



The Literature Search Process: Guidance for NHS Researchers

Developed by South Central Healthcare Librarians*
Updated by Shrewsbury and Telford Health Libraries

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Introduction

This document was developed in partnership with the Thames Valley Research & Development Network and is maintained by healthcare librarians in South Central. Its aim is to support NHS researchers in carrying out effective literature searches. This will help ensure that research is not duplicated and that literature searches retrieve the best available evidence.

This document provides guidance for the following key steps:

- planning a literature search
- identifying key sources of information
- guidance in carrying out an effective literature search
- documenting the search process

Structured guidance and a checklist column are provided for each section so that researchers can quickly identify and tick off the necessary elements. You are strongly encouraged to contact your local Health Library at the start of your research project, they will be able to offer professional advice and support.

To search the catalogue of your local Health Library, please visit <http://library.sath.nhs.uk/research/>

This work builds on previous international work in this area, which is credited in the bibliography.

This is a working document designed to evolve to meet the needs of the local NHS research community; therefore your feedback is of the utmost importance. Please contact us with comments and suggestions.

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This guidance has been updated in memory of Belinda Hylton, librarian at Buckinghamshire Shared Services who was one of the original main authors.

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Search Planning Form

Use this form to identify/clarify the key concepts and the scope of your research topic.
See the guidance notes for a worked example

Date search started: _____

Date search completed: _____

1. Your Research Topic

--

2. Break down your topic into key concepts or categories to formulate a clear clinical question

(If your topic does not easily fit into these categories, see the guidance notes on page 5)

Patient/Population and/or Problem	Intervention/Exposure	Comparison/Control	Outcome
Alternative Words – list below in the appropriate column			

3. Your Research Question

--

4. Search limits

Study type:	
Age range:	
Publication date:	
Language:	
Other:	

Guidance notes for use with Search Planning Form: USING PICO AS AN EXAMPLE

1. Your Research Topic – briefly describe in your own words the key aspects of your research topic

2. Break down your topic into key concepts or categories to formulate a clear clinical question. The PICO model (Richardson, 1995), is an evidence-based model for formulating a clinical question using the headings **P**atient/population and/or problem, **I**ntervention, **C**omparison and **O**utcome. By dividing your topic into these or similar categories, you will also be doing the groundwork for developing a search strategy. *If the PICO headings do not easily fit your research topic, please see page 5 for alternatives.*

- **Patient/Population/Problem** - any characteristics that define your patient or population, e.g. target clinical condition, co-existing condition, ethnicity, age group
- **Intervention/Exposure** - what you want to do with the patient/population/problem e.g. form of treatment, diagnostic test, education programme, type of service delivery. This can also include any exposures (e.g. asbestos) or factors influencing prognosis.
- **Comparison/Control** (if applicable) – alternative(s) to main intervention, e.g. placebo
- **Outcomes** - any outcomes or effects relating to the intervention e.g. prevention, side effects, morbidity, quality of life, cost-effectiveness

The PICO headings shown in the example do not have to be applied rigidly and there are a number of variations for example:

- **PICOT** - Patient – Intervention – Comparison – Outcome –Time Frame (Fineout-Overholt and Johnson, 2005)
- **PICOCs** - Population – Interventions – Comparators – Outcomes – Context – Study design (Petticrew and Roberts, 2005)

When filling in each category, consider any synonyms, alternative keywords, different spellings, acronyms etc. to include in your search strategy - *see guidance notes on page 7 for more information.*

Example

P	I	C	O
acute stroke	blood pressure reduction	no treatment	secondary prevention
OR↓	OR↓	OR↓	OR↓
Alternative Words			
cerebrovascular accident cerebrovascular event ischaemic stroke	anti-hypertensive agents hypertension - drug therapy diuretics, atenolol etc lowering blood pressure	Placebo	secondary prophylaxis reduce mortality risk reduction

Combining terms - When searching bibliographical databases such as MEDLINE you will need to use OR/AND to put your search together:

OR – to combine keywords for similar concepts (i.e. terms in the *same* column) use OR e.g. blood pressure OR hypertension.

AND – to combine keywords for different concepts (i.e. terms in *separate* columns) use AND, e.g. stroke AND blood pressure reduction

3. Your Research Question – your research topic phrased as a clear, focussed question, incorporating the elements identified in the PICO (or similar) model. *Example:* in people with a prior history of stroke, is blood pressure reduction more effective than no treatment in preventing future stroke events?

4. Any Search Restrictions – anything related to your topic that you wish to exclude. Generic limits (language, publication date etc) may introduce bias, avoid using these limits if you need a systematic search.

Guidance notes for use with Search Planning Form: OTHER FRAMEWORKS

There are a number of other frameworks which may be more appropriate to your topic or you can create or adapt categories of your own. The bibliography in Appendix 3 includes only a few of the many texts which cover the importance of well-formulated questions for effective literature searching and the process for developing them. There are 4 main aspects of a research topic to consider and the specific focus of these may be categorised depending on whether the research relates to clinical treatment, service management, policy, education or involves a particular methodology.

1. The **situation**: patient/client, population group, problem, condition, setting, perspective, context or location,
2. The **actions**: intervention, exposure, including time factors
3. The **results**: in relation to benefits or improvements, risk or safety, cost, efficiency or quality
4. If a **comparison** is sought

A selection of existing frameworks are listed below. Further examples are available from Davies (2011) and Kloda & Bartlett (2013). For in depth guidance on the use of individual frameworks, please see the indicated references.

ECLIPSE (Wildridge & Bell 2002)

Expectation – Client group – Location – Impact – Professionals involved – Service

This framework is useful for questions relating to health policy and management issues. *Expectation* encourages reflection on what the information is needed for i.e. improvement, innovation or information. *Impact* looks at what you would like to achieve e.g. improve team communication.

EPICOT (Brown et al 2006)

Evidence – Population – Intervention – Comparison – Outcome – Timestamp

Designed to address research recommendations on the effect of treatments. In addition to the PICO elements, *Evidence* is for the current state of the evidence and *Timestamp* is for the date of the recommendations.

PECODR (Dawes et al 2007)

Population – Exposure – Comparison – Outcome – Duration – Results

Useful for case control studies and cohort studies. *Duration* can be used to clarify the length of the follow up period and the *Results* could be used for Number Needed to Treat or similar.

PESTLE (CIPD 2010)

Political – Economic – Social – Technological – Environmental – Legal

An analysis tool that can be used by organizations for identifying external factors which may influence their strategic development, marketing strategies, new technologies or organizational change.

SPICE (Booth 2006)

Setting (context) – Perspective – Intervention – Comparison – Evaluation

Useful for qualitative studies that seek to evaluate a service. *Perspective* relates to users or potential users. *Evaluation* is how you plan to measure the success of the intervention.

SPIDER (Cooke, Smith & Booth 2012)

Sample – Phenomenon of Interest – Design (of study) – Evaluation – Research type

Useful for qualitative or mixed methods research. *Phenomenon of Interest* includes behaviours and/or experiences e.g. compliance.

