

Advanced Literature Searching Using EBSCO



A Keyll Darree Library Guide

What is EBSCO?

EBSCO is a platform which allows users to search a variety of databases including:

- CINAHL - the world's most comprehensive source of full text for nursing & allied health journals
- MEDLINE - authoritative medical information on medicine, nursing, dentistry, veterinary medicine, the health care system, pre-clinical sciences, and much more
- Psychology and Behavioral Sciences Collection - a comprehensive database covering information concerning topics in emotional and behavioral characteristics, psychiatry & psychology, mental processes, anthropology, and observational & experimental methods
- Health Business Elite - comprehensive journal content detailing all aspects of health care administration and other non-clinical aspects of health care institution management
- Biomedical Reference Collection - Designed for doctors, research scientists, students, clinical specialists and managers, this database covers virtually all areas of medical study
- GreenFILE - well-researched information covering all aspects of human impact to the environment
- Teacher Reference Center - popular teacher and administrator journals and magazines to assist professional educators

Contents:

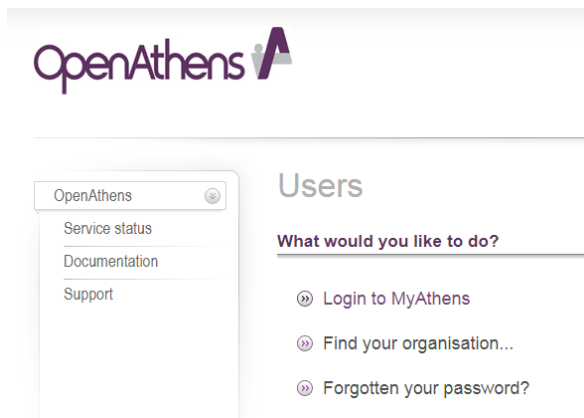
[Logging In](#)

[Subject Searching](#)

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Logging In

To access EBSCO first log in to your Keyll Darree Athens account.



You can also log in [via NICE](#)

NICE National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

Login

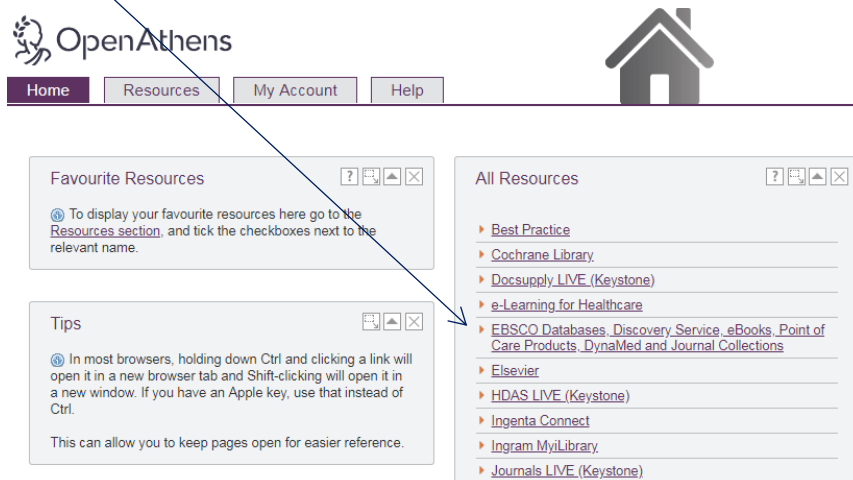
Email Address / Username

Password

Login

[Forgot Password?](#)

If you used the first link you will see your Athens home page, which contains a resource list. Click on EBSCO.



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If you used the second link you will be on your Athens account page, click “My resources” and then EBSCO.

Both options will take you to the database selection page – choose those most relevant to your area of research by clicking the square box next to them then click yellow “continue” button which is at the top and the bottom of the list.

Tip: Select as many as you want! If there are no results for your search on the database then it won't impact your search, but if you cast your net wider than usual you might be surprised by the results.

