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CSP guide to literature searching

To help you develop effective information
searching skills



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CSP guide to literature searching

To help you develop effective information searching skills

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this booklet is to assist members of the CSP in developing effective information searching skills. Information skills, including literature searching, are taught as part of professional physiotherapy education, and will remain important in clinical practice, continuing professional development and possible future research. It is easy to find something on any subject using poor technique; this booklet offers additional guidance on how to search effectively for published literature using bibliographic databases and how to assess the quality of information found on Internet websites.

A search does not need to be complicated if you look in the right place and use the right strategy. A number of good quality websites have also been included. Websites are notoriously ephemeral; however, with well-developed information skills it is possible to find new or alternative websites containing good quality information.

There are numerous databases in which you will do literature searching. These databases may list journal articles, books, reports, or any other type of publication; these are called bibliographic databases. Each may be available from more than one supplier and suppliers will have imposed their own methods of searching or interface. It is not possible to go into detail here about how each database is searched with each interface. The content and general structure of each database is standard to all interfaces but you should consult the supplier's online tutorial and/or help features to find out how to search using each particular interface. If you are working in a library ask the staff for assistance or training.

Electronic sources are invaluable in finding information but all information is not yet in electronic format and is unlikely to be so for some while yet. Paper continues to be the dominant format and whilst much of it is now indexed electronically it is still important to be prepared to spend time in the library. Information professionals working within libraries are themselves often highly skilled searchers who are usually very happy to offer advice and training to those looking for information.



LITERATURE SEARCHING

Why search?

There are number of reasons why you may need to search the literature. Searching the literature will start with the first essay or assignment in your professional education and it will continue throughout your academic and professional career. During your career you will need to do literature searches:

- To find information for an essay / assignment / dissertation / presentation / or an interview
- To keep up to date with published literature in your field of interest
- To support continuing professional development
- To find literature to support evidence-based practice
- To find information on specific conditions or new ways to treat
- To find outcome measures in a particular area to use in clinical practice
- To find out what research has been done which may be similar to yours, which may feed into yours or to learn from the research methodology used by others
- To find an expert in a particular field
- To find information and possible collaborators on clinical improvement initiatives, audit etc.
- To provide justification for services or clinical practice
- To support clinical governance
- To empower patients to make informed decisions

What to search?

The problem is finding the appropriate relevant material amidst an enormous body of published work. By the end of 2004 the Medline database contained over 15 million journal references to the biomedical literature, of which 140,000+ related to physiotherapy. Allied and Complementary Medicine (AMED) database lists a total of 100,000+ articles while the subset of EMBASE database covering Rehabilitation and Physical Medicine has 135,000 references. The overlap between these databases is surprisingly small.

There are a number of databases that record details of publications; these are known as bibliographic databases. The majority of bibliographic databases contain only journal references; a study in 2003 to find the overlap between bibliographic databases estimated that 63% of references were unique to one database ⁽¹⁾. Library catalogues are good places to search for books and other monographs, but there remains a large quantity of very useful material in the form of reports, government



publications, statistics etc., termed grey literature, which generally does not get into the main bibliographic databases – here the internet comes into its own. This would suggest that the chances of finding the literature relevant to your topic or question without doing a thorough, well-structured search would be minimal.

The selection of the best database(s) for your particular topic is the first step in building your search strategy. Get to know your options, see: Bibliographic databases

When to search?

If you are doing a literature search as part of an academic or research project it is important to conduct your first search before you start work on the report, essay, dissertation, etc. This will establish one of three things:

- There is no literature on your subject so either you change your topic or suggest research that should be undertaken
- There is an enormous amount of literature on your question that you cannot possibly read so you either need to rethink your topic or narrow your question
- There is a manageable amount of literature to meet your requirements.

Note the use of 'first search'; as your work progresses you may need to refine your strategy and rework your search.

How much time should be allowed?

"How long is a piece of string?" You can expect a comprehensive search to take hours rather than minutes and you should remember that the search is only the first stage. Despite the promise of electronic full text the position remains that in 2005 most material is not available in full text electronically and you will have to go to the library and use the paper resources. Some university libraries do subscribe to electronic versions of journals but not all journals are produced digitally. Electronic journals are still a fairly recent development; if you are working with material more than a few years old it is unlikely to be in electronic format. Check with your library to see what is available, and what access to other collections they have negotiated. Ask your university or NHS librarian about *Athens* passwords; *Athens* is a password system that provides a single username and password to access a large number of online resources including electronic journals, databases and e-books produced by many different organisations. *Athens* passwords are available to staff and students at institutions of further or higher education or the NHS. Please note the CSP is unable to issue *Athens* passwords.

HOW TO SEARCH?

There are a number of bibliographic databases (see p.22) containing material relevant to physiotherapy and each of these databases may be presented with a variety of different system providers or interfaces. (e.g. OVID, SilverPlatter, DataStar, Dialog). Whilst the database contents are usually the same, the way in which it is



presented and searched may vary. It is recommended that if your university or hospital library offers database tutorials you should take advantage of these.

Stages of a literature search

See Appendix 1 Stages of a Literature Search Diagram

Building a search strategy

Formulate a title / question / hypothesis to help define the topic.

e.g. *"The use of physiotherapy in the care of disabled children"*

Identify the concepts

In the majority of searches the objective is to retrieve information that brings together at least two ideas or concepts. The first step is to identify the concepts that, when correctly brought together, will identify the material you are looking for. Break the search topic down into concepts. E.g. Physiotherapy / disabled / children

Consider whether you think 'care' is implicit or is it another concept?

Initially limit the number of concepts to 2 or 3; if, after running the search, you have too many references you can add in another concept to cut the results down further.

Alternative terms

Consider alternative terms, including US equivalents and spellings, which express the concepts identified

- Physiotherapy, physical therapy, specific physiotherapy or physical therapy techniques, physiotherapist, physical therapists
- Decide what you mean by 'disabled' – the disability or the person with the disability. Do you want to include mental disability, physical disabilities, developmental disability, acquired disabilities or congenital disabilities, etc.
- Decide what you mean by 'children' – do you want to include neonates, infants or adolescents?
- Consult database thesauri. (see Thesauri)
- Consider opposite aspects- terms that represent 'the other side of the coin': when searching for pregnancy, consider pregnancy complications; when searching for communication consider communication barriers.

Fields

Each record in the database is subdivided into fields. The field is used to store information about one aspect of the publication, e.g. Author(s), Title(s), Publication Name, Language, etc. Each field is assigned a unique field label but these may vary between system providers.



Sample AMED record with field labels:

TI: The effectiveness of an acupuncturist working in general practice – an audit.