The Literature Search Process: Protocols for Researchers

1) Resource Checklist: Refer to the **Guide to sources of information** (Appendix 1) for further details about subject coverage and access for each resource listed. Please note: this list is not exhaustive. Additional resources are listed in Appendix 2, but your local healthcare librarian can offer further advice.

Guidance notes	LEVEL 1: CORE RESOURCES	<i>Searched</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>Unable to access</i>
<p>The resource checklist is divided into 3 levels: core, recommended and additional. Alongside each resource, tick the appropriate column: searched, not applicable (N/A) or unable to access.</p> <p>Level 1 – core resources</p> <p>Effective searches across these sources will help ensure that your literature review covers a significant proportion of published research.</p> <p>Consider how retrospective the search needs to be, e.g. from the time when a drug was introduced; also consider whether the coverage of your source is sufficiently retrospective and/or up-to-date.</p> <p>These resources should be searched as a minimum requirement unless they are not appropriate to your research topic. If there are time constraints, section a) minimum core resources should be given priority.</p> <p>How far you proceed beyond Level 1 will depend on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The subject of your research • The type of studies you need to locate (e.g. RCTs) • The time available • Availability of sources • How essential it is to ensure your research is not duplicating research elsewhere • How likely it is that specialist databases will have additional references not found elsewhere. <p>* Resources marked with an * are not available through NHS Athens or free on the Internet. Access is through subscription only but may be accessible at your local health or academic library.</p> <p>See next page for continued guidance notes.</p>	<p>a) Minimum core resources:</p>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cochrane Library 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) for latest updates 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MEDLINE <u>or</u> PubMed 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EMBASE 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key health and social care databases as appropriate 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AMED (Allied Medicine) 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ BNI (Nursing) 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Campbell Library Of Systematic Reviews 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CINAHL (Nursing & Allied Health) 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ HMIC/Kings Fund Library (Health Management) 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NHS Networks Commissioning Zone 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ OTseeker (Occupational Therapy) 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PeDRO (Physiotherapy) 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PsycINFO 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Social Care Online 			
	<p>b) Other core resources:</p>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BioMed Central 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence summaries e.g. Clinical Evidence *, Clinical Knowledge Summaries 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence-based gateways e.g. NICE Evidence, TRIP, SumSearch2 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidelines sites e.g. NICE Evidence 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Websites of relevant associations / bodies 				

1) Resource Checklist (<i>continued</i>)		<i>Searched</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>Unable to access</i>
<p>Level 2: Recommended resources</p> <p>Some of these resources may help to locate unpublished literature including theses & conference proceedings.</p> <p>They are useful if you need a greater level of confidence that you are not duplicating other research. However, access to some of these sources may be limited.</p> <p>* Resources marked with an * are <u>not</u> available through NHS Athens or free on the Internet. Access is through subscription only, but may be accessible at your local health or academic library.</p>	LEVEL 2: RECOMMENDED RESOURCES			
	Case Reports			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CasesDatabase 			
	Conference proceedings			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ZeTOC 			
	Dissertations and Theses			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DART Europe E-Thesis Portal 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissertation and Theses Database * 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EThOS 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Index to Theses* 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations 			
	Drug Information			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin * 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Micromedex* 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicines Information 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pharmaceutical and device manufacturers 			
	Grey Literature			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Grey 			
	Library catalogues			
	Other resources			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIHR Journals Library 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QIPP (Quality, Innovation, Productivity & Prevention) 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK Duets (Database of Uncertainties about Effects of Treatments) 			
Subject Specific Databases – see Appendix 2 for more options				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASSIA (Applied Social Sciences Index & Abstracts)* 				

	RECOMMENDED RESOURCES CONTINUED	<i>Searched</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>Unable to access</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BIOSIS Citation Index* /Biosis Previews* (Life Sciences) 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological Abstracts* 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ERIC (Education Resources Information Center) 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Health* 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Business Elite 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maternity & Infant Care* 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science Citation Index Expanded* 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SciVerse Scopus* 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Policy & Practice* 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Sciences Citation Index* 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toxnet (Toxicology) 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Health Organisation Regional Databases 			
	Research in progress / specialist health research resources			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ClinicalTrials.gov 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • metaRegister of Controlled Trials (mRCT) 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIHR Clinical Research Network Portfolio Database 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prospero (International Prospective Register of Systematic Reviews) 			
	Web search engines, e.g. Google, Google Scholar			
Level 3: Additional resources	LEVEL 3 : ADDITIONAL SEARCH METHODS			
These resources will further increase the comprehensiveness of your search. N.B. you may want to weigh up the likelihood of locating significantly new information before investing the time needed to explore these methods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contacting centres of excellence and experts in the field 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email / online discussion groups 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand searching of key journals 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citation tracking / reference list checking 			

2) Search Strategy Checklist

Before carrying out your search you will need to identify your research question and plan your search strategy. You will already have identified your research question and broken it down into different concepts when completing the Search Planning Form.

This section will help you identify a range of keywords relevant to your research question. It includes essential search techniques that should be used, wherever possible, to carry out an effective search of your chosen sources. Contact the Health Library for further advice / training.

Guidance notes	a) Range of search terms	Used / Identified
<p>Often, initial searches will highlight other appropriate text words (words or phrases that might appear in the text of an article) and database subject headings.</p> <p>Therefore, it is useful to carry out a pilot search in each database and review your search terms (and if necessary, your research question and its scope) before carrying out your final searches.</p> <p>Subject headings are used to index the content of most bibliographic databases (MEDLINE, EMBASE etc.) Example: heart attack is indexed under MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION</p> <p>The subject headings list used in MEDLINE is called MeSH (Medical Subject Headings).</p> <p>Look for the MeSH or Thesaurus options to identify the most appropriate subject heading for the keyword you have entered.</p> <p>Correct use of subject headings improves the accuracy of your results and is essential to an effective search. (See section 2c).</p> <p>See next page for continued guidance notes.</p>	<p>Identify a range of search terms for each of your identified search concepts, considering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synonyms, e.g. <i>aged; elderly</i> • Acronyms, e.g. <i>AIDS, CHD</i> etc. • Differences in terminology across national boundaries, e.g. <i>Accident and Emergency / Emergency Room</i> • Differences in spellings, e.g. <i>anaemia / anemia</i> • Old and new terminology, e.g. <i>mongolism / down syndrome</i> • Brand and generic names, e.g. <i>coumadin / warfarin</i> • Lay and medical terminology e.g. <i>stroke / cerebrovascular accident</i> <p>b) Database subject headings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify appropriate subject headings for each database used • Check coverage, scope and definition of each subject heading <p>NB: Sometimes subject headings are not defined as you might expect, e.g. the MeSH heading "SURGERY" is used to index material on the <u>discipline</u> of surgery, not surgical <u>procedures</u> (this is indexed under SURGICAL PROCEDURES, OPERATIVE).</p>	

