

Searching Healthcare Databases via Ovid

About healthcare databases available via Ovid

You have access to a range of bibliographic databases for searching the journal literature, and many of these are available via the Ovid interface, including:

- [AMED](#) (Allied and Complementary Medicine)
- [EMBASE](#) (Drugs and pharmacology, other aspects of human medicine)
- [EMCARE](#) (Nursing and allied health)
- [HMIC](#) (Health Management Information Consortium)
- [Medline](#) (General medical database)
- [Social Policy and Practice](#)

All of these are available to search by all NHS staff and students, and require an NHS OpenAthens account to login.

Other databases are available, and more details can be found on our Outline of Healthcare Databases guide, or on our [website](#).

Getting onto the databases

Visit the library website at www.library.sath.nhs.uk and click on the Search link at the top, and select '[Articles](#)'. Scroll down to the 'Advanced searching for articles' section and follow the links to your chosen database under the Ovid EBSCO Interface.

Alternatively, select your chosen database from the A-Z of Knowledge Resources at the bottom of the page.

Enter your NHS OpenAthens account details and this will then take you to the advanced search screen.

Starting your search

On the search screen, enter your search terms the search box.

If your search consists of two or more distinct concepts (e.g. is St. John's Wort effective in reducing depression as compared to fluoxetine?) it is best to search for each concept separately, and then combine the searches at the end.

Basic Search | Find Citation | Search Tools | Search Fields | **Advanced Search** | Multi-Field Search

1 Resource selected | [Hide](#) | [Change](#)

Ovid MEDLINE(R) ALL 1946 to February 02, 2022

Enter keyword or phrase **Keyword** Author Title Journal
 (* or \$ for truncation)

[Limits](#) (expand) Include Multimedia Map Term to Subject Heading

By default, the 'Map Term to Subject Headings' box is ticked (for those databases that have a thesaurus), and this will allow you to check for any relevant thesaurus terms. To use the subject headings, you need to use one term at a time.

Click 'Search' to begin your search.

Your term mapped to the following Subject Headings:

Click on a subject heading to view more general and more specific terms within the tree.
 See term mapped to thesaurus term

Include All Subheadings
 Combine with:

Select	Subject Heading	Explode	Focus	Scope
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hypericum	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	st johns wort.mp. search as Keyword			

If there is a suitable subject heading available, this may already be selected. If there are several possible subject headings, you may need to select one or more of them.

Explode checkbox

The thesaurus terms are arranged in hierarchical trees. 'Exploding' a search means that you also search for any narrower terms that appear under your term in its tree. For example, if you do a search for 'Depressive disorder' in Medline, topics such as 'Depression, Postpartum' and 'Seasonal Affective Disorder' are narrower topics, and by ticking 'Explode' for 'Depressive Disorder' all of these topics are covered in your search.

If the 'Explode' checkbox is available, you can click the subject heading itself to see what the narrower or broader terms are.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Mood Disorders	15330	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	i
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Depressive Disorder	74527	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	Depression, Postpartum	6585	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	Depressive Disorder, Major	34565	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	Depressive Disorder, Treatment-Resistant	1786	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dysthymic Disorder	1163	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	Premenstrual Dysphoric Disorder	184	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	Seasonal Affective Disorder	1247	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	i

In most cases, it is worth using 'Explode' for any terms that are relevant.

Major Concept checkbox

This allows you to restrict your search to those articles where the topic you have chosen is a major topic of the article. This should limit your search to more relevant articles, but may in the process remove some articles of interest, so use carefully.

Search as Keyword

Even if a suitable subject heading was found, you may wish to search for your term as a keyword (free-text searching). To do this, simply tick the box next to 'search as Keyword' in addition to any chosen subject heading(s).

Select	Subject Heading
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hypericum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	st johns wort.mp. <i>search as Keyword</i>

Subheadings

If you are searching using a single subject term (and have not selected the *search as keyword box*), when you click 'Continue' you will be presented with the option to select one or more subheadings (for example, 'adverse effects' or 'diet therapy').

The subheadings are taken from a restricted list, and differ depending on the topic, so none of them may be appropriate. They should be treated with caution - it is better not to use them unless a subheading directly matches your requirements.