AU: Harborow,-PW; Ogden,-J

SO: Acupunct-Med. 2004 Dec; 22(4): 214-20

IS: 0964-5284

PY: 2004

LA: English

AB: This audit was based in general practice and examined 49 consecutive referrals to a UK trained traditional Chinese acupuncturist. It aimed to assess the type of patients referred to an acupuncturist, subsequent changes in health status, whether the effectiveness of acupuncture was related to the type of presenting problem and to examine which factors were predictive of the success of acupuncture. The referred patients had a wide variety of conditions which were categorised as to whether or not there was empirical evidence from trials of responsiveness to acupuncture (evidence based vs. non evidence based). Patients completed measures of their health status prior to treatment and at two and six month follow ups. In addition, the referring GP's beliefs about the prognosis of the problem and the therapist's and patient's expectations of success were measured at baseline. The results showed that referred patients reported poorer health status than a historical sample of general practice patients and that they showed significant improvements in all aspects of health status following acupuncture. In particular, patients showed improved energy, pain, emotional reactions, sleep and reduced social isolation at two months which were maintained at six months. Physical mobility was improved at six months. In addition, the results indicated that the best predictors of effectiveness were the therapist's and patient's expectations of success at baseline. Effectiveness was not related to the category of condition (evidence based or not) nor to the GP's expectations about the prognosis of the condition. The results are discussed in terms of implications for the role of acupuncture in General Practice and selectively targeting patients who would be responsive to such an approach.

DE: ACUPUNCTURE-THERAPY; REFERRAL-AND-CONSULTATION; HEALTH-STATUS

MT: FAMILY-PRACTICE; MEDICAL-AUDIT; TREATMENT-OUTCOME

XREC: ABSTRACT (AB) / **UD:** 200502 / **AN:** 0070004

Most search systems allow you to restrict a search term to a particular field or group of fields. You can, for example, restrict the search for terms to the title field. Check the database's help pages for more information about restricting search terms to specific fields, field labels etc.

Limits

Most databases will allow you to set restrictions or 'limits' on your results. The types of limits vary in each database, but they often include such things as publication dates, language of the article, whether the record has an English abstract. There may also be limits available for types of articles e.g. meta-analysis or practice guidelines or subject populations e.g. human/animal or male/female, age groups etc.

Boolean operators

Searching for information within a database requires a process that has come to be known as ‘Boolean searching’ or ‘Boolean logic’ ⁽²⁾. It doesn’t matter whether you are searching for a website using a search engine (which is effectively a database of websites) or searching a bibliographic database for articles on a particular subject. Boolean logic refers to the logical relationship between the search terms. These are expressed using ‘operators’ or ‘logical operators’. The three main operators are: OR, AND and NOT.

Although the choice of which operator to use looks straightforward, it is very easy to use the wrong one because the operator may be the reverse of natural language. e.g. “ I want everything on dogs and cats”

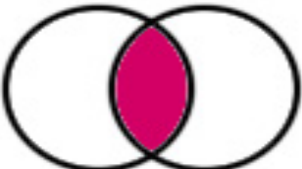
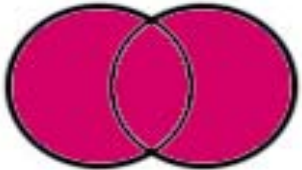

does this mean: –

“I want everything that mentions dogs as well as everything that mentions cats”,

or does it mean:-

“I want everything that mentions dogs together with cats in the same document or website”

Table 1 Boolean operators

Operator	Symbols	Example search	The search will find...	Venn diagrams – results are the shaded areas
AND	+	dogs AND cats	items containing both dogs and cats	
OR	/	dogs OR cats	items containing either dogs or cats or both	
NOT	-	dogs NOT cats	items containing dogs but not cats – <i>caution</i> , its easy to exclude relevant items	



Break the question down into concepts, think of alternative terms and apply Boolean operators.

e.g. *“The use of physiotherapy in the care of disabled children”*

Concept 1		Concept 2		Concept 3	
Physical therapy		Disabled persons		Child	
OR Physical therapy techniques		OR Mental disability		OR Infant	
OR Physiotherapy	AND	OR Physical disabilities	AND	OR Neonate	
OR Physical therapists		OR Developmental disabilities		OR Adolescent	
OR Physiotherapists		OR Acquired disabilities			
OR Specific techniques e.g. Exercise therapy		OR Congenital disabilities			
		OR Specific conditions e.g. Cerebral palsy			

Search Tip 1: Search all the terms for one concept using OR then search all the terms for the next concept, continue for all the concepts in the search. At this point you may have some very large numbers but when you join the concepts together with AND the number of references should drop significantly.

- Remember that the ‘AND’ operator reduces the ‘recall’ (or the number of references found) to less than the number for any one element in the search while the ‘OR’ operator increases the recall to more than that for any one element
- Some systems use AND NOT or ANDNOT in place of NOT. Use with care as you may lose material of interest
- Some systems do not allow the use of the NOT operator. If in doubt either do a simple search to test it or check the database’s help pages
- Some systems allow the use of symbols as operators (see Table 1)

INPUTTING THE SEARCH

Search Tip 2: It is a good habit to always use UPPERCASE for Boolean operators. Some systems are case sensitive when it comes to Boolean operators, i.e. if the operator is not in upper case the system will ignore it or try to search for the operator as a word.



Search statement numbers

You can separately search for all the terms and synonyms identified and then combine them using the line numbers. As you input each line into the database it will give you the result that line.

Pubmed Medline:

#1	Physiotherapy	104334
#2	Physical therapy techniques	101446
#3	Arthritis	125257
#4	(#1 OR #2) AND #3	2819

The advantages of this is that if the result is unsatisfactory – either too many or too few references – you can easily restructure the search without re-inputting all of the terms. Note Pubmed Medline uses the hash (#) to indicate this is a search statement or line number. Other systems may default to this or you may need to indicate it by telling the system you wish to combine terms.

Nesting

If you prefer to work with complex search statements it is important to know that search engines generally process operators from left to right. In a complex search most systems will allow you to use parentheses (round brackets) to protect the logical order of your search.

physiotherapy OR physical therapy techniques AND arthritis will retrieve everything on *physiotherapy* as well as references on *physical therapy techniques AND arthritis*; it will not retrieve *physiotherapy AND arthritis*.

Use parentheses to force the order of processing in the same way that you would use them in mathematics. E.g. *(physiotherapy OR physical therapy) AND arthritis*. This will ensure the search engine processes the search correctly.

Search Tip 3: In a complex search bracket together the synonyms for each concept with the OR operator and use AND between the brackets.

Most searches use a combination of nesting and search statement numbers.

Select the appropriate resources

Decide which resources might contain information relevant to your topic; most databases will define their subject coverage, the type of material included, and the time period covered. You will need to establish where or how you can obtain access. Check websites or contact the library staff in your organisation or institution. Databases can be expensive resources for which an institution usually pays a subscription; if you are not affiliated to that institution access may be denied. However there are a number of free databases. (see p.22)



Run your searches

Run your search(es) against the selected resources. It is not possible in a general guide such as this to provide details of how to search every resource with every interface. Use the database guide facilities that are usually provided with the database or consult your university or NHS librarian.