2) Search Strategy Checklist (continued)	c) Search techniques	Used / Identified	N/A
<p>Guidance Notes Most of these search techniques are for use with bibliographic databases, e.g. MEDLINE. If a particular search technique is not applicable, tick the box in the N/A column.</p> <p>Truncation Truncation symbols (also known as wildcards) are used to replace any number of characters at the end of the word, e.g. behavior* will also find behaviors, behaviour, behavioural etc. The actual symbols used vary depending on the database service provider. As a database can be made available through more than one service provider, you will need to check the database help section to find out which symbol to use. The most common symbol * is used by PubMed and NICE Evidence Healthcare Databases. Other databases or service providers may use \$ or ?</p> <p>Combining search results Use AND to combine two <u>different</u> concepts, e.g. diabetes AND insulin (AND will narrow your search – your results must include ALL your stated concepts) Use OR to search for <u>similar</u> concepts, e.g. retina OR eye (OR will widen your search - your results will include a MINIMUM OF ONE of your named concepts) Updating searches: this process can have many pitfalls. If you have a pre-prepared search that you wish to update or re-run at a later date, please contact your local healthcare librarian.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out separate searches for each individual concept and then combine at a later stage <i>Example search</i> 1. diabetic OR diabetes 2. retina OR eye 3. 1 AND 2 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use a combination of text words (free text) and subject heading searches 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use appropriate truncation for text word searches where applicable, e.g. nurs* to find nurse, nurses, nursing etc. 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Explode' (i.e. expand) database subject headings where appropriate to include narrower terms 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid restricting database subject heading searches using the '<i>major descriptors</i>' or '<i>subheading</i>' options in the first instance (to avoid missing relevant material) 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use AND / OR appropriately to combine results of separate searches 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid limiting your search to English language (to help prevent bias) 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When searching websites or other electronic sources, use the 'Advanced' search option where available 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If appropriate, use search filters (pre-prepared search strategies) to identify particular types of research studies e.g. randomised controlled trials. Sources of search filters include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PubMed's Clinical Queries Cochrane Library Handbook InterTASC Information Specialists' Sub-Group Search Filter Resource Contact your local healthcare librarian for advice 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the PubMed 'related articles' function and lists of references in CINAHL 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check the references cited in any research / other relevant material retrieved 		

3) Search Documentation Checklist

Guidance Notes	Please ensure your research proposal includes:	Included
<p>This checklist outlines the minimum required to document the search process carried out in support of any research proposal.</p> <p>All elements must be clearly documented for each resource searched.</p> <p>See the Guide to Sources of Information in the Appendices for details of each resource listed in the checklist.</p>	a) Clearly stated research question	
	b) Explanation of the scope of the research question	
	c) For <u>database searches</u>, specification of the following:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Title of database searched (e.g. MEDLINE) 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name of the database provider (e.g. NICE Evidence) 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Date search conducted 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete search strategy used including the number of hits. <i>Attach print outs of search strategies for each database used</i> 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dates covered by the search (e.g. 1990-present) 	
	d) For specific <u>websites</u> (other than online databases above), specification of the following:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name of the resource, (e.g. metaRegister of Controlled Trials) 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publisher of the resource (e.g. US National Library of Medicine) 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Web address (URL) 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Search terms used 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Date accessed 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It may be useful to print out the first page in case it is subsequently removed 	
e) For <u>search engine</u> searches, specification of the following:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Search engines used (when searching across the Internet, e.g. Google or searching within a website, e.g. NICE Evidence) 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Web address 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Search terms used 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Date searched 		

4) Notes:

Appendix 1

Guide to sources of information

This is intended to help users of the Literature Search Protocols decide which information resources to search, in addition to providing information about access to these resources and assisting in the compilation of the search documentation. All information given below is believed to be correct at the time of publication; however the Literature Search Standards Group does not take responsibility for the accuracy of the information and recommends that individuals take steps to verify the information given.

To quickly identify whether you'll be able to access the resources listed, please look out for the labels listed below.

	Access available to NHS healthcare staff with an Athens password. To register for a password go to http://www.evidence.nhs.uk
	Free access within the UK through the Internet.
	Access available through subscription only. Check with your local Health Library.

	AMED (Allied and Complementary Medicine)	
Subject coverage: Complementary or alternative medicine: acupuncture, herbalism, reflexology, homeopathy, holistic treatment, iridology, hypnosis, traditional Chinese medicine, moxibustion, chiropractic, occupational therapy, meditation, osteopathy, physiotherapy, yoga, psychotherapy, rehabilitation, healing research, diet therapy, ayurvedic medicine, Alexander technique		
Type of sources covered: Journal articles, newspapers and books		
Years covered: 1985 -		Frequency of updates: Monthly
Producer: The British Library		Publisher / online host: NICE Evidence
Web address: www.evidence.nhs.uk		Password details: Athens password

	ASSIA (Applied Social Sciences Index & Abstracts)	
Subject coverage: Health, social services, sociology, politics, economics, race relations, communication and education.		
Type of sources covered: journal articles		
Years covered: 1987-		Frequency of updates: Monthly
Producer: Cambridge Scientific Abstracts		Publisher / online host: CSA Illumina / Proquest
Web address: www.csa.com/		Password details: Subscription required

	Biological Abstracts	
Subject coverage: Coverage of over 4,000 journal titles related to life sciences, with topics ranging from botany to microbiology to pharmacology.		
Type of sources covered: Journal articles		
Years covered: 1926 -		Frequency of updates: Not stated
Producer: Thomson Reuters		Publisher / online host: WoK, OVID or EBSCO
Web address: http://wok.mims.ac.uk		Password details: Subscription required

	BioMed Central	
Subject coverage: BioMed Central's portfolio of 257 journals includes general titles BMC Biology and BMC Medicine alongside specialist journals that focus on particular disciplines. All the research published by BioMed Central's journals is open access, but BioMed Central also provides access to various additional products and services that require a subscription.		
Type of sources covered: Open access on-line journals and review journals		
Years covered: 2003 -		Frequency of updates: Daily
Producer: BioMed Central		Name of publisher / online host: BioMed Central
Web address: www.biomedcentral.com		Password details: Mostly open access, but password required for some sources

Subscription		BIOSIS Citation Index & BIOSIS Previews	
Subject coverage: Coverage of nearly 5,000 journal titles related to life sciences. BIOSIS Previews combines journal content from Biological Abstracts with supplemental, non-journal content from Biological Abstracts /RRM® (Reports, Reviews, Meetings). Easily access literature in pre-clinical and experimental research, methods and instrumentation, animal studies, environmental and consumer issues, and other areas.			
Type of sources covered: Journal articles, meeting and conference reports, books			
Years covered: 1926 -		Frequency of updates: Not stated	
Producer: Thomson Reuters		Publisher / online host: Thomson Reuters	
Web address: http://wok.mims.ac.uk		Password details: Subscription required	

NHS		BNI (British Nursing Index)	
Subject coverage: Nursing and midwifery plus medical, health management and allied health fields relevant to UK nurses and midwives. Covers 250, mostly UK, nursing and midwifery journals, although a representative number of non-UK specialist journals are also covered.			
Type of sources covered: Journal articles			
Years covered: 1994 -		Frequency of updates: Monthly	
Producer: Proquest		Publisher / online host: NICE Evidence	
Web address: www.evidence.nhs.uk		Password details : Athens password required	