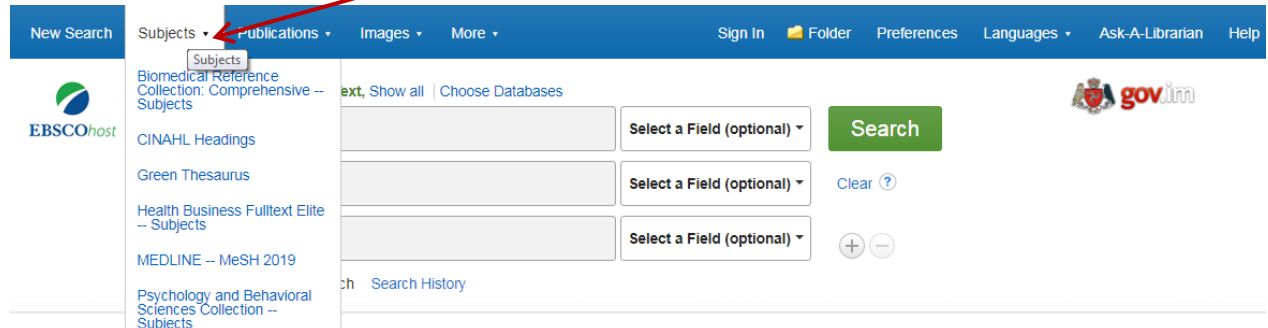
Subject Searching

If you feel comfortable with basic searching (see our Introduction to EBSCO guide if you want a refresher) then subject searching offers a more advanced way to search. By subject searching you will be looking for set terms within a database – subject headings search all of the results which are relevant to an overarching term. These searches will produce less results, but will be more focused.

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By subject searching, you're casting your net in a small pool of targeted information instead of casting it into the entire database.

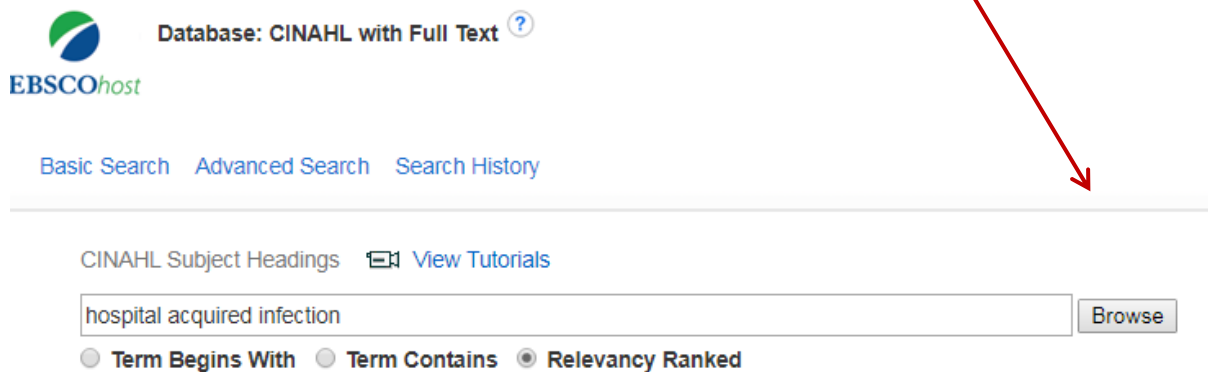
To subject search, hover over the subjects dropdown menu in the top right of the page and select the database you want to search.



Tip: You can only select one database at a time, but you can add the results together later!

For the purpose of this example, I am going to search for information about the effects of hand washing on hospital acquired infections.