SYSTEM OR DATABASE SPECIFIC FEATURES

Note – not all features mentioned are available in all databases. You will need to use the database help section or consult library staff.

Truncation

Most search systems have a truncation facility. Truncation, also called a wildcard or a variable character symbol, allows you to enter the first part of a word (or stem) followed by a symbol, (usually * but may be \$ or ?). This is a left hand truncation. The search will retrieve documents that have that word stem with any ending or spelling variation following the truncation point. Occasionally a database will allow an internal variable character symbol e.g. wom?n or, in scientific databases, right hand truncation may be possible.

e.g. physiot* will retrieve physiotherapy, physiotherapist, physiotherapists, physiot (German)

Check the instructions for the database to find details of permitted truncation and the symbol to use.

Be careful not to truncate to too short a word stem as this may retrieve irrelevant words or it may hit the system limit for the number of words it can process e.g. phys*

Stop words

Stop words are words of little subject significance that occur very frequently. e.g. *and, in, the, of, with, that, might, become, always, away*, etc. Single digit numbers may also be treated as stop words. Ordinarily the search system will ignore stop words. To search for a term that contains a single digit, e.g. 3 point gait, disguise it by searching for it as a phrase "3 point gait".

Proximity operators

Some systems allow you to search for two or more words and to dictate how closely together they must occur. Searching for words in close proximity will tend to increase the relevance of papers found but reduce the number. Check the availability of proximity operators with each database searched as they vary in terms of operator used and how it is defined.

e.g. physical *near* therapy, physical *adj* therapy (*adjacent to*) or physical *same* therapy (in the *same* sentence).



The *near* operator may put the words within a within a system defined proximity or you may be able to define it yourself with *nearX*, where X is how close you want the words to be.

Mapping

Some systems will try to work out the 'preferred term' or thesaurus term for the word you have entered; this process is called mapping.

Thesauri

In most bibliographic databases such as AMED, Medline, Cinahl, and EMBASE, the references have been indexed by the database producer with terms from a thesaurus, also known as a controlled vocabulary, that define the concepts covered by the paper. These terms are known as descriptors, subject headings, preferred terms or indexing terms.

N.B. Each database has its own thesaurus and it is important to identify the descriptors (and subheadings) that describe the elements of your search in each database thesaurus. Descriptors are unlikely to be the same as author assigned keywords.

A thesaurus of terms will usually have a structure linking broader terms, narrower terms, related terms and preferred terms. The way thesauri are presented to the database user vary; some will present the terms in a manner similar to the examples below, others may only show the preferred term for any term entered.

Search Tip 4: Indexers will always index with the most specific term available, thus in AMED a paper on ear acupuncture will be indexed with that term; it will not be indexed with Acupuncture Therapy (see below).

The advantage of searching with descriptors is that it does not matter what terms or spellings the author has used, the papers will be retrieved because they include the concept for which you are searching. E.g.

AMED

- Complementary Therapies
 - Acupuncture Therapy
 - Acupoints
 - Acupressure
 - Ear acupuncture
 - Electroacupuncture
 - Meridians
 - Moxibustion
 - Needling**
 - Scalp acupuncture



Search Tip 5: A common mistake is to use the term for the discipline or speciality to search for the techniques used by that discipline or speciality. There are usually two different terms. E.g.

Medline

Physical Therapy (Speciality)

DEFINITION OF TERM: The auxiliary health profession which makes use of PHYSICAL THERAPY TECHNIQUES to prevent, correct, and alleviate movement dysfunction of anatomic or physiologic origin

Physical Therapy Techniques

...

Diathermy

 Short-Wave Therapy

Ultrasonic Therapy

Ultrasound, High-Intensity Focused, Transrectal

Steam Bath

Phototherapy

Color Therapy

Heliotherapy

Laser Therapy, Low-Level

...

Diathermy is a more specific or narrower term than Physical Therapy Techniques; Short-wave Therapy is a yet narrower term.

Exploding

'Exploding' is when a search is run on a term where you want to retrieve the items indexed with that term and any of the more specific terms listed under it. From the AMED example above, exploding Acupuncture Therapy will include all the terms Acupoints, Acupressure, Ear acupuncture, Electroacupuncture, etc.

Subheadings

Some databases also have a system of subheadings that can be added to a descriptor to identify a particular perspective on the search: e.g. in Medline the descriptor 'Physical Therapy Techniques' may be used with any of the following subheadings - *adverse effects, classification, contraindications, economics, education, ethics, history, instrumentation, legislation and jurisprudence, manpower, methods, nursing, organization and administration, psychology, standards, statistics and numerical data, supply and distribution, trends, utilization, veterinary*. Thus, the adverse effect of a technique may be searched quite specifically and distinguishing it from papers discussing the beneficial uses of the same technique.



Focusing your search

Some systems identify the descriptors that represent the main emphasis of the article. All the significant concepts in the articles are assigned descriptors, however, descriptors representing the main emphasis of the article are called 'major descriptors' 'major headings' or 'main subject headings'. Each system has its own way of searching for major descriptors. Limiting your search to only the papers where your identified concepts are core subjects will mean the recall will go down but the relevance will be very high. Concepts that appear in the paper but are not central are 'minor descriptors'.

Free text searching

Free text searching is simply searching for all the terms you can think of with all alternative spellings and plurals. This puts the onus on you to think of every possible term or spelling that an author might have used, including mis-spellings. Free text searching is generally not recommended; however it does have its uses e.g. when there is a very specific term that precisely identifies the concept. A search on skateboard injuries for example could be searched using the descriptor 'sports injuries' and free text 'skateboard'. This would retrieve articles using phrases such as 'skateboard injuries', 'injuries caused by a skateboard', 'falling from a skateboard', etc.

Search Tip 7: Free text searching is also useful for references that have very recently been added to a bibliographic database and which have not yet been assigned indexing terms.

Phrase searching

When the concept you want is known by a phrase rather than a single word and it is not included in the thesaurus, phrase searching is a useful. Phrases are usually bound by quotation marks "... " e.g. "Gone with the wind". Phrase searching is useful where the phrase includes a word or words that ordinarily a database would ignore. Note, a system may have a default operator which may be AND or OR. If more than one word is put in the search line the default will operate. E.g. Google defaults to AND. Quotation marks may also be used to disguise stop words. (See: Stop words)

VIEWING REFERENCES

The references are usually presented in a summarised format that will provide sufficient detail to allow you to decide if it is of interest. Most systems offer a number of formats to which you can switch. At least one format will include the abstract if the record has an abstract and at least one will offer the complete record with field tags to enable downloading into personal bibliographic software e.g. Endnote, Reference Manager, Procite etc. On some systems where charges apply, one format will usually be available free of charge.