FREE		The Campbell Library of Systematic Reviews	
Subject coverage: Online access to the full text of systematic reviews undertaken by the Campbell Collaboration in the areas of education, crime and justice and social welfare. The Campbell Collaboration is an international research network based on voluntary co-operation between researchers from different backgrounds.			
Type of sources covered: Systematic reviews			
Years covered: 2003 -		Frequency of updates: Bi-monthly	
Producer: The Campbell Collaboration (C2)		Publisher / online host: The Campbell Collaboration	
Web address: www.campbellcollaboration.org		Password details: No password required	

FREE		CasesDatabase	
Subject coverage Continuously-updated, freely-accessible database of thousands of medical case reports from multiple publishers, including Springer, BMJ and PubMed Central. The database offers structured search and filtering by condition, symptom, intervention, pathogen, patient demographic and many other data fields, allowing fast identification of relevant case reports to support clinical practice and research.			
Type of sources covered: Medical case reports across clinical disciplines			
Years covered: Not specified		Frequency of updates: Not specified	
Producer: Springer Science + Business Media		Publisher / online host: Biomed Central	
Web address: http://casesdatabase.com/		Password details: No password required	

FREE		Centre for Reviews and Dissemination - DARE / HTA / EED	
Subject coverage <i>Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects:</i> Critical appraisals of systematic reviews published elsewhere. <i>HTA Database</i> – Health Technology Assessment reports. <i>NHS Economic Evaluation Database:</i> Assessments of economic evaluations of health care interventions.			
Type of sources covered: assessment of systematic reviews, evaluations of healthcare interventions			
Years covered: Not specified		Frequency of updates: Monthly	
Producer: Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD)		Publisher / online host: CRD	
Web address: www.crd.york.ac.uk/crdweb/ The CRD databases are available as part of the Cochrane Library and can also be searched via the TRIP Database. NICE Evidence Search, Virtual health Library, Health Systems Evidence, SUMSearch & Knowledge Network of Scotland retrieve summary records.		Password details: No password required	

NHS		CINAHL (Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature)	
Subject coverage: A comprehensive coverage of around 60 nursing sub- disciplines, (from addiction nursing to urology nursing), international in scope. The major allied health disciplines are covered (OT, Physiotherapy, Speech and Language therapy, Dietetics, Audiology).Some technology journals are also indexed as well as articles on consumer health, health promotion, and legal issues in health care.			
Type of sources covered, e.g. journals, dissertations : Primarily journal articles, with some books, book chapters, dissertations, and conference proceedings and other formats.			
Years covered: 1981 -		Frequency of updates: Weekly	
Producer: EBSCO		Publisher / online host: NICE Evidence	
Web address: www.evidence.nhs.uk		Password details: Athens password required	

Subscription		Clinical Evidence	
Subject coverage: Provides current evidence based reviews of the prevention and treatment for more than 500 conditions. Clinical conditions are selected for their relevance to clinical practice by section editors and contributors, in collaboration with primary care clinicians and patients. Consultation rates, morbidity and mortality data are also consulted to ensure that important conditions are included.			
Type of sources covered: Principally systematic reviews and RCTs, (observational studies and cohort studies where appropriate). The literature is searched using the Cochrane Library, Medline, Embase and occasionally other electronic databases.			
Years covered: N/A		Frequency of updates: Updating strategy for CE reviews is based on the content of the review, the number of new RCTs and systematic reviews being published on the topic each year, and the popularity of the review with readers.	
Producer: BMJ Publishing		Publisher / online host: BMJ Publishing	
Web address: www.clinicalevidence.bmj.com		Password details: Subscription required	

FREE		Clinical Knowledge Summaries (formerly Prodigy)	
Subject coverage: Clarity supplies the Prodigy evidence summaries to NICE Evidence; now known as Clinical Knowledge Summaries (CKS) – summaries of evidence & best practice guidance for over 300 primary care presentations.			
Type of sources covered: Systematic reviews, guidelines, RCTs, HTAs, evidence-based reviews & summaries, national policies, patient experiences and medicines.			
Years covered: Not specified		Frequency of updates: When significant new evidence emerges plus up to 10 new topics per year.	
Producer: Clarity Informatics		Publisher / online host: NICE Evidence	
Web address: http://cks.nice.org.uk/		Password details: No password required.	

FREE		ClinicalTrials.gov	
Subject coverage: A registry and summary results database of publicly and privately supported clinical studies conducted around the world for a wide range of diseases and conditions. Searchable by condition, drug, dietary supplement, sponsor/collaborator and location. (Including archive searchable by NCTid)			
Type of sources covered: Clinical trials			
Years covered: 2000 (results from 2008)		Frequency of updates: Weekly	
Producer: National Library of Medicine (US)		Publisher / online host: US National Institutes of Health	
Web address: www.clinicaltrials.gov		Password details: No password required.	

FREE		Cochrane Library	
Subject coverage: systematic reviews across all areas of healthcare, critical appraisals of systematic reviews, reports of controlled trials, trial methodology, health technology assessments and economic evaluations.			
Type of sources covered: Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR): full text of evidence based systematic reviews of health care interventions prepared by The Cochrane Collaboration. Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects: * critical appraisals of systematic reviews published elsewhere. Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL): the largest register of reports of controlled trials in the world. Cochrane Database of Methodology Reviews: the most specific collection of records for reports and empirical studies relating to the methods of systematic reviews and the evaluation of health and social care more generally. <i>This database is no longer updated</i> NHS Economic Evaluation Database: * assessments of economic evaluations of health care interventions. Health Technology Assessment Database: * details of completed and ongoing health technology assessments (studies of the medical, social, ethical and economic implications of healthcare interventions) from around the world.			
Years covered: 1880 (most reviews date from c1995 onwards)		Frequency of updates: CDSR is updated continually. CCTR updated monthly. DARE, CMR, HTA & EED are updated quarterly.	
Producer: Cochrane Collaboration		Publisher / online host: John Wiley & Sons Ltd	
Web address: www.thecochranelibrary.com or via http://www.evidence.nhs.uk/nhs-evidence-content/journals-and-databases *These resources can also be searched through the CRD web-site, this is updated more frequently.		Password details: No password required	

Subscription		DART Europe E-Thesis Portal	
Subject coverage: Open access repository of research projects on wide variety of subjects.			
Type of sources covered: Theses from European countries. Abstracts or full text dependant upon subscription.			
Years covered: Not stated		Frequency of updates: Not specified	
Producer: DART Europe		Publisher / online Host: DART Europe	
Web address: http://www.dart-europe.eu/basic-search.php		Password details: Subscription required – some free content	

Subscription		Dissertation and Theses database	
Subject coverage: All subjects			
Type of sources covered: Dissertations and theses			
Years covered: 1743-present (full text since 1997)		Frequency of updates: Not specified	
Producer: Proquest		Publisher / online Host: Proquest	
Web address: http://www.proquest.co.uk/en-UK/catalogs/databases/detail/pqdt.shtml		Password details: Subscription required – some free content	