Enter the first search term and then press browse to see a list of matching terms



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You can then select the most appropriate term from the list. In this case, there is a direct recommendation

CINAHL Subject Headings [View Tutorials](#)

Results For: **hospital acquired infection** Search Database

Check box to view subheadings. | Click linked term for tree view. | Explode (+) | Major Concept | Scope

Search Term	Explode (+)	Major Concept
Check a box to select a subject heading to begin building your search strategy.		
<input type="checkbox"/> Hospital Acquired Infection Use: Cross Infection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Cross Infection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Community-Acquired Infections	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hospital-Acquired Infections Use: Cross Infection		
<input type="checkbox"/> Community and Hospital Infection Control Association-Canada	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Healthcare-Associated Pneumonia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Caliciviridae Infections	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Infections, Community-Acquired Use: Community-Acquired Infections		
Hospital Infections Use: Cross Infection		
<input type="checkbox"/> Eye Infections, Viral	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Tip: Hover over the icon under Scope to see a description of what the term covers.

When you select a term, it will expand and offer you subheadings. These give you the option of narrowing your search to specific branches, or searching for the general term.

Results For: **hospital acquired infection** Subheadings for: **Cross Infection**

Check box to view subheadings. | Click linked term for tree view. | Explode (+) | Major Concept | Scope

Search Term	Explode (+)	Major Concept	Scope
Hospital Acquired Infection Use: Cross Infection			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cross Infection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Community-Acquired Infections	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hospital-Acquired Infections Use: Cross Infection			
<input type="checkbox"/> Community and Hospital Infection Control Association-Canada	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Healthcare-Associated Pneumonia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Caliciviridae Infections	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Infections, Community-Acquired Use: Community-Acquired Infections			
Hospital Infections Use: Cross Infection			
<input type="checkbox"/> Eye Infections, Viral	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Eye Infections, Fungal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Hospitals, Veterans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Eye Infections, Bacterial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Hospitals, Public	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Hospitals, Pediatric	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

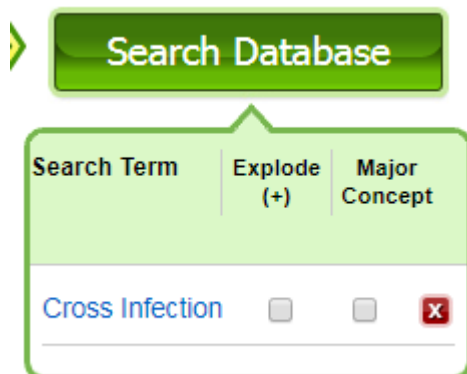
Include All Subheadings
Or select one or more subheadings to restrict your search

- [Adverse Effects/AE](#)
- [Analysis/AN](#)
- [Blood/BL](#)
- [Cerebrospinal Fluid/CF](#)
- [Chemically Induced/CI](#)
- [Classification/CL](#)
- [Complications/CO](#)
- [Diagnosis/DI](#)
- [Diet Therapy/DH](#)
- [Drug Therapy/DT](#)
- [Economics/EC](#)
- [Education/ED](#)
- [Embryology/EM](#)
- [Epidemiology/EP](#)
- [Equipment And Supplies/ES](#)
- [Ethical Issues/EI](#)
- [Ethnology/EH](#)
- [Etiology/ET](#)
- [Evaluation/EV](#)

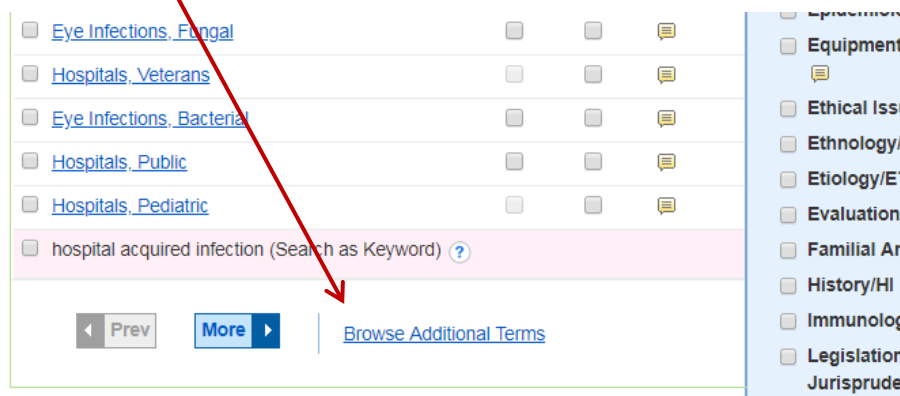
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Tip: You can select as many or as few subheadings as you'd like.

