2022. Jan 01; Vol. 292 (Pt A), pp. 119364; Publisher:

Red circles highlight the 'Copy To' and 'Move To' buttons, and the 'Print', 'E-mail', 'Save as File', and 'Export' options.