Search Tip 6: When you have identified one or more relevant papers, look at the descriptors that have been assigned to them in each database. If you find relevant descriptors you have not used, search again using the new headings. Also look for other terms that might retrieve relevant references and do a free text search. (See also: Free text searching)

Saving and printing

Most systems will facilitate marking references of interest so that you can save or print only those references of interest. Ensure that you have selected the correct format; if printing it is probably better to select the reference with abstract or the reference with abstract and indexing. It is probably not advisable to print the complete record as this may include numerous fields of little interest unless you are downloading to specialist software.

Search history

For each database used, e.g. AMED, Cinahl, Medline, (not just the supplier or front end, e.g. OVID, DataStar) record the years searched and the date on which the search was conducted, the search strategy used and restrictions or limits imposed. Use copy and paste rather than writing it out long hand and annotate as appropriate. From this information you will be able to demonstrate a well-conducted search, remind yourself of what you did and, if the project takes significant time, rerun the search for new references at a later date.

CRITICAL APPRAISAL

When you have found documents that discuss the identified concepts how do you know if they are worthy of consideration and inclusion in your work? The documents retrieved should be subjected to critical appraisal. (See Critical appraisal skills)

REFERENCING

Bibliographic details of all published work that has been quoted or that has contributed to your work should be included in the 'References' or 'Bibliography'. The details should be carefully recorded in their entirety when they are first retrieved to ensure correct citation referencing in your final paper. Inadequate referencing may leave you open to a charge of plagiarism or may cause your work to be rejected.

There are at least two generally recognised styles for citing references known as Harvard and Vancouver. However, your university or trust may have a preferred style, it is worth checking before you start writing. If you are preparing a document for publication check the 'Instructions to authors' of the selected journal or publisher. (See also: [CSP Information Paper Citation Styles, Information Paper LIS 14; 2004.](#))



SEARCHING THE WEB

Online tutorials

If you lack confidence in your ability to use the internet there are two useful websites that include tutorials to teach the basics of internet searching:

Internet for Allied Health Tutorial

A free teach yourself tutorial on internet information skills for allied health professionals. <http://www.vts.rdn.ac.uk/tutorial/allied>

TONIC – Online Netskills Interactive Course

This is a course of instruction on using the Internet.
<http://www.netskills.ac.uk/onlinecourses/tonic/>

Criteria for assessing the quality of information on the Internet

There have been many attempts to try and draw up definitive criteria for assessing the quality of internet information⁽³⁾. The criteria below are yet another list which, it is hoped, will encourage you to question information found on the internet and to reject information from poor or mediocre sources.

Accuracy

- What does your existing knowledge tell you?
- Is the information referenced with verifiable and recognisable references? How up-to-date are those references?
- Does the site provide links to other authoritative sites?
- Does the site contain spelling mistakes, grammatical errors etc?

Authority

- Who is the author?
- What qualifies this person to publish this material? Does it give the author's credentials?
- Do you recognise the name?
- Does it give the author affiliation? (N.B. Individual authorship may not be explicit.)
- Authority of the site – which organisation publishes the site?
- Check the website address or URL for domain type; this may give some hints about the site or the group with which the author is associated.

Domain Type	UK abbreviation	US abbreviation
Commercial	.co	.com
Educational	.ac	.edu
Governmental	.gov	.gov
Organisation – not for profit	.org	.org
Network	.net	.net



- Does the site give contact details including name, address, and telephone numbers as well as e-mail for the author and/or the organisation?

Objectivity

- Does the website make a point of stating its objective? – e.g. to sell a product or service or to inform a particular group of people.
- Is the site 'disguised' advertising with links to purchase the product or service? Some sites will present apparently scientific research on a particular product or service and at the bottom offer the opportunity to purchase that product or service. How unbiased is the 'scientific research' likely to be?
- Does the site examine all sides of the question, is it balanced?
- Is the language emotive, inflammatory or sarcastic?

Currency

- How current is the information presented? Is it up-to-date or out-of-date?
- Does it tell you when the information was posted to the web and when was it last updated?
- How recent are any cited references?
- Check the links from a page – if many of them are dead it may mean the author has not revisited the site lately.
- Does the page refer to events either current or in the future that have now passed?

Coverage

- How comprehensively does the page or site cover a topic?
- Does the site present a single point of view or multiple points of view?
- Is it narrowly defined and limited? Or is it specialised, focusing only on a certain aspect of the subject - does it state this in its purpose?
- Does it provide good links to other sites that will extend your knowledge of the subject?
- Does the list of references suggest the author has consulted a variety of reputable sources?

Purpose

- Does the website clearly state its purpose?
- Does the website clearly fulfil that stated purpose?
- Does it limit itself to that purpose?
- Does it have links (or hypertext links) to commercial operations? Is the relationship explicit?



SEARCH ENGINES

There are literally thousands of search engines available, they do not all search in the same way and they do not all retrieve the same results.

Crawlers

Crawler-based search engines, such as Google, create their listings automatically; they "crawl" or "spider" the web noting new pages or pages that have changed. E.g.

Google <http://www.google.com> - N.B. Google is a highly recommended search engine

AllTheWeb <http://www.alltheweb.com>

AltaVista <http://uk.altavista.com/>

Directories

A directory search engine depends on human selection for its listings. Site managers submit a short description to the directory for their site, or editors write one for sites they review. A search looks for matches only in the descriptions submitted. E.g.

Yahoo UK and Ireland <http://uk.yahoo.com/>

LookSmart <http://www.looksmart.com/>

Open Directory <http://dmoz.org/>

In the web's early days, a search engine either presented crawler-based results or human-powered listings. Now, it is extremely common for both types of results to be presented. Usually such a hybrid search engine will favour one type of listing over another.

Meta search engines

In a meta-search engine, you submit keywords in its search box, and it transmits your search simultaneously to several individual search engines and their databases of web pages. You get back results from all the search engines queried. The idea of meta-searching is much better than the reality in most cases. E.g.

MetaCrawler <http://www.metacrawler.com/>

Dogpile <http://www.dogpile.com/>

Mamma <http://www.mamma.com/>



SUBJECT GATEWAYS

A subject gateway is a means of accessing a collection of high quality, evaluated resources identified to support research in a particular subject discipline. Subject gateways are often compiled by academic, research or government funded communities. Using appropriate subject gateways has the advantage of reliability based on expert pre-selection.

BUBL LINK

BUBL LINK is a catalogue of Internet resources organised by subject using the Dewey classification system as used in many public libraries.

<http://bubl.ac.uk/link/linkbrowse.cfm?menuid=8180>

National electronic Library for Health (NeLH)

NeLH, the National electronic Library for Health, now part of the new National Library for Health, is a national web-based information resource aimed primarily at English NHS staff, students and libraries. It aims to provide access to a range of high quality information resources to support better patient care and a healthy lifestyle. Although the general public have access to NeLH, certain resources are only available to NHS staff.

