

Searching the Databases

Quick Guide

Before you begin your search, it is important to create a search strategy – think about the words you want to find and what limits you might wish to put on them.

EXAMPLE What are the benefits of Kangaroo care over incubator care?

Database/s	Key terms	Alternative terms	Date limit
BNI CINAHL EMBASE MEDLINE (choice may depend on your profession)	“kangaroo care” Premature baby Benefit	“preterm infant” Positive Success	5 years – most recent evidence

Step One

From the homepage (www.evidence.nhs.uk) select **Journals and databases** from the top right hand corner:



Step Two

Select **Begin a search** from the HDAS box (as below):

A grey rectangular box titled 'Healthcare databases advanced search (HDAS)'. It contains two bullet points: 'Search MEDLINE, EMBASE, CINAHL, PsycINFO, AMED, British Nursing Index, HMIC and Health Business Elite. Requires [OpenAthens account](#).' and 'Or perform a quick search of PubMed (no OpenAthens account required)'. At the bottom right is a dark grey button labeled 'Begin a search'. A left-pointing arrow is positioned to the right of this button.

****** It will ask you to **login** to view all databases with your Athens account ******

Step 3

Use your search strategy to help you decide which keywords to enter, date limits to put on and choose **one** database to search.

Each time you enter a new keyword you will need to delete the last one from the search box – if you make a mistake select the line to remove and press 'delete selected'.

Your search page should look a little like this:

Current search strategy:

	Database(s)	Search Term	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	CINAHL	("premature baby" OR "preterm infant").ti,ab	View Results (988)
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	CINAHL	("kangaroo care").ti,ab	View Results (223)
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	CINAHL	(benefit*).ti,ab	View Results (98,391)
<input type="checkbox"/> 4	CINAHL	(benefit* OR success* OR positive*).ti,ab	View Results (286,898)
<input type="checkbox"/> 5	CINAHL	(1 AND 2 AND 4)	Viewing (6)

When you select your keywords you can then choose to combine them with AND or OR.

AND will reduce the results by looking for the keywords together.

OR will produce more results – ideal if you want to use more than one keyword for a similar subject **e.g. benefit* OR success* OR positive***


Putting limits on your search

To change the date, you need to use the Limits option.

Put the number of the search string you want to limit into the search box, put a tick in the limits box, choose which limit to impose, then click search.

****IMPORTANT**** only put limits on the final result, afterwards you cannot combine any more keywords with that search.

You can also set limits for language, age group, to look for Reviews or Randomised Control Trials etc. plus many others.

 **Fields**

Fields are not available for existing search rows

☒ **Limits**

Article Type ▶ **Dates ▼** Gender ▶ Age Group ▶ Language ▶ Other ▶ [Reset Limits](#)

Date of Publication

From To

Viewing articles

To see the articles the search has found, scroll down to the results list.

You can read the abstract from HDAS by selecting **Show abstracts**.

When you find an article you want the full text of, there are three possible choices:

1. A blue link to the full text of the article online will appear below the abstract:

- [Available in full text at Preventive Medicine from Elsevier](#)

2. A blue link telling you the article is available in print from one of our libraries:

- [Available in print at Cheltenham General Hospital Library from AGE AND AGEING](#)

3.

There are no full text copies! But don't panic, contact the library and we can get one for you via our Interlibrary Loan service.

Saving your search

As with all things computer related – it is vital you save your work as soon as possible.

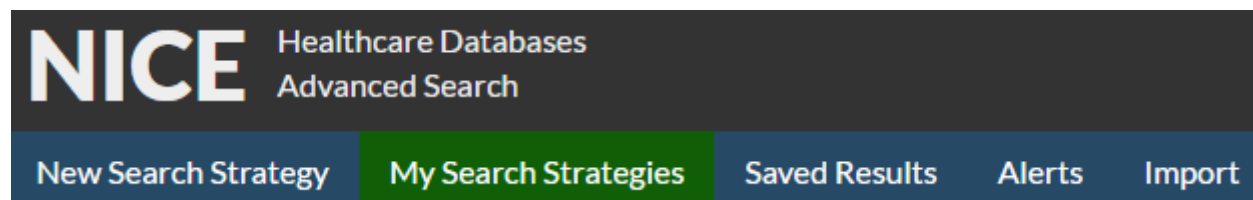
On HDAS it couldn't be simpler. As soon as you put in your first keyword you are able to save your search strategy – from then on it automatically saves your search!

Look for the box as below, enter whatever name you like and click **Save Strategy**

Current search strategy:

Save Strategy

The search will save in **My Search Strategies** at the top of the screen:



Saving articles

Want to save some abstracts to read later?

To decide which ones are most relevant, click **Show abstracts** from the top of the results.



