



Cochrane Library Quick Start Guide

Introduction

The Cochrane Library brings together 7 databases covering many aspects of evidence based health care, including systematic reviews, economic evaluation and research methodology. For further information on the contents of the Cochrane Library see <http://www.update-software.com/cochrane/content.htm>.

Help

You can get online help on using the Cochrane Library by clicking on the **Help** button in the menu at the top of the page. If you encounter any problems using the Cochrane please contact the library enquiries service on +44 (0)20 7862 8478 (between 09.00 and 17.00 GMT), by email on external@shl.lon.ac.uk or by the enquiries form at <http://www.external.shl.lon.ac.uk/help/enquiries/index.asp>.



Logging On and Off

Go to www.update-software.com/cochrane/athenslogin/. Type in your Athens username and password and click the **Login** button. Click on the continue button in the next page that loads to enter the Cochrane Library. The Cochrane Library will load in a new browser window.



To **Log Off**, always click on the Exit button from the main menu at the top of the page, and then click on the **Close Window** button in the next page or you will get an error message if you attempt to login again.

Searching the Cochrane Library

Enter your search terms in the Search Phrase box near the top of the left pane and click on the **Go** button:

Search phrase:
Refine your search

The Cochrane Library supports Boolean searching – see our guide to advanced search techniques at http://external.uull.ac.uk/help/databases/advanced_searching.asp if you are not familiar with this powerful method of searching.



Clear a Search

To clear your search at any time, click on the Clear button in the menu bar.



Searching using MeSH

MeSH terms are subject headings (a set of words and phrases used to describe articles in the database) from the MeSH (Medical Subject Headings) thesaurus from the US National Library of Medicine. Using MeSH headings may help if you are not sure what search terms to use for your search. MeSH subject headings are not used in all the databases in The Cochrane Library. MeSH subject headings are not used in:



- Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews Protocols
- Cochrane Database of Methodology Reviews databases
- Cochrane Methodology Register databases.
- In the CENTRAL database, MeSH indexing is only included in the records taken from MEDLINE.

For information on searching using MeSH, click on the MeSH button on the main menu at the top of the page.

Viewing Search Results

Databases which have found records for your search terms are shown in blue whilst the titles of those databases which have no results are shown in grey. The number of records found, is shown in brackets at the end of each database title. The second figure in the brackets is the total number of documents in each database. Click on a database name to open a list showing the titles of documents located by the search.

Browsing the Cochrane Library

Click on a database name without entering a search term in the Search Phrase box, or click on the Clear button if you have already performed a search. An alphabetical list of the documents in that database will be displayed. To navigate through the document titles use the arrows at the top and bottom of the document list.

Probably more useful is browsing by topic, by clicking on the Help button from the menu at the top of the page. Each time you click on a topic a set of narrower terms will be revealed until a list of records is displayed.



Printing documents

To print any document displayed in the right pane click the "Printer friendly document" link at the top of the document. This will open the document in a new browser window. You can then use your browser's print options to print that document.

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