Subheadings for: **Hypericum**

Combine with:

Include All Subheadings (2371)

-- or choose one or more of these subheadings --

/ae - Adverse Effects (243)

/ah - Anatomy & Histology (15)

/ch - Chemistry (1040)

/cl - Classification (27)

/me - Metabolism (183)

/mi - Microbiology (20)

/ps - Parasitology (1)

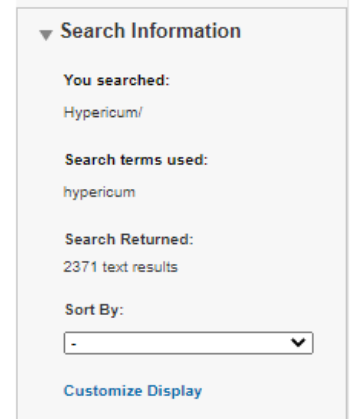
/ph - Physiology (40)

Each subheading shows the number of references that it would retrieve.

If you don't want to use subheadings, you can either leave them all blank, or click on 'Include all subheadings'.

Click 'Continue' when ready.

This will then run the search for you, and show you the first 10 references below. A box on the left shows how many references there are in total.



▼ Search Information

You searched:
Hypericum/

Search terms used:
hypericum

Search Returned:
2371 text results

Sort By:
-

[Customize Display](#)

A search using the advanced search screen will search for the words or phrase that appear in the title, abstract and subject headings of references, but you can search specific fields if you wish.

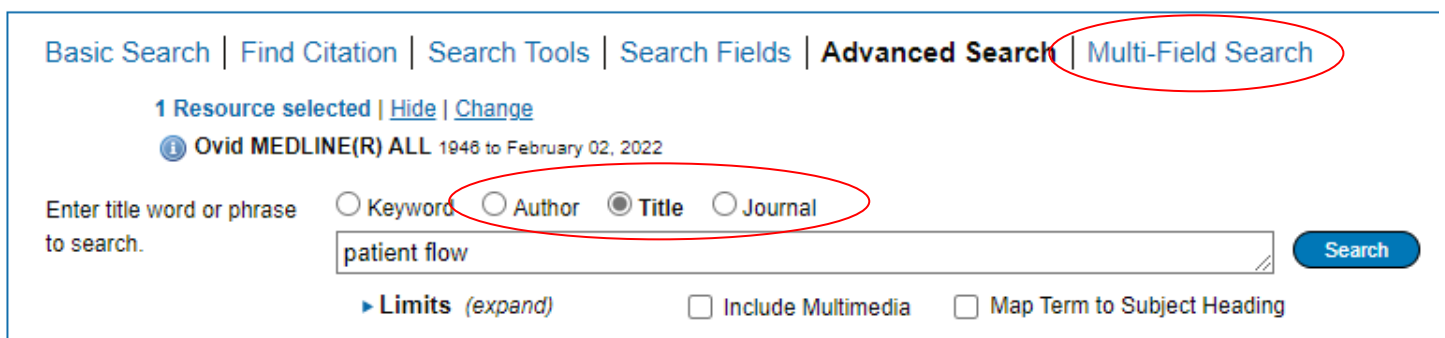
Searching without using the subject headings (free-text searching)

You may wish to bypass the subject headings and simply search for words or a phrase. To do this, you can untick the 'Map Term to Subject Headings' box.

Searching in specific fields

You can use the options above the search box to search for an author, title, or journal name only.

You can also click on 'Multi-Field Search' to see all other available fields you can search in the database you are using.



Basic Search | Find Citation | Search Tools | Search Fields | **Advanced Search** | Multi-Field Search

1 Resource selected | [Hide](#) | [Change](#)

i Ovid MEDLINE(R) ALL 1946 to February 02, 2022

Enter title word or phrase to search. Keyword Author Title Journal

patient flow

► Limits (expand) Include Multimedia Map Term to Subject Heading

Phrase searching

Unlike most other database interfaces, Ovid treats all search terms as phrases. For example, if you type *patient flow*, Ovid will search for items that have those words next to each other and in that order.