Subscription		Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin (DTB)	
Subject coverage: Informed and unbiased assessments of drugs and other treatments (focusing on their relative efficacy, safety, convenience and cost), comments on how they should be used and assesses their place in overall management.			
Type of sources covered: published research, including reports on clinical trials and systematic reviews.			
Years covered: 1962 -		Frequency of updates: Monthly	
Producer: BMJ Group		Publisher / online host: BMJ Group	
Web address: www.dtb.org.uk		Password details: Subscription required for full text	

NHS		EMBASE	
Subject coverage: EMBASE covers the whole world's biomedical literature whilst concentrating in particular on European sources. The emphasis of the database is on the pharmacological effects of drugs and chemicals. Over 40% of current data is drug related. Embase covers about 7000 journals from approximately 70 countries in the following areas: drug research, pharmacology, pharmacy, pharmacoeconomics, pharmaceuticals, toxicology, human medicine (clinical and experimental), basic biological research, health policy and management, public, occupational and environmental health, drug dependence and abuse, psychiatry, forensic science and biomedical engineering.			
Type of sources covered: Journal articles			
Years covered: 1974 -		Frequency of updates: Weekly	
Producer: Elsevier B.V.		Publisher / online host: NICE Evidence	
Web address: www.evidence.nhs.uk		Password details: Athens password required	

FREE		ERIC (Education Resources Information Center)	
Subject coverage: Education and training, education research, preschool to adult and higher education			
Type of sources covered: Journal articles, books, theses, curricula, conference papers, standards and guidelines			
Years covered: 1966 -		Frequency of updates: Monthly	
Producer: Institute of Education Sciences USA		Publisher / online host: US Department of Education	
Web address: www.eric.ed.gov/		Password details: No password required	

FREE		ETHOS (Electronic Thesis Online Service)	
Subject coverage: All subjects			
Type of sources covered: More than 300,000 UK theses from participating institutions			
Years covered: 1600 -		Frequency of updates: Not stated	
Producer: British Library		Publisher / online host: British Library	
Web address: www.ethos.bl.uk		Password details: No password required. There is a charge for full-text.	

Subscription		Global Health	
Subject coverage: Communicable diseases (including HIV/AIDS), tropical diseases, (including field and experimental studies), parasitic diseases and parasitology - medical entomology, human nutrition (including food composition, food poisoning, effects of diet on health, nutritional disorders, and experimental aspects), community and public health (including chronic diseases, occupational health, health status indicators, the impact of agriculture on health, and cancer epidemiology, maternal and child health), medicinal and poisonous plants (including pharmacology, tissue culture, animal studies, plant composition, allergens, and toxins).			
Type of sources covered: Journal articles, books and reports, patents, theses, conference proceedings, More than 160,000 records are added each year, and over 95% of these records include an English abstract. Publications from over 100 countries in 50 languages are abstracted.			
Years covered: 1973 -(NB: Global Health Archive is available as a separate database and covers the years 1910-1983)		Frequency of updates: Weekly	
Producer: CABI		Publisher / online host: CABI	
Web address: www.cabdirect.org		Password details: Subscription required	

NHS		Health Business Elite	
Subject coverage: Health Business™ Elite contains full text content from more than 480 journals. Covers health care administration and other non-clinical aspects of health care institution management. Topics covered include hospital management, hospital administration, marketing, human resources, computer technology, facilities management and insurance.			
Type of sources covered: Journals			
Years covered: 1922-		Frequency of updates: Not stated	
Producer: EBSCO		Publisher / online host: NICE Evidence	
Web address: www.evidence.nhs.uk		Password details: Athens password required	

NHS		HMIC (Health Management Information Consortium)	
Subject coverage: The HMIC database is a compilation of data from the Department of Health's Library and Information Services and King's Fund Information and Library Service. DH Data covers health service policy, management and administration, with an emphasis on the NHS; the quality of health services including hospitals, nursing, primary care and public health; the planning, design, construction and maintenance of health service buildings; occupational health; control and regulation of medicines; medical equipment and supplies; and social care and personal social services. The King's Fund Information and Library Service database covers health management and services, social care, service development, and NHS organisation and administration, all with a UK focus. The Kings Fund Library is also available to search separately at http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/library/index.html			
Type of sources covered: Journal articles, books, reports, pamphlets, administrative circulars and other official publications. Full details, including sources of supply, of Department of Health publications.			
Years covered: DH data from 1983, Kings Fund from 1979		Frequency of updates: Bi-monthly	
Producer: DOH & KF		Publisher / online Host: NICE Evidence	
Web address: www.evidence.nhs.uk		Password details: Athens password required	

Subscription		Index to Theses	
Subject coverage: A comprehensive listing of theses with abstracts accepted for higher degrees by universities in UK and Ireland. Availability of full text for free download is indicated where possible.			
Type of sources covered: Theses			
Years covered: 1716 -		Frequency of updates: Not specified	
Producer: Expert Information Ltd.		Publisher / online host: Expert Information Ltd.	
Web address: www.theses.com		Password details: Subscription required	

Subscription		Maternity & Infant Care	
Subject coverage: 550 international English language journals being regularly scanned for references relating to the midwifery profession, pregnancy, labour, birth, postnatal care, and neonatal care extending into the first year of life.			
Type of sources covered: References to journal articles, book chapters, reports, pamphlets, news items, audio visual materials, conference proceedings and other 'grey literature'			
Years covered: 1971 -		Frequency of updates: Monthly	
Producer: Wolters Kluwer		Publisher / online host: Wolters Kluwer/OVID	
Web address: http://ovidsp.ovid.com		Password details: Subscription required	

FREE		Medicine Information (fmly National electronic Library for Medicines)	
Subject coverage: An online service that brings together a wide range of medicines and prescribing information for healthcare professionals involved or interested in commissioning, managing, prescribing, dispensing and administering drugs. Supports quality, safety and efficiency in the use of medicines.			
Types of resources covered: Includes guidance from Medicines and Prescribing Centre at NICE, prescribing information from the British National Formulary (BNF) , BNF for Children and the electronic Medicines Compendium , and Medicines Q&A resources produced by UKMi . Register to personalise for daily or weekly awareness service based on interest or speciality.			
Years covered: Variable		Frequency of updates: Dependent on resource	
Producer: NICE and UKMi		Publisher / online host: NICE Evidence	
Web address: www.evidence.nhs.uk		Access details: Free registration	

NHS		MEDLINE	
Subject coverage: Medline covers the whole field of medicine including dentistry, veterinary medicine and medical psychology, clinical medicine, anatomy, pharmacology, toxicology, genetics, microbiology, pathology, environmental health, occupational medicine, psychology, biomedical technology, health planning and administration, space life science, and many other related subject areas. In addition, the database includes 'In-Process' and 'In-Data-Review' records.			
Type of sources: Journal articles			
Years covered: 1946 -		Frequency of updates: daily	

Name of producer: National Library of Medicine (US)	Name of publisher / online host: NICE Evidence
Web address: www.evidence.nhs.uk	Password details: Athens password