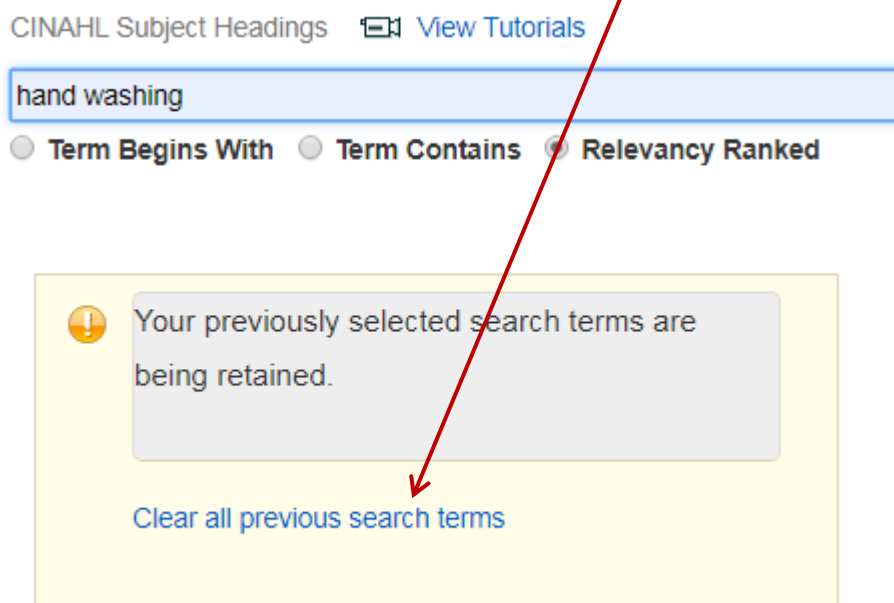
Your choices will show in the green box on the right hand side of the page.



If you want to, you can add further terms to your search by clicking “browse additional terms” at the bottom of the list.



Type your next term and repeat the process. You can remove all of your previous search terms from this screen if you no longer wish to include them.



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Results For: hand washing

Subheadings for: Handwashing

Search Database

Check box to view subheadings. Click linked term for tree view.

Explose (+) Major Concept Scope

Hand Washing Use: [Handwashing](#)

Handwashing

Hand Off (Patient Safety)

Hand Injuries

Hand Fractures

Include All Subheadings
Or select one or more subheadings to restrict your search

Adverse Effects/AE

Analysis/AN

Classification/CL

Economics/EC

Education/ED

Epidemiology/EP

Equipment And Supplies/ES

Search Term Explose (+) Major Concept

[Cross Infection](#)

[Handwashing](#)

Combine selections with:
 AND OR

Your searches are automatically combined together with “OR” (one term or the other term in the result), if you wish to “AND” them together (both terms in one source) then you will need to select the option.

Search Database

Search Term Explose (+) Major Concept

[Cross Infection](#)

[Handwashing](#)

Combine selections with:
 AND OR

When you are happy with your terms, click the “search database” button.

You will then be shown the results for your search terms

Search History/Alerts

[Print Search History](#) [Retrieve Searches](#) [Retrieve Alerts](#) [Save Searches / Alerts](#)

Select / deselect all [Search with AND](#) [Search with OR](#) [Delete Searches](#) [Refresh Search Results](#)

Search ID#	Search Terms	Search Options	Actions
<input type="checkbox"/> S1	(MH "Cross Infection") AND (MH "Handwashing")	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (5,436) View Details Edit

Refine Results

Search Results: 1 - 50 of 5,436 Date Newest Page Options Share

Current Search

Boolean/Phrase: [\(MH "Cross Infection"\)](#)

1. [A Process Approach to Decreasing Hospital Onset Clostridium difficile Infections.](#)

(includes abstract) Abbasi, Sadia; Singh, Francina; Griffel, Martin; Murphy, Paul F.; Joint Commission Journal on Quality &

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Repeat the above steps for as many databases as you wish to search using subject headings.