<http://www.nelh.nhs.uk/>

National Library for Health

The NLH will be a 'networked federated library' combining all the resources and skills of NHS libraries to support patient care, continuing professional development, and research across the NHS.

<http://www.library.nhs.uk/>

Health on the Net Northern Ireland (HONNI)

HONNI is a gateway to health information provided by the Medical Library at Queen's University, Belfast. The Medical Library is the central library for all health and personal social services staff in Northern Ireland.

<http://www.honni.qub.ac.uk/>

Nursing, Midwifery and Allied health Professions (NMAP)

NMAP (Nursing, Midwifery and Allied health Professions) is a gateway to evaluated, quality Internet resources, aimed at students, researchers, academics and practitioners in the health and medical sciences. NMAP is created by a core team of information specialists and subject experts from key organisations coordinated by the University of Nottingham Greenfield Medical Library. NMAP is one of the gateways within the BIOME service.

<http://www.nmap.ac.uk>

NHS Scotland e-Library

NHS Scotland e-Library provides access to a range of high quality information resources. It caters for the work, research, education and personal development



needs of the full range of NHS staff in Scotland. A single username and password, available via online registration, provides access to these resources.

<http://www.show.scot.nhs.uk/elibrary/>

Organising Medical Networked Information (OMNI)

OMNI (Organising Medical Networked Information) is a gateway to evaluated, quality Internet resources in health and medicine, aimed at students, researchers, academics and practitioners in the health and medical sciences. OMNI is one of the gateways within the BIOME service.

<http://omni.ac.uk/>

DISCUSSION LISTS

Academic discussion lists can be a great asset to the online researcher. You subscribe to a list on a topic of interest to you. An automated program manages the discussions and sends them automatically by email to subscribers of that list. Discussion lists or mailing list services enable members to stay in touch and share information by e-mail or via the web. They allow people with similar interests to share experiences, enhance collaboration, keep in touch with peers, share research, make new contacts, ask questions and keep up to date with advancements in their field.

2005 sees the launch of **interactive CSP (iCSP)**. Interactive CSP is the official CSP members' web-based communication and networking system that has been developed and piloted with physiotherapists. It provides access to a host of resources on 60+ networks. Each network relates to a specific clinical or physiotherapy interest and gives access to relevant knowledge and resources and to peers who share that interest - through email and online discussions. You can share clinical problems, pass on clinical tips and challenge professional practice; there are also details of local initiatives and government policy.

<http://www.interactivecsp.org.uk>

JISCMail is a mailing list service for the UK Higher and Further Education communities and uses the *Listserv* mail management software.

<http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/index.htm>

manual-therapy@jiscmail.ac.uk - matters of relevance to manual therapists

physio@jiscmail.ac.uk - for physiotherapists in education and practice

sport-med@jiscmail.ac.uk - to support research in sports medicine



INFORMATION RESOURCES BY TYPE

Organisations

Physiotherapy organisations

Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP) <http://www.csp.org.uk/>

Includes links to all the websites of clinical and occupational special interest groups
<http://www.csp.org.uk/membergroups/index.cfm>

American Physical Therapy Association <http://www.apta.org/>

Australian Physiotherapy Association <http://www.physiotherapy.asn.au/>

Canadian Physiotherapy Association
<http://www.physiotherapy.ca/enghome.htm>

European Region of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy
Includes details of organisations within all member states
<http://www.physio-europe.org/>

Hong Kong Physical Therapy Association <http://www.hongkongpa.com.hk/>

International Society of Educators in Physiotherapy <http://www.isep.org.au/>

Irish Society of Chartered Physiotherapists <http://www.iscp.ie/>

New Zealand Society of Physiotherapists <http://www.nzsp.org.nz/>

South African Society of Physiotherapy <http://www.physiosa.org.za/>

World Confederation for Physical Therapy <http://www.wcpt.org/>

Other UK organisations

Clinical Governance Support Team <http://www.cgsupport.nhs.uk>

Commission for Health Improvement <http://www.chi.nhs.uk>

Department for Education and Skills <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/>

Department of Health <http://www.dh.gov.uk/>

Disabled Living Foundation <http://www.dlf.org.uk/>



Health & Care in Northern Ireland <http://www.n-i.nhs.uk/>

Health Professions Council <http://www.hpc-uk.org/>

Hospital Trusts (England)

http://www.nhs.uk/root/localnhsservices/list_orgs.asp?ot=R__

Medical Research Council <http://www.mrc.ac.uk/>

National Health Service <http://www.nhs.uk/>

National Institute for Clinical Excellence <http://www.nice.org.uk/>

NHS Careers <http://www.nhscareers.nhs.uk/>

NHS Direct <http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk/>

NHS Modernisation Agency <http://www.modern.nhs.uk>

NHS Wales <http://www.wales.nhs.uk/>

NHS Wales Directory <http://www.wales.nhs.uk/directory.cfm>

NHSScotland Organisations

<http://www.show.scot.nhs.uk/organisations/orgindex.htm>

Primary Care Trusts (England)

<http://www.nhs.uk/root/localnhsservices/orgs/trust/default.asp>

Royal College of Midwives <http://www.rcm.org.uk/>

Royal College of Nursing <http://www.rcn.org.uk/>

Scotland's Health on the Web (NHSScotland) <http://www.show.scot.nhs.uk/>

Bibliographic databases

Where databases are indicated as available in the **CSP Learning Resource Centre** you should make an appointment to come to the Learning Resource Centre, and indicate you wish to use the databases. (Tel: 020 7306 6666 or e-mail enquiries@csp.org.uk) There is a charge made for the use of databases by non-CSP members.

Definition: A bibliographic database is a database that contains records that are descriptions of primary publications i.e. journal articles, books, reports etc.



These records or references refer you to full-text printed publications, or occasionally they may link to the full text online. The records may contain abstracts from the primary publications and may be subject indexed.

It is important when using a bibliographic database to find out the type of material it covers: e.g. Does it only cover journal articles? What are the criteria for inclusion? What is the coverage in terms of time?

Acubriefs

The purpose of Acubriefs is to make available online the most comprehensive database of references on acupuncture in the English language. References on acupuncture in languages other than English will be incorporated contingent on time and resources.

Available Free on the Web <http://www.acubriefs.com>

Ageline

AgeLine is a US bibliographic database covering of social gerontology as well as aging-related research from psychology, sociology, social work, economics, public policy, and the health sciences. It covers aging-related issues for professionals in aging services, health, business, law, and mental health. AgeLine also includes selected consumer content

Available Free on the Web <http://www.aarp.org/research/ageline/>

AMED – Allied & Complementary Medicine Database

AMED covers physiotherapy, rehabilitation, complementary medicine, occupational therapy, podiatry and palliative care. AMED covers relevant references from over 500 journals, many not indexed by other more general biomedical sources. This is a key database for physiotherapy material. Coverage: Journal articles, 1985 onwards. 166,053 records as of November 2003.