FREE	metaRegister of Controlled Trials	
Subject coverage: An international database of ongoing (and some completed) controlled trials in all aspects of health care. It is possible to simultaneously search active registers from ClinicalTrials.gov and the International Standard Randomised Controlled Trial Number register (ISRCTN) and subsets such as the NIHR HTA programme, the Wellcome Trust as well as archived registers from specific organisations. There is a separate register for trials in mental health and links to a detailed list of other trial registers.		
Types of resources covered: Ongoing (and some completed) randomised controlled trials		
Years covered: The database was established in 1998		Frequency of updates: Variable for each register
Producer: Current Controlled Trials Ltd		Publisher / online host: Current Controlled Trials Ltd
Web address: www.controlled-trials.com/mrct/		Access details: No password required

Subscription	Micromedex	
Subject coverage: Evidence-based content on drugs, side-by-side drug comparisons, diseases, acute care, toxicology, alternative medicines		
Type of sources covered: The editorial team review, evaluate, and synthesize more than half a million articles annually to provide the best treatment recommendations and guidelines.		
Years covered: Not specified		Frequency of updates: Not specified
Producer: Truven Health Analytics		Publisher / online host: Truven Health Analytics
Web address: www.micromedex.com		Password details: Subscription required

FREE	NICE (National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence)	
Subject coverage: NICE is an independent organisation responsible for providing national guidance on promoting good health and preventing and treating ill health. Provides guidance on the use of health technologies (such as the use of new and existing medicines, treatments and procedures), clinical practice and public health within the NHS in England and Wales. These appraisals are based primarily on evaluations of efficacy and cost-effectiveness.		
Types of resources covered: Guidelines, pathways & quality standards		
Years covered: April 2001 to present		Frequency of updates: Published guidelines are reviewed every three years to decide if an update is needed.
Producer: NICE		Publisher / online host: NICE
Web address: www.nice.org.uk or www.evidence.nhs.uk		Access details: No password required.

FREE	NDLTD (Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations)	
Subject coverage: The NDLTD provides access to international electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) with multidisciplinary subject coverage from a wide range of member institutions.		
Type of sources covered: Theses and dissertations; international coverage.		
Years covered: Not specified		Frequency of updates: Not specified
Producer: Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD).		Publisher / online host: NDLTD Union Catalogue is a joint development by NDLTD and the online hosts, OCLC, Scirus & VTLS.
Web address: www.ndltd.org		Password details: No password required

FREE	NHS Networks Commissioning Zone	
Subject coverage: A portal for clinicians, managers and anyone else involved in commissioning bringing together in one place the best sources and resources, to save time and promote sharing of useful information.		
Type of sources covered: Any resources related to clinical commissioning including websites, networks, reports, journal articles, government documents and blogs.		
Years covered: 2010 -		Frequency of updates: Daily
Producer: NHS Networks		Publisher / online host: NHS Networks
Web address: http://www.networks.nhs.uk/commissioning		Password details: No password required

FREE	NICE Evidence	
Subject coverage: Current guidelines, reports and information in synthesised formats from evidence based medicine accredited websites with a UK focus. NHS Evidence includes patient information. Resources are categorised into 'Areas of Interest' – clinical, commissioning, drugs and technology, educational and learning tools, public health, social care; and 'Types of Information' – Care pathways, commissioning guides, drug/medicines management, drug best practice guidance, evidence summaries, systematic reviews.		
Types of resources covered: Links to a range of resources including systematic reviews, evidence-based summaries, guidelines, specialist collections, drug information and patient information. Each resource is hyperlinked to the full text which may be a website or a PDF, or another format.		
Years covered: Emphasis is on current information, from the most recent 3 years		Frequency of updates: Not stated
Producer: NICE		Publisher / online host: NICE Evidence
Web address: http://www.evidence.nhs.uk/		Access details: No password required.

FREE	NIHR Clinical Research Network Portfolio database	
Subject coverage: High quality clinical research studies that are eligible for support from the NIHR Clinical Research Network in England which is part of the UK Clinical Research Network Portfolio, comprising portfolios for England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Captures activity data and provides analysis tools to facilitate active management of current studies, and the feasibility of future studies run within the CRN.		
Type of sources covered: Clinical studies		
Years covered: Not stated		Frequency of updates: Not stated
Producer: NHS National Institute for Health Research		Publisher / online host: NHS National Institute for Health Research
Web address: http://public.ukcrn.org.uk/search/		Password details: No password required

FREE	NIHR Journals Library	
Subject coverage: Comprises a suite of five open access journals providing an important and permanent archive of research funded by the National Institute for Health Research. Reports published in the NIHR Journals Library provide a full account of the research project, including methods and a full description of the results. The full reports complement shorter articles submitted for publication in other peer-review journals which the NIHR actively encourages researchers to do as part of their dissemination strategy.		
Type of sources covered: Covers the journals Effectiveness and Mechanism Evaluation, Health Services and Delivery Research, Health Technology Assessment, Programme Grants for Applied Research, Public Health Research		
Years covered: From 1997 (Health Technology Assessments)		Frequency of updates: Not stated
Producer: NHS National Institute for Health Research		Publisher / online host: NHS National Institute for Health Research
Web address: http://www.journalslibrary.nihr.ac.uk/		Password details: No password required

FREE	Open Grey (System for Information on Grey Literature in Europe)	
Subject coverage: A multidisciplinary European database covering science, technology, biomedical sciences, economics, social sciences and humanities		
Types of resources covered: Technical or research reports, doctoral dissertations, conference papers, official publications, and other types of grey literature. Includes conference preprints of GreyNet International.		
Years covered: 1997 -		Frequency of updates: Not stated
Producer: Institut de l'Information Scientifique et Technique		Publisher / online host: Institut de l'Information Scientifique et Technique
Web address: http://www.opengrey.eu/		Access details: No password required

FREE	OTseeker	
Subject coverage: Database that contains abstracts of systematic reviews and randomised controlled trials relevant to occupational therapy.		
Types of resources covered: Randomised controlled trials, systematic reviews, includes links to other evidence based resources		

Years covered: 2002 -	Frequency of updates: New trials are added approx. every month
Producer: collaboration between occupational therapists from University of Queensland and University of Western Sydney.	Publisher / online host: OTseeker
Web address: http://www.otseeker.com/	Access details: No password required

FREE	
Pedro (Physiotherapy Evidence Database)	
Subject coverage: Database of over 24,000 randomised trials, systematic reviews and clinical practice guidelines in physiotherapy.	
Types of resources covered: Randomised controlled trials, systematic reviews and clinical guideline.	
Years covered: 1929 -	Frequency of updates: Monthly
Producer: Centre for Evidence-Based Physiotherapy	Publisher / online host: Centre for Evidence-Based Physiotherapy
Web address: www.pedro.org.au/	Access details: No password required