If you want to search for both words, but not necessarily next to each other, you could use the Boolean 'and', for example *patient and flow* or you could use a proximity operator (see below)

Words near each other (proximity searching)

When searching by keyword, by default terms are treated as a phrase.

You can specify if you'd like words to be near each other by using the ADJ operator followed by the number of words within, for example ADJ3 for within three words (note: ADJ does not need to be in capitals).

For example, emergency ADJ5 care would find phrases such as 'care in the emergency department', 'emergency care', 'emergency medical care' and so on. The words can be in any order.

Truncation

When using free-text searching, you can use the truncation symbol (* or \$) to broaden your search to variations of a term. For example, 'school*' will find school, schooling, schooled etc.

Combining searches

You can do separate searches and combine them together at any stage, and you can combine searches using subject headings, and searches using free-text.

To see your search history and combine searches, click the 'Search History' link at the top of the page.

<input type="checkbox"/>	# ▲	Searches
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1	Hypericum/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2	Fluoxetine/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3	exp Depressive Disorder/ or Depression/
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	1 and 2 and 3

Save Remove Combine with: AND OR

Select the searches you wish to combine, and then click 'AND' or 'OR' as appropriate.

The search history shows the last four searches – to see more, click the 'Expand' link on the right-hand side.

Grouping search terms

You can also group search terms and use Boolean operators in the search box. For example, you could search:

Basic Search | Find Citation | Search Tools | Search Fields | **Advanced Search** | Multi-Field Search

1 Resource selected | Hide | Change

Ovid MEDLINE(R) ALL 1946 to February 02, 2022

Enter keyword or phrase (* or \$ for truncation) Keyword Author Title Journal

(emergency or urgent) and (care or department)

► Limits (expand) Include Multimedia Map Term to S

This would search for articles that contain any word in the first group AND any word in the second group, so could include 'urgent care', 'emergency medical care', 'department of emergency medicine' etc.

It is not essential to use capital letters for Boolean operators.

When using Boolean operators in the search box, you will not be offered suggested subject terms.

Refining your search using the search filters

You may wish to limit your search in various ways, such as to documents in English only, or documents that relate to children only.

1 Resource selected | [Hide](#) | [Change](#)
Ovid MEDLINE(R) ALL 1946 to February 04, 2022

Enter keyword or phrase (* or \$ for truncation) Keyword Author Title Journal
fluoxetine

▼ Limits (close) Include Multimedia Map Term to Subject Heading

<input type="checkbox"/> Abstracts	<input type="checkbox"/> Structured Abstracts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> English Language
<input type="checkbox"/> No Language Specified	<input type="checkbox"/> Full Text	<input type="checkbox"/> Review Articles
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Humans	<input type="checkbox"/> Core Clinical Journals (AIM)	<input type="checkbox"/> Latest Update
<input type="checkbox"/> Pharmacologic Actions	<input type="checkbox"/> COVID-19	

Publication Year

You can apply limits prior to running a search by opening up the 'Limits' menu below the search box.

Note: When choosing a publication year limit range, you need to put dates in both boxes.

This gives you some limits, but for more options, click 'Additional Limits' where you can access filters such as age groups or publication types.

You can also apply some limits (such as date ranges) to your current search by using the Filter box at the left.

▼ Filter By

Selected Only (0)

▼ Years

- All Years
- Current year
-
- Past 5 years
- ▶ Specific Year Range

▶ Subject

▶ Author

▶ Journal

▶ Publication Type

You can also apply limits to a previous search by typing the search line number in the search box (open the search history to see your previous search lines), selecting your limits and clicking 'Search'.

Keyword
 Author
 Title
 Journal

4

Limits (close)
 Include Multimedia
 Map Term to Subject Heading

Abstracts
 Structured Abstracts
 English Language
 No Language Specified
 Full Text
 Review Articles
 Humans
 Core Clinical Journals (AIM)
 Latest Update
 Pharmacologic Actions
 COVID-19

Publication Year: 2012 - 2022

Displaying the results

Normally, the results of the last search will be displayed below the search box. If you wish to see the results of a previous search, open your search history and click 'Display results'.

10 references per page are displayed in date order (latest first). To change the sort order, select one of the options under 'Sort by' in the Search Information panel to the right.