← → ↻ ⓘ Not secure | web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/results?vid=

New Search Subjects ▾ Publications ▾ Images ▾ More ▾

EBSCOhost

- Biomedical Reference Collection: Comprehensive - Subjects **Text, Show all** | Choose [
- CINAHL Headings
- Health Business Fulltext Elite -- Subjects
- MEDLINE -- MeSH 2020**
- Psychology and Behavior Sciences Collection -- Subjects

Search Search History ▾

Results For: hospital acquired infection **Subheadings for: Cross Infection** **Search Database**

Check box to view subheadings. |
 Click linked term for tree view. |
 Explode (+) ? |
 Major Concept |
 Scope

Subheading	Explode (+)	Major Concept	Scope
<input type="checkbox"/> Community-Acquired Infections	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cross Infection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Iatrogenic Disease	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Dyslexia, Acquired	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Immunity, Maternally-Acquired	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Hospitals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Hospitalization	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Include All Subheadings
Or select one or more subheadings to restrict your search

- [Blood/BL](#)
- [Cerebrospinal Fluid/CF](#)
- [Chemically Induced/CI](#)
- [Classification/CL](#)
- [Complications/CO](#)
- [Congenital/CN](#)
- [Diagnosis/DI](#)
- [Diagnostic Imaging/DG](#)

Search Database

Search Term	Explode (+)	Major Concept
Cross Infection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Tip: Different databases will offer different subheadings, and sometimes have different subject headings for the same term.

Results For: hand washing

Check box to view subheadings. |
 Click linked term for tree view.

Hand Washing **Use:** [Hand Disinfection](#)

- [Hand Disinfection](#)

Once you have run subject searches in all of the databases you want to use, you then need to combine the results. At the moment they will be separate.

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To do this, click the box beside each set of medical subject heading results, and then click “search with OR”

Search History/Alerts
[Print Search History](#) [Retrieve Searches](#) [Retrieve Alerts](#) [Save Searches / Alerts](#)

Select / deselect all **Search with AND** **Search with OR** **Delete Searches**

Search ID#	Search Terms	Search Options	Actions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S2	(MH "Cross Infection") AND (MH "Hand Disinfection")	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (1,769)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S1	(MH "Cross Infection") AND (MH "Handwashing")	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (3,231)

You can now view the combined results of the subject searches, and add any further search terms you want to using the “search with AND” function.

Search History/Alerts
[Print Search History](#) [Retrieve Searches](#) [Retrieve Alerts](#) [Save Searches / Alerts](#)

Select / deselect all **Search with AND** **Search with OR** **Delete Searches**

Search ID#	Search Terms	Search Options	Actions
<input type="checkbox"/> S3	S1 OR S2	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (5,000)
<input type="checkbox"/> S2	(MH "Cross Infection") AND (MH "Hand Disinfection")	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (1,769)
<input type="checkbox"/> S1	(MH "Cross Infection") AND (MH "Handwashing")	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (3,231)

EBSCOhost Searching: **CINAHL with Full Text**, Show all | [Choose Databases](#)

hand gel **Select a Field (optional)** ▾

AND ▾ **Select a Field (optional)** ▾

AND ▾ **Select a Field (optional)** ▾

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

Search History/Alerts
[Print Search History](#) [Retrieve Searches](#) [Retrieve Alerts](#) [Save Searches / Alerts](#)

Select / deselect all **Search with AND** **Search with OR** **Delete Searches**

Search ID#	Search Terms	Search Options	Actions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S3	S1 OR S2	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (5,000)

Thank you for taking the time to read this guide, and if you have any further questions then please get in touch with us at librarykeylldarree@gov.im or on 642993.

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We'd also love your feedback on this training, please spare 2 minutes to fill out our [Online Training Feedback Survey](#)

Updated: February 2020

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