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
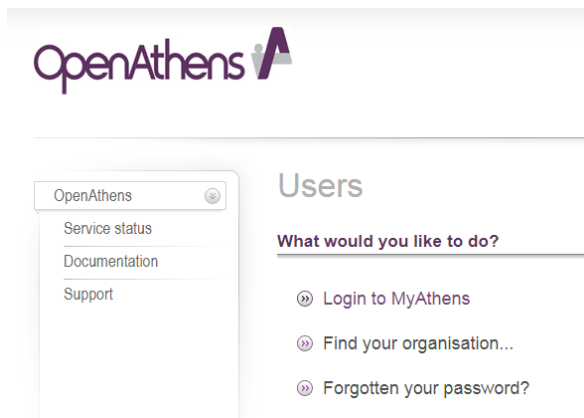
Contents:

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Logging In

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

OpenAthens

OpenAthens
Service status
Documentation
Support

Users

What would you like to do?

- Login to MyAthens
- Find your organisation...
- Forgotten your password?

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

NICE National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

Login
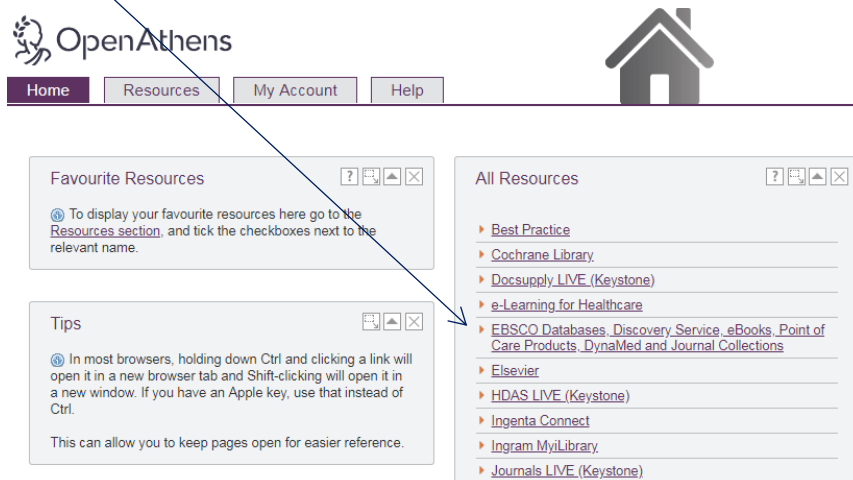
Email Address / Username

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.

OpenAthens

Home	Resources	My Account	Help

Favourite Resources

To display your favourite resources here go to the Resources section, and tick the checkboxes next to the relevant name.

Tips

In most browsers, holding down Ctrl and clicking a link will open it in a new browser tab and Shift-clicking will open it in a new window. If you have an Apple key, use that instead of Ctrl.

This can allow you to keep pages open for easier reference.

All Resources

- Best Practice
- Cochrane Library
- Docsupply LIVE (Keystone)
- e-Learning for Healthcare
- EBSCO Databases, Discovery Service, eBooks, Point of Care Products, DynaMed and Journal Collections
- Elsevier
- HDAS LIVE (Keystone)
- Ingenta Connect
- Ingram MyiLibrary
- Journals LIVE (Keystone)

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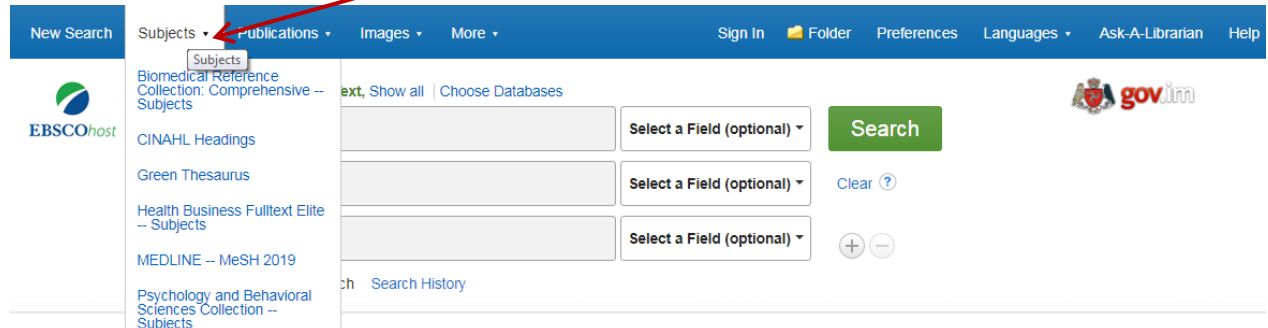
Tip: You can only select one database at a time, but you can add the results together later!