NHS	
Prospero (International Prospective Register of Systematic Reviews)	
Subject coverage: PROSPERO currently includes systematic reviews of the effects of interventions and strategies to prevent, diagnose, treat, and monitor health conditions, for which there is a health related outcome. The long-term aim is to include details of all ongoing systematic reviews that have a health related outcome in the broadest sense (for example, reviews of risk factors and genetic associations). Literature reviews, and systematic reviews simply looking at the reporting of and/or use of outcomes in research would not be included.	
Type of sources covered: Systematic reviews	
Years covered: Database began in 2011	Frequency of updates: Not specified
Producer: Centre for Reviews and Dissemination	Publisher / online host: Centre for Reviews and Dissemination
Web address: http://www.crd.york.ac.uk/PROSPERO/prospero.asp	Password details: Athens password required

NHS	
PsycINFO (Psychological Abstracts)	
Subject coverage: International psychological literature, psychology practice and research, and psychological aspects of medicine, psychiatry, nursing and pharmacology, drug and behavioural therapy, treatment of disease, drug addiction, developmental psychology, educational psychology, experimental human and animal psychology, personality, psychological disorders, physiological psychology and neuroscience, psychometrics, social psychology, sports psychology.	
Type of sources covered: Journal articles, book chapters, dissertations	
Years covered: 1806 -	Frequency of updates: Weekly
Producer: American Psychological Association	Publisher / online host: NICE Evidence
Web address: www.evidence.nhs.uk	Password details: Athens password required

FREE	
PubMed	
Subject coverage: Clinical medicine, biomedical sciences, nursing, dentistry, preclinical sciences, health care systems	
Type of sources covered: PubMed comprises over 22 million citations for biomedical literature from MEDLINE, life science journals and some out-of-scope journal articles. Pubmed also includes Pre-Medline which is an in-process database for MEDLINE, providing basic information and abstracts before a record is indexed with MeSH heading(s) and added to MEDLINE. It also includes some articles published ahead of print.	
Years covered: 1946 -	Frequency of updates: daily
Producer: National Library of Medicine (US)	Publisher / online host: National Library of Medicine
Web address: www.pubmed.gov or http://ukpmc.ac.uk	Password details: No password required

FREE	
QIPP (Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention)	
Subject coverage: Improvements in quality and productivity across the NHS and social care which can be used to inform local initiatives to address the quality and productivity challenge.	
Types of resources covered: Case studies: examples of how health and social care staff are improving quality and productivity across the NHS and social care. Case studies are evaluated based on quality improvements, savings, evidence and implementation and are peer reviewed.	

Systematic reviews: Cochrane quality and productivity topics which are drawn from systematic reviews by the Cochrane Collaboration that may help inform local initiatives address the quality and productivity challenge.	
Years covered: 2010 -	Frequency of updates: Not stated
Producer: NICE	Publisher / online host: NICE Evidence
Web address: www.evidence.nhs.uk/qipp	Access details: no password required

Subscription Science Citation Index Expanded	
Subject coverage: Agriculture, Computer science, Engineering, Mathematics, Medicine, Science (pure and applied)	
Type of sources covered: articles, reports, papers, discussions, editorials, notes, reviews	
Years covered: 1970 -	Frequency of updates: weekly
Producer: Thomson Reuters	Publisher / online host: Thomson Reuters
Web address: http://wok.mimas.ac.uk	Password details: Subscription required

FREE Scirus	
Subject coverage: Scientific, scholarly, technical and medical data on the Web.	
Types of resources covered: With over 410 million scientific items indexed at last count, the search engine, Scirus allows researchers to search for not only journal content but also scientists' homepages, courseware, pre-print server material, patents and institutional repository and website information.	
Years covered: N/A	Frequency of updates: daily
Producer: Elsevier	Publisher / online host: N/A
Web address: http://www.scirus.com/	Access details: no password required

Subscription SciVerse Scopus	
Subject coverage: Covers more than 20,500 journals from the scientific, technical, medical, social sciences and arts and humanities. It contains over 49 million records.	
Type of sources covered: journals, conference proceedings, patents (an initiative to add some 75,000 book titles commenced in 2013). Meeting abstracts are not covered by Scopus.	
Years covered: 1823 -	Frequency of updates: Daily
Producer: Elsevier	Publisher / online host: Elsevier
Web address: http://www.elsevier.com/online-tools/scopus	Password details: Subscription required

FREE Social Care Online	
Subject coverage: All aspects of social care	
Types of resources covered: Journal articles, websites, research reviews, legislation and government documents, and service user knowledge.	
Years covered: 1960s onwards	Frequency of updates: daily
Producer: Social Care Institute for Excellence	Publisher / online host: Social Care Institute for Excellence
Web address: www.scie-socialcareonline.org.uk/	Access details: no password required

Subscription Social Policy and Practice	
Subject coverage: Contains over 200,000 records related to evidence-based social policy, public health, social services and mental and community health. Social Policy and Practice brings together data from 4 databases: AgeInfo – Centre for Policy on Ageing ChildData – National Children's Bureau Planex – IDOX Information Service Social Care Online – Social Care Institute for Excellence	
Type of sources covered: Books, reports, journal articles, newspaper articles, law reports, editorials, features, opinion pieces and full text of Children & Society (the NCB's academic journal).	
Years covered: 1981 -	Frequency of updates: Quarterly
Producer: Social Care Institute for Excellence	Publisher / online host: OVID
Web address: http://ovidsp.ovid.com	Password details: Subscription required

Subscription		Social Sciences Citation Index	
Subject coverage: Provides access to the bibliographic and citation information from approximately 2500 social sciences journals across 50 disciplines.			
Type of sources covered: Journal articles			
Years covered: 1970-		Frequency of updates: weekly	
Producer: Thomson Reuters		Publisher / online host: Thomson Reuters	
Web address: http://wok.mimas.ac.uk		Password details: Subscription required	

FREE		SumSearch2	
Subject coverage: SUMSearch simultaneously searches for original studies, systematic reviews, and practice guidelines from multiple sources.			
Type of sources covered: Journal articles, systematic reviews and guidelines from PubMed, DARE and National Guidelines Clearinghouse.			
Years covered: Varies according to resource covered		Frequency of updates: Continuously	
Producer: University of Kansas		Publisher / online host: University of Kansas	
Web address: http://sumsearch.org/		Password details: No password required	

FREE		TOXNET (Toxicology Data Network)	
Subject coverage: A group of databases covering chemicals and drugs, diseases and the environment, environmental health, occupational safety and health, poisoning, risk assessment and regulations, and toxicology.			
Type of sources covered: Specific chemicals, mixtures, and products, chemical nomenclature, unknown chemical, special toxic effects of chemicals in humans and/or animals, citations from the scientific literature.			
Years covered: 1965 -		Frequency of updates: Weekly	
Producer: National Library of Medicine (US)		Publisher / online host: NLM	
Web address: http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/		Password details: No password required	

FREE		TRIP Database	
Subject coverage: TRIP is a clinical search engine designed to allow users to quickly and easily find and use high-quality research evidence to support their practice and/or/care..			
Type of sources covered: Evidence-based synopses, systematic reviews, international clinical guidelines, medical images, eTextbooks, patient information leaflets, and peer-reviewed journals.			
Years covered: Online since 1997		Frequency of updates: Pubmed content added every 2 weeks; content added manually (mostly the secondary evidence) added once per month (typically around the middle of the month).	
Producer: TRIP Database Ltd		Publisher / online host: TRIP Database Ltd	
Web address: www.tripdatabase.com		Password details: No password required. Registering allows user to keep useful record of activity & receive regular updates on topics of interest. Also keeps database producers UpToDate with Trip usage to better serve information needs.	

