

Welcome to this tutorial on the Cochrane Library. The Cochrane Library is made up of three databases: the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials, and Cochrane Clinical Answers. Also included are Editorials, Special Collections, and Supplements.

There are two ways to look for information in the Cochrane Library: browsing and searching. A quick way to browse is to simply click on this purple browse button in the top right. Choose a topic. The tabs across the top of the results list, separate the results into 7 categories. Cochrane Reviews are systematic reviews of research in health care and health policy. Cochrane Protocols outline the question that the review authors are addressing and describing how the authors will manage the review process. Protocols contain information that defines the health problem and the intervention under investigation, how benefits and harms will be measured, and the type of appropriate study design. Trials is a highly concentrated source of reports of randomized and quasi-randomized controlled trials. Records will often include an abstract but they do not contain the full text of the article. Editorials aim to stimulate discussion and ideas around the development of evidence synthesis to promote good decision-making in clinical care and health policy. Special Collections are curated content collections on a specific healthcare topic. Clinical Answers contains clinical questions, short answers, and data for the outcomes from the Cochrane Review deemed most relevant to practicing healthcare professionals. The evidence is displayed in a user-friendly tabulated format that includes narratives, data, and links to graphics. The Other Reviews tab links out to Systematic Reviews outside of the Cochrane Library through the Epistemonikos database. Epistemonikos is a collaborative, multilingual database of health evidence.

You can sort the results by Publication Date, Relevancy, or Title. You can show the previews, or abstracts, individually, or all at once. You can change the number of results that are displayed per page here. Citations can be selected individually, or all at once, and then exported to a citation management tool.

You can use filters on the left to filter by publication date. The New Search Status filter limits to those reviews for which new studies have been conducted since the original. Conclusions Changed limits to those reviews for which an important change has been made to the conclusion since the original was published.

You can also filter by language, the type of review it is, and by the topics under which the reviews have been indexed.

Clicking on a title takes you to the full text of that review. This button on the top right lets you view the article in PDF format. You can generate and export a citation here. One warning about automated citation generators. They are convenient, but not perfect. Before you copy and paste a citation into your paper, check the citation against the official manual for that citation style. If you use this citation tool, you might be better off downloading the citation elements into a citation management tool such as EndNote or RefWorks.

You can also use this section on the right side of the page to jump to various parts of the article.

The other way to find information is by searching using the search box in the upper right corner. Notice the drop-down box just in front of the text box. This drop-down box determines which fields will be used when searching for your terms. It defaults to the Title, Abstract, and Keyword fields. Click on the

drop-down arrow to see the other options. Simply type and enter your search term or terms in the text box.

Cochrane Library also has an Advanced Search function. There are 4 tabs across the top of the Advanced Search page. This first Search tab works very much like the basic search box on the home page with a few exceptions. First, you can add additional text boxes by clicking on the plus sign. Next, you can change the connectors, or Boolean operators between keywords. Typically when you search, you leave the connector on AND. However, there are occasions when you might want to change these. For example, if you're not sure which term an author may have used, you can enter synonyms connected by OR, such as doctor OR physician. An example of when to use NOT would be if you were looking for articles on surfing the web but you kept getting results about surfing in the ocean you could enter surfing NOT ocean.

The other feature on this advanced search page is that you can set certain search limits before you hit the search button, rather than using filters afterwards.

The next tab is the Search Manager tab. The Search Manager enables you to combine individual searches together. In the first box, I'll enter the keyword "heart." Hit the continue button. The number of results appears in this box. If I want to apply limits to that search, I click on the limits button, choose my limits, and then hit Apply Limits and this number will update.

Another search box automatically appears. Remember, you can always manually add search boxes by hitting the plus sign. Remember Cochrane automatically looks for your search terms in the Title, Abstract, and Keyword fields. You can change that by clicking on the "S" button. A new line appears with a drop-down box. I'll change this to All Text and enter the term diet. Then I click on the Add/Edit Search Line button.

MeSH is short for Medical Subject Headings. MeSH terms are part of a controlled vocabulary used when these articles are indexed. The simplest way that I can explain it is that a librarian or a professional indexer reads the article. That person parses out the main points of the article, and then assigns Subject Headings or Tags to that article. However, those tags must come from a controlled vocabulary so that all indexers are using the same Subject Headings. So a Subject Heading is more specific than a keyword. A keyword can simply be a word within an article, but with a Subject Heading, the article is about that term. Let me show you what I mean.

I'll click on the MeSH drop-down button and enter the term high blood pressure, then hit the Look Up button. This tells me that the controlled vocabulary MeSH term for high blood pressure is Hypertension. I simply hit Add/Edit Search Line to run the search.

You can see the three total numbers for my previous searches. If I wanted to combine searches, I would type in the number of the searches in the next text box. So search number 1 was heart. Search number 2 was diet in all text. And Search number 3 was for the Medical Subject Heading Hypertension. To combine those searches I enter #1 AND #2 and #3 in the #4 search box and hit continue. I click on the results number box. These are the results of the three previous searches combined. The Search Manager can be a very powerful search tool.

The next tab is Medical Terms or Medical Subject Headings which we just discussed. Simply enter your search term and hit Continue. Let's look for the Medical Subject Heading for Heart Attack. I see that the

MeSH term for Heart Attack is Myocardial Infarction. From here I can add this to the Search Manager, View my results, or Save my results.

Finally, there's the PICO Search tab. At the time that I recorded this, the PICO search tab was not working.

That's it. Thank you for joining me for this tutorial on the Cochrane Library.