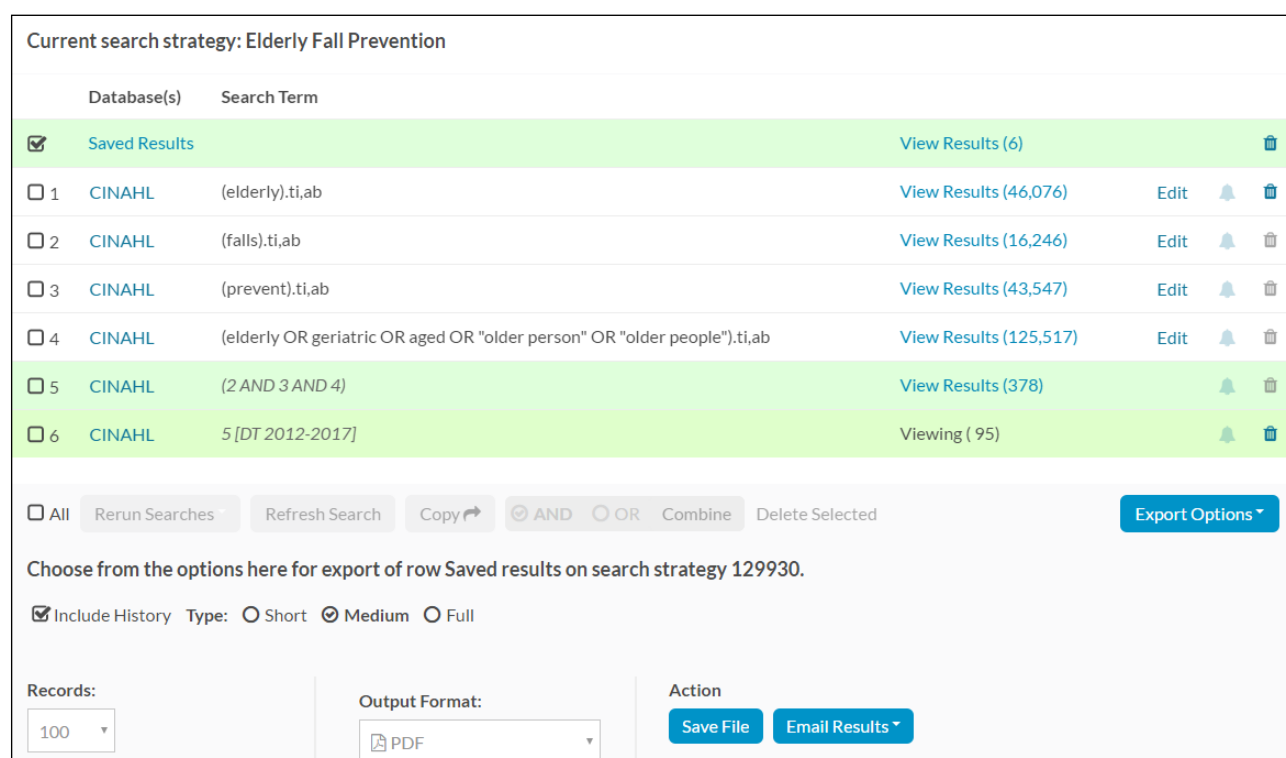
You can then select which articles to keep per page.

IMPORTANT remember to save before moving on to the next page!!!



Exporting results

When you have saved all the articles you want, you can export them into a PDF file. Select **Saved Results** then Export Options.



Running search in another database

If you want to try your keywords in another database you can, **however** you will not be able to rerun combined searches if you have put a date limit on – you can't just try the final result in another database!

Select the keywords, **Rerun Searches**, choose a database and **Rerun Selected**:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2	CINAHL	(falls).ti,ab	View Results (16,246)	Edit		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3	CINAHL	(prevent).ti,ab	View Results (43,547)	Edit		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4	CINAHL	(elderly OR geriatric OR aged OR "older person" OR "older people").ti,ab	View Results (125,517)	Edit		
<input type="checkbox"/>	5	CINAHL	(2 AND 3 AND 4)	View Results (378)			
<input type="checkbox"/>	6	CINAHL	5 [DT 2012-2017]	Viewing (95)			

☐ All [Rerun Searches](#) [Refresh Search](#) [Copy](#) ☒ AND ☐ OR [Combine](#) [Delete Selected](#) [Export Options](#)

Rerun 3 searches (2, 3, 4)

☐ AMED ☐ BNI ☐ CINAHL ☐ EMBASE ☐ HBE ☐ HMIC ☒ Medline ☐ PsycINFO ☐ PubMed [Rerun Selected](#)

You can then combine the words, add more keywords or limit the search as before.

****There are help videos available on the HDAS website – find these by selecting Help from the top of the search page****

Would you like further help or training on using the Healthcare Databases?

Please contact the library to arrange a training session:

CGH – 0300 422 3036 - Alexandra House (opposite Drs' Mess)

GRH – 0300 422 6495 - Redwood Education Centre

Email: ghn-tr.LibraryGHNHSFT@nhs.net