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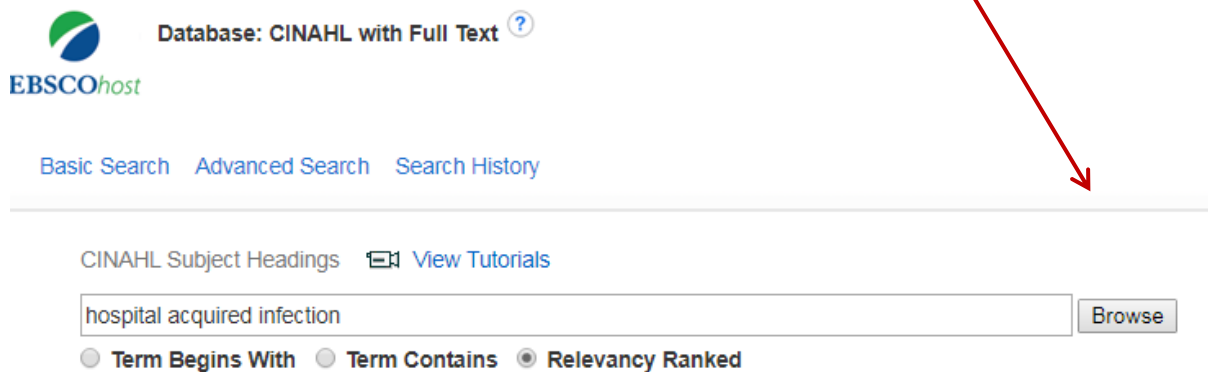
You can then select the most appropriate term from the list. In this case, there is a direct recommendation

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.

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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.
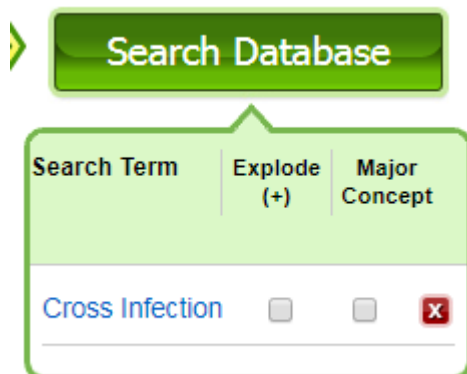
If you want to, you can add further terms to your search by clicking "browse additional terms" at the bottom of the list.
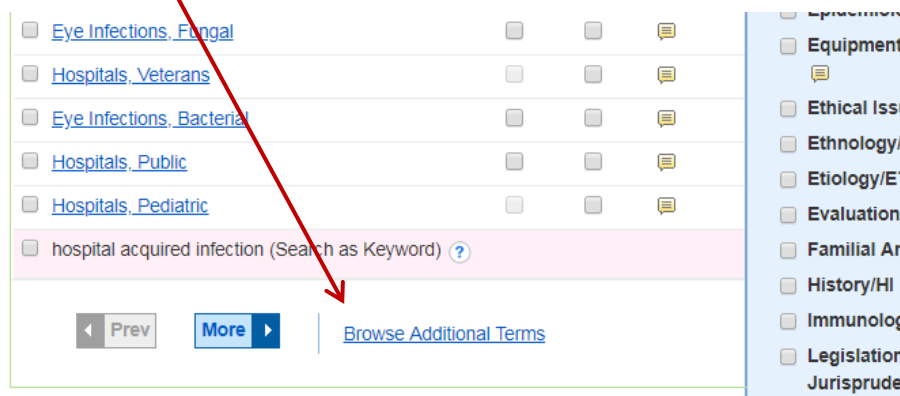
Type your next term and repeat the process. You can remove all of your previous search terms from this screen if you no longer wish to include them.

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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.

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

You will then be shown the results for your search terms

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

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

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"

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.

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](#)

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