The screenshot shows the search results interface. On the left is the 'Search Information' panel. It displays: 'You searched: limit 8 to humans', 'Search terms used: fluoxetine', 'Search Returned: 5565 text results', and a 'Sort By:' dropdown menu which is circled in red. The dropdown menu is open, showing options like Database, Authors, Country of Publication, Entry Date, etc. On the right is the main results area. At the top, there are controls for 'All', 'Range', 'Clear', and a '10 Per Page' dropdown menu which is also circled in red. Below these are two search results. The first result is 'Novel treatments in autism spectrum disorder. [Review]' by Baribeau D, Vorstman J, Anagnostou E, published in *Current Opinion in Psychiatry*. The second result is 'Exercise rather than fluoxetine promotes oligodendrocyte differentiation and...' by Tang J, Liang X, Dou Y, et al.

To change the number of references per page, use the dropdown at the top of the list.

To show abstracts, click the box with three lines at the top of the list for 'Abstract view'

This close-up screenshot shows the view controls at the top of the search results. It includes three icons: a single line, a double line, and a triple line. The triple line icon is circled in red. To its right is a '10 Per Page' dropdown menu, a '1' input field, and a 'Go' button. A tooltip labeled 'Abstract View' is shown below the triple line icon.

Viewing Full-text Articles

On the right of each article is a link to 'Get Full Text'. Clicking this will open a new window (you may need to allow pop-ups) and the LibKey system will check to see if full-text is available. If it is, it should display the full-text, and if not it will provide a link to our article request form.


3. [Helping Afghans find a home away from home](#) [Abstract Reference](#)
[Complete Reference](#)


Heath, Lucie

Inside Housing. 38(9), 4. Sep 2021

[Journal Article]

AN: TCW382578




► Abstract  Cite  + My Projects  + Annotate

Printing, saving or e-mailing results

If you wish to select references for printing or saving, tick the box to the left of the reference.

 Print  Email  Export  + My Projects  Keep Selected

All Clear  10 Per Page Go

1. [Novel treatments in autism spectrum disorder. \[Review\]](#)

Baribeau D, Vorstman J, Anagnostou E

Current Opinion in Psychiatry. 35(2):101-110, 2022 03 01.



[Journal Article. Research Support, Non-U.S. Gov't. Review]

UI: 35044968

Authors Full Name
Baribeau, Danielle, Vorstman, Jacob, Anagnostou, Evdokia





To save selected references, click on 'Keep Selected' before you move to the next page of results.

You'll see your chosen references are placed in a new set.

<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Fluoxetine/	9580	Advanced	Display Results More ▼	
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	from 1 keep 1-2	2	Advanced	Display Results More ▼	

To print, email or export references from a set, click 'Display Results' for the set of selected references.

Choose print, email or export from the top of the list.

 Print  Email  Export  + My Projects

Records can be exported directly to reference manager packages such as RefWorks, or can be downloaded as RIS files for import into other packages.

If you want to save references for the next time you login, or to combine results from multiple databases, you will need to create a personal account in Ovid.

To save references to a saved folder, click on the '+My Projects' icon. You will then be asked to login, or to create a personal account if you haven't already done so. You can create a new project or add references to one you previously created.


You can access projects from the 'My Workspace' on the top menu.

Changing database and re-running searches

To change databases in Ovid, click the 'Change' link near the database name.

[Basic Search](#) | [Find Citation](#) | [Search Tools](#) | [Search F](#)

1 Resource selected | [Hide](#) | [Change](#)

 Ovid MEDLINE(R) ALL 1946 to February 04, 2022

Enter keyword or phrase
(* or \$ for truncation)

Keyword Author Title C

► [Limits](#) *(expand)*

Tick the database you want to use, and either click 'OK' to simply change to that database and being a new search, or click 'Run search' to attempt to run the search in the new database.

Re-running a search may not always work as different database use different subject headings, different field names and different search filters.

Getting further help and training

We're here to help you make effective use of the knowledge base of healthcare, and to do this we provide help and assistance in using databases for evidence searching.

We can provide individual training and support by phone, email, in the library, via MS Teams, or at your place of work. Visit our website library.sath.nhs.uk for more information.