Free Web Access for CSP Members via CSP Website

<http://www.csp.org.uk/libraryandinformation services>

Free Web Access for NHS staff in England: <http://www.library.nhs.uk/>

Free Web Access for NHS staff in Scotland: <http://www.elib.scot.nhs.uk>

Free Web Access for NHS staff in Wales:

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/page.cfm?orgid=1&pid=1314>

Available for searching in the CSP Learning Resource Centre

ASSIA – Applied Social Science Index and Abstracts



ASSIA: Applied Social Sciences Index and Abstracts on the Web covers health, social services, psychology, sociology, economics, politics, race relations and education. Updated monthly, ASSIA provides a comprehensive source of social science and health information for the practical and academic professional. ASSIA currently contains over 312,000 records from 650 journals in 16 different countries, including the UK and US. Coverage: Journal articles; 1987 onwards.

Free Web Access for NHS staff in Scotland: <http://www.elib.scot.nhs.uk>

CINAHL – Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature

Cinahl is the premier database covering nursing and allied health. Selected journals are indexed in the areas of consumer health, biomedicine, and health sciences librarianship. Coverage: Journal articles, healthcare books, book chapters, nursing dissertations, selected conference proceedings, standards of professional practice, government publications, educational software and audiovisual materials; 1982 onwards.

Free Web Access for NHS staff in England: <http://www.library.nhs.uk/>

Free Web Access for NHS staff in Northern Ireland:

<http://www.honni.qub.ac.uk/OnlineResources/KeyResources/CINAHL/>

Free Web Access for NHS staff in Scotland: <http://www.elib.scot.nhs.uk>

Free Web Access for NHS staff in Wales:

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/page.cfm?OrgID=1&PID=741>

Available for searching in the CSP Learning Resource Centre

Department of Health Publications Library

The Publications Library holds bibliographic details of current and obsolete DH circulars from 1995 to the present, including full text where available.

Free on the Web:

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Publications/PublicationsLibrary/fs/en>

DH – Data (See HMIC)

Free Web Access for NHS staff in England: <http://www.library.nhs.uk/>

Free Web Access for NHS staff in Northern Ireland:

<http://www.honni.qub.ac.uk/OnlineResources/KeyResources/HMICHealthManagementInformationConsortium/>

Free Web Access for NHS staff in Scotland: <http://www.elib.scot.nhs.uk>



Free Web Access for NHS staff in Wales:

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/page.cfm?orgid=1&pid=1314>

Available for searching in the CSP Learning Resource Centre

EMBASE

This database contains high-quality, current and validated biomedical and pharmacological bibliographic information, with more than 15 million records drawn from the international literature. Embase is an integrated collection of biomedical discipline-specific databases including one on rehabilitation and physical medicine. This database focuses on all aspects of the rehabilitation of somatic disorders using physiotherapy and other therapeutic modalities. Topics include diagnosis, function tests and evaluation as well as the social, vocational and educational aspects of rehabilitation. Coverage: Journal articles, 1974 onwards but with some earlier material. Rehabilitation and Physical Medicine section has approximately 135,000 records for the last ten years.

Free Web Access for NHS staff in England: <http://www.library.nhs.uk/>

Free Web Access for NHS staff in Scotland: <http://www.elib.scot.nhs.uk> 1980-current

Free Web Access for NHS staff in Wales: <http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/ovid>

Available for searching in the CSP Learning Resource Centre: Embase – Rehabilitation and Physical Medicine last 10 years

HMIC – Health Management Information Consortium Database

This database has three sections:

DH Data

The core subjects covered by DH data are health service and hospital administration with an emphasis on the British National Health Service. Coverage: Articles indexed from about 2,000 mainly English-language journals are included, together with documents of books, reports, pamphlets, administrative circulars and other official publications. An important feature of the database is the inclusion of full details, including sources of supply, of Department of Health publications. 1983 onwards.

King's Fund Database

The database holds records of the material in the library of the King's Fund. The database contains about 48,000 records mostly with a UK focus on health management and services, community care, service development and NHS organisation and administration. 1979 onwards.

HELMIS – Health Information Management Information Service Database

The Health information management service database contains over 54,000 records relating to community care and health systems management internationally, but with particular focus on the UK, Europe and developing countries. 1984-1998.



Free Web Access for NHS staff in Scotland: <http://www.elib.scot.nhs.uk>

Free Web Access for NHS staff in Wales:
<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/page.cfm?orgid=520&pid=8822>

Free Web Access for NHS staff in Northern Ireland:
<http://www.honni.qub.ac.uk/OnlineResources/Databases/>

Available for searching in the CSP Learning Resource Centre

King's Fund Database (See HMIC)

Free Web Access for NHS staff in England: <http://www.library.nhs.uk/>

Nursing and Allied Health Comprehensive Collection

Nursing & Allied Health Comprehensive Collection is a valuable resource for nursing and allied health professionals, students, educators and researchers. This database contains over 310 full text journals covering the areas of nursing, biomedicine, health sciences, consumer health and allied health disciplines.

Free Web Access for NHS staff in Scotland: <http://www.elib.scot.nhs.uk>

PEDro

PEDro is the Physiotherapy Evidence Database. It has been developed to give rapid access to bibliographic details and abstracts of randomised controlled trials, systematic reviews and evidence-based clinical practice guidelines in physiotherapy. Most trials on the database have been rated for quality to help you quickly discriminate between trials which are likely to be valid and interpretable and those which are not.

Free on the Web: <http://www.pedro.fhs.usyd.edu.au/index.html>

PsycINFO

Produced by the American Psychological Association, PsycINFO is a comprehensive source for bibliographic coverage of psychology and behavioural sciences literature. Subjects covered include education, linguistics, medicine, nursing, pharmacology, physiology, psychiatry and sociology. Approximately 30% of the material originates from Europe. Coverage: 1,500 journals in more than 25 languages indexed as well as chapters and books, reports and secondary publications, 1887 onwards.

Free Web Access for NHS staff in England: <http://www.library.nhs.uk/>

Free Web Access for NHS staff in Northern Ireland:
<http://www.honni.qub.ac.uk/OnlineResources/Databases/>



Free Web Access for NHS staff in Scotland: <http://www.elib.scot.nhs.uk>

Free Web Access for NHS staff in Wales:
<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/page.cfm?orgid=1&pid=1314>

Medline / PubMed

This is the premier source of references in the biomedical field. It covers approximately 3,200 journals worldwide and can be most successfully searched using the National Library of Medicine's controlled indexing terms, known as MeSH - Medical Subject Headings. Medline uses the American term 'physical therapy' for physiotherapy, or the therapy subheading. Coverage: Journal articles, mid 1950's to present. (N.B. The journal 'Physiotherapy' is not currently indexed in Medline.)