FREE		UK Database of Uncertainties about the Effects of Treatments (DUETs)	
Subject coverage: The UK Database of Uncertainties about the Effects of Treatments (UK DUETs) publishes treatment uncertainties from patients, carers, clinicians, and from research recommendations, covering a wide variety of health problems.			
Type of sources covered:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> patients', carers' and clinicians' questions about the effects of treatment (not updated at present) research recommendations in reports of systematic reviews of existing research and in clinical guidelines ongoing research studies 			
Years covered: N/A		Frequency of updates: Monthly	
Producer: NICE		Publisher / online host: NICE Evidence	
Web address: http://www.library.nhs.uk/duets/		Password details: No password required	

FREE		WHO Regional databases	
Subject coverage: WHO Regional health and medical databases give bibliographical information about medical and health material published locally in countries outside the major industrialised areas, much of which is not indexed in MEDLINE and other major databases. There are five WHO regional databases: 1) African Index Medicus (AIM) - http://indexmedicus.afro.who.int/ 2) Index Medicus for the Eastern Mediterranean Region (IMEMR) - http://www.emro.who.int/HIS/VHSL/Index.htm 3) Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information (LILACS) - http://lilacs.bvsalud.org/en/ 4) Index Medicus for South-East Asia Region (IMSEAR) - http://imsear.hellis.org/ 5) Western Pacific Region Index Medicus (WPRIM) - http://www.wprim.org/			
Type of sources covered: Journal articles, reports			
Years covered: Varies between databases		Frequency of updates: Not specified	
Producer / online host: World Health Organisation (WHO)		Publisher / online host: Published under the auspices of WHO Regional Offices.	
Web address: See above		Password details: No password required	

Subscription		Zetoc (electronic table of contents)	
Subject coverage: Provides access to the table of contents for over 20,000 journals and over 2 million conference papers and reports received by the British Library.			
Type of sources covered: Journal articles (availability of abstracts dependent on institution subscription arrangements) & conference proceedings.			
Years covered: 1993 -		Frequency of updates: Daily	
Producer: British Library		Publisher / online host: MIMAS	
Web address: http://zetoc.mimas.ac.uk		Password details: Athens password required – choose Eduserv Athens as the organisation	

Appendix 2

Additional subject specific databases

Database	Web address	Subs required
Abstracts on Hygiene and Communicable Disease	http://www.cabi.org/default.aspx?site=170&page=1016&pid=70	Yes
Age Info	http://www.cpa.org.uk/ageinfo/ageinfo2.html	Yes
Age Line	http://www.ebscohost.com/public/ageline	Yes
Alcohol and Alcohol Problems Science Database	http://etoh.niaaa.nih.gov/	
Alcohol Studies Database	http://www2.scc.rutgers.edu/alcohol_studies/alcohol/advancedSearch.php	No
Autism Data	http://www.autism.org.uk/autismdata	No
Bibliomap (EPPI Centre Database of Health Promotion Research)	http://eppi.ioe.ac.uk/webdatabases/Intro.aspx?ID=7	No
Cancer Research Clinical Trials	http://cancerhelp.cancerresearchuk.org/trials/	No
DopHer (EPPI Centre Database of Promoting Health Effectiveness Reviews)	http://eppi.ioe.ac.uk/webdatabases/Intro.aspx?ID=2	No
Emerald Management First	http://www.emeraldinsight.com/products/first/index.htm	Yes
Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism Case Reports	https://www.edmcasereports.com/	No
Genetics Abstracts	http://www.csa.com/factsheets/genetics-set-c.php	Yes
Global Health Data Exchange	http://ghdx.healthmetricsandevaluation.org/	No
Health and Psychosocial Instruments Abstracts	http://www.ovid.com/site/catalog/DataBase/866.jsp	Yes
Health and Safety Science Abstracts	http://www.csa.com/factsheets/health-safety-set-c.php	Yes
Health Communication Materials Database	http://www.m-mc.org/mmc_search.php	No
Health Systems Evidence (governance, finance and delivery arrangements)	http://www.mcmasterhealthforum.org/healthsystemsevidence-en	No, but registration with site is required
HIV AIDS Clinical Trials	http://www.aidsinfo.nih.gov/ClinicalTrials/Default.aspx	No
International Bibliography of the Social Sciences	http://www.proquest.co.uk/en-UK/catalogs/databases/detail/ibss-set-c.shtml	Yes
International Pharmaceutical Abstracts	http://www.csa.com/factsheets/ipa-set-c.php	Yes
MANTIS (Manual, Alternative and Natural Therapy Index System)	http://www.chiroaccess.com/Start.aspx	Yes
Medi-Span (prescription drugs and interactions)	http://www.medispan.com/	Yes
Nutrition Abstracts and Reviews	http://www.cabi.org/default.aspx?site=170&page=1016&pid=79	Yes

Obesity+	http://plus.mcmaster.ca/Obesity/Default.aspx?Page=1	No, but registration with site is required
PILOTS (Traumatic Stress)	http://www.ptsd.va.gov/professional/pilots-database/pilots-db.asp	No
Popline (Reproductive Health)	http://www.popline.org/	No
PROQUALID (Patient reported outcome and Quality of Life Instruments Database)	http://www.proqolid.org/	No, but sub required for advanced access
PsycBITE (Acquired brain injury rehabilitation)	http://www.psycbite.com/	No
REHABDATA	http://www.naric.com/?q=en/SearchRehabdata	No
Risk abstracts	http://www.csa.com/factsheets/risk-set-c.php	Yes
Safety Lit (Injury Prevention)	http://safetylit.org/	No
Social Services Abstracts	http://www.csa.com/factsheets/ssa-set-c.php	Yes
Social Work Abstracts	http://www.ovid.com/site/catalog/DataBase/150.jsp	Yes
Sociological Abstracts	http://www.csa.com/factsheets/socioabs-set-c.php	Yes
SpeechBITE	http://www.speechbite.com/	No
SportsDISCUS	http://www.ebscohost.com/academic/sportdiscus-with-full-text	Yes
Transplant Library	http://www.ovid.com/site/catalog/DataBase/4633.jsp?top=2&mid=3&bottom=7&subsection=10	Yes
TRoPHI (Trials Register of Promoting Health Interventions)	http://eppi.ioe.ac.uk/webdatabases/Intro.aspx?ID=5	No
Tropical Diseases Bulletin	http://www.cabi.org/default.aspx?site=170&page=1016&pid=2201	Yes
Violence and Abuse Abstracts	http://www.ebscohost.com/government/violence-abuse-abstracts	Yes
Virology and AIDS Abstracts	http://www.csa.com/factsheets/virology-set-c.php	Yes

Appendix 3

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