Free on the Web:
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi>

Medline Free Web Access for NHS staff in England: <http://www.library.nhs.uk/>
Medline Free Web Access for NHS staff in NI:
<http://www.honni.qub.ac.uk/electinfo/elect.html>

Medline Free Web Access for NHS staff in Scotland: <http://www.elib.scot.nhs.uk>

Medline Free Web Access for NHS staff in Wales:
<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/page.cfm?orgid=1&pid=1314>

Available for searching in the CSP Learning Resource Centre

REHABDATA

REHABDATA provides indexing to disability and rehabilitation research conducted within the United States and is an extensive database of disability and rehabilitation literature abstracts. Coverage: Research reports, books, journal articles and audiovisual materials, 1956 –

Free Access on the Web: <http://www.naric.com/search/rhab/>

SPORTDiscus

SPORTDiscus covers all aspects of the world of sport, including: sports medicine, physical education, exercise physiology, physical fitness, sport psychology, health and safety, sport science, kinesiology, coaching and training, and physical therapy. The database has more than 600,000 references. Twenty-five percent of the records are research level material with descriptive abstracts where available. The coverage is both international and multidisciplinary. SPORTDiscus is updated monthly. Coverage: journals, books, book chapters, e-journals, theses and dissertations, conference proceedings, and websites. Mid 1970's but also includes some historical records.



Free Web Access for NHS staff in Scotland: <http://www.elib.scot.nhs.uk/>

Available for searching in the CSP Learning Resource Centre

Sports and Leisure Index

S&LI is a bibliographic database containing more than 42,000 references to articles from journals and magazines covering the many different aspects of sport, physical activity and leisure studies. It covers the period 1986 to the present and is made available, free of charge, via Altis: the guide to Internet resources in hospitality, leisure, sport and tourism.

Free Web Access <http://altis.ac.uk/sli/>

Filters

Filters, sometimes called 'hedges', are pre-defined search strategies that are useful in identifying clinical papers (therapy, diagnosis, aetiology or prognosis), research methodologies or systematic reviews. Filters are used in conjunction with your own subject search strategy. A number of academic institutions have developed and made available useful filters.

Centre for Dissemination and Reviews

Search strategies to identify reviews and meta-analyses in MEDLINE and CINAHL

Free on the Web: <http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/search.htm>

Edward G Milner Library, University of Rochester Medical Centre.

Tools and search filters

Free on the Web:

http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/hslt/miner/digital_library/evidence_based_resources.cfm#TOOLS

Evidence Based Medicine Tool Kit

A collection of tools for identifying, assessing and applying relevant evidence to better health care decision-making.

Free on the Web: <http://www.med.ualberta.ca/ebm/>

Public Health Resource Centre, Institute of Health Sciences, Oxford

Filters for CINAHL, Embase and PsychINFO by transcribing terms used in MeSH headings and sub headings to the closest equivalent term used in each of the other databases using the OVID front end.

Free on the Web: <http://www.phru.nhs.uk/~casp/filters/table.htm>



Clinical Queries using Research Methodology Filters

These two specialized search queries are intended for clinicians. You can access the Clinical Queries and Systematic Reviews filters from the Clinical Queries link on PubMed's sidebar. Both of these built-in search filters limit retrieval to articles that report research done with specific methodologies.

Free on the Web: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query/static/clinical.html>

The table of terms for Clinical Queries using research Methodology is available at:

Free on the Web:
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query/static/clinicaltable.html>

Applying Clinical Search Filters

Library of the Health Sciences Peoria

Free on the Web: <http://www.uic.edu/depts/lib/lhsp/resources/filters.shtml>

Library catalogues

Library catalogues are an excellent way of finding out what books have been written on a particular subject. The catalogues will contain records of books now out of print as well as currently available books. Library catalogues may also contain a library's journal holdings.

You should not assume that because a library catalogue is available on the Internet, you have access to the library or its materials. If you find details of a book you would like to consult first check if it is available in your university, NHS library, or local public library. If it is not ask the librarian whether it can be obtained either through an interlibrary loan or whether the libraries have reciprocal loan arrangements.

British Library

The British Library is the library of last resort. Everyone is welcome to visit the British Library Reading Room at St Pancras but it is not a public library and access to the reading rooms, and hence to the collection, is by reader's pass only. Admission to the reading rooms is for those who have reached a point in their research where no other library can adequately supply all the information required. You must be able to demonstrate a legitimate need to use the items in the collection to further your research needs. Normally, you will have started your research and used other libraries before applying for a reader's pass. Students can apply for a reader's pass on proof of their signature (e.g. bank or credit card, passport, driving licence etc) and proof of their home address (e.g. utility bill, bank statement, driving licence etc) without being referred by their university.

<http://www.bl.uk/services/reading/admissions.html>

Free on the Web: <http://blpc.bl.uk/>



COPAC

COPAC is a union catalogue, giving *FREE* access to the merged online catalogues of members of the Consortium of University Research Libraries (CURL). There are 27 members of CURL, of which 26 members are currently contributing records to COPAC, including the British Library & National Library of Scotland. The remaining CURL libraries' catalogues are also being loaded.

Free on the Web: <http://www.copac.ac.uk/copac/about.html>

M25 Consortium of Academic Libraries

The M25 Consortium aims to foster cooperation between member libraries. There are currently 39 member university and other higher education institutions in and around the M25.

If you are registered with one M25 Consortium library you may be able to gain access to others – ask your university librarian. The catalogues are available for searching together with access details at:

Free on the Web: <http://www.m25lib.ac.uk/>

UK libraries plus

UK Libraries Plus is a co-operative venture between higher education libraries, making it easier for students and staff to use libraries conveniently near to home or work - at no admission fee. There are currently 135 institutions participating in the UK Libraries Plus Scheme. The libraries can be searched by name or region.

Free on the Web: <http://www.uklibrariesplus.ac.uk/>

Electronic journals

Publishing is a commercial activity; publishers do not generally make their books and journals freely available. However, there are a small number of exceptions. These exceptions tend to be journals produced by organisations where the objective is education and dissemination of information rather than profit. A journal has greatest value when it is a recent issue, some publishers will make journals available full text after 6 months, a year or perhaps 2 years. Journal contents pages, with perhaps an abstract, are now widely available electronically, and some publishers operate e-mail Table of Contents (ToC) services to promote their journals. Many journals are available electronically by subscription. A subscription may be taken out by an individual or an institution such as a library. Many of the big publishers make their journals available under the *Athens* password system.

Bandolier

A journal available in paper copy and electronically about health care using evidence based medicine techniques.



Free on the Web: <http://www.jr2.ox.ac.uk/bandolier/journal.html>

BioMedCentral

Over 100 Open Access journals covering all areas of Biology and Medicine.

Free on the Web: <http://www.biomedcentral.com/browse/journals/>

CSP website

The CSP website provides details of e-journals relevant to physiotherapy in the Library and Information Service journal list.

Free on the Web: <http://www.csp.org.uk/libraryandinformationservices>

Directory of Open Access Journals

This service covers free, full text, quality controlled scientific and scholarly journals. It aims to cover all subjects and languages. There are now 733 journals in the directory.

Free on the Web: <http://www.doaj.org/>

E-journals

E-journals is part of the WWW Virtual Library. The WWW Virtual Library is a distributed, not-for-profit system of specialized directories and guides, each maintained by an expert in the field.

Free on the Web: <http://www.e-journals.org/>

EBSCOhost Electronic Journals Service

Covers 8000 journals available to search from a variety of publishers. ToCs service, SDI alerts with a pay-to-view option. The site has an *Athens* login facility.

Free on the Web: <http://ejournals.ebsco.com>

Free Medical Journals

Links to free journals and those made available after a time delay of six months, one year or two years.

Free on the Web: <http://www.freemedicaljournals.com/>

ProQuest Journals

ProQuest provides access to over 800 full text journals supporting healthcare.

Free on the Web to NHS England staff via: <http://www.library.nhs.uk/>

ScienceDirect

ScienceDirect contains over 1800 journals from Elsevier, including 'Physiotherapy'. The site has an *Athens* login facility. Guests are able to view tables of contents (ToCs)



and abstracts and can set up alerts for new issues on chosen journals. There is a credit card pay-to-view facility.

Guest access free on the Web: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/>

Social Sciences Electronic Journals

WWW Virtual Library

Free on the Web: <http://www.clas.ufl.edu/users/gthursby/socsci/ejournal.htm>

ZETOC

ZETOC provides access to the British Library's Electronic Table of Contents of around 20,000 current journals and around 16,000 conference proceedings published per year. The database covers 1993 to date, and is updated on a daily basis. It includes an email alerting service, so that users can receive notification of relevant new data. An additional service offers the ability to order articles online although this is fee-based and the cost is borne by the individual.

Access: ZETOC is free to UK higher and further education institutions. It is also available to English NHS Regions and NHS Scotland

Free Web Access for NHS staff in England: <http://www.library.nhs.uk/>

Free Web Access for NHS staff in Scotland:
<http://www.elib.scot.nhs.uk/uptodate.asp>

e-books

There are few full-text books available but again some publishers will release book chapters to promote sales of the books.

Aiello SE, Mays A. (Editors). Merck Veterinary Manual. 8th edition. Rahway, NJ: Merck & Co; 1998.

The Merck Veterinary Manual (MVM) is a well-established reference work for veterinary surgeons and other animal health professionals.

Free on the Web: <http://www.merckvetmanual.com/>

Beers MH, Berkow R, (Editors). Merck Manual of Diagnosis and Therapy. 17th edition. Rahway, NJ: Merck & Co; 1999.

An on-line version of the Merck Manual of Diagnosis and Therapy, recognized as one of the leading medical texts on disease diagnosis. Chapters on all major systems including Musculoskeletal / Connective Tissue Disorders, Neurological Disorders, Gynaecology & Obstetrics, and Paediatrics.

Free on the Web: <http://www.merck.com/mrkshared/mmanual/home.jsp>



Beers MH, Berkow R, (Editors). Merck Manual of Geriatrics. 3rd edition. Rahway, NJ: Merck & Co; 2000.

Free on the Web: http://www.merck.com/mrkshared/mm_geriatrics/home.jsp

British National Formulary. London: BMA and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. (Annual publication)

The BNF provides UK healthcare professionals with authoritative and practical information on the selection and clinical use of medicines in a clear, concise and accessible manner.

Free on the Web: <http://bnf.org/>

Polman CH, Thompson AJ, Murray TJ, McDonald WI. Multiple sclerosis: the guide to treatment and management. 5th edition. New York: Demos Medical Publishing; 2001

A comprehensive, readily accessible guide to the present therapeutic options in multiple sclerosis

Free on the Web: http://www.msif.org/en/publications/ms_the_guide/index.html

StatSoft Inc. Electronic statistics textbook. Tulsa, OK: StatSoft; 2003.

Free on the Web: <http://www.statsoft.com/textbook/esc1.html>

Institute of Medicine. Musculoskeletal Disorders and the Workplace. Low Back and Upper Extremities. Washington, DC: National Academy Press; 2001.

Free on the Web: <http://www.nap.edu/books/0309072840/html/>

Swinscow TD. Statistics at square one. 9th edition. London: BMJ Publishing; 1997.

Free on the Web: <http://bmj.bmjournals.com/collections/statsbk/index.shtml>

van Bommel JH. Handbook of Medical Informatics. Heidelberg: Springer Verlag Heidelberg; 1997.

Free on the Web:
http://www.mihandbook.stanford.edu/handbook/homepage_self.htm

Wheless CR. Wheless' textbook of orthopaedics. Durham, NC: Duke University Medical Center; 1996.

Free on the Web: <http://www.whelessonline.com/>



Accessible Formats

Revealweb

Revealweb is a web based catalogue bringing together information about available titles produced in accessible formats from a wide range of organisations.

Revealweb will :

- Find books available in Braille, moon, audio books and digital talking books, tactile diagrams and large print
- Find titles currently in production in an accessible format to avoid duplication
- Find who produces, loans or sells accessible material
- Act as the copyright notification register

Revealweb will not:

- Arrange the supply of resources, other than providing contact information
- Be responsible for the availability of resources
- Be responsible for the content or quality of resources
- Be responsible for the supplying organisations' quality of service
- Advertise or endorse products

Target Audience

Revealweb is intended for use by visually impaired people and their intermediaries.

Free on the internet : <http://revealweb.org.uk/>

Statistics

Statistics – physiotherapy

Health Professions Council

UK wide statistics on the numbers of registrants in the 12 allied health professions.

Free on the Web: http://www.hpc-uk.org/registrants/the_register_stats.htm

Historical statistical data from 1967

Physiotherapist Statistics for England

Free on the Web: http://www.hpc-uk.org/about_us/facts_figures_cpsm_registrants.htm



Statistics - England

National Statistics Online

Official statistics in the UK are now widely devolved. Many government departments run their own statistical divisions, and some of these are significant in their own right. Local authorities, non-departmental public bodies and, in some cases, private companies, are also involved in the production of government statistics. Some of these are designated National Statistics.

Free on the Web: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/default.asp>

Department of Health (England) Statistics

Almost all the material now published by the Department of Health is available in electronic format, including statistical information and surveys. The Department's statisticians are responsible for collecting and compiling statistics on hospital activity, NHS performance and expenditure. Statistics are produced in the DH by the Statistics Division and the Performance Analysis Branch, which together deal with a range of information. Most publications relate to England unless stated otherwise.

Free on the Web:
<http://www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Statistics/fs/en>

Health and Personal Social Services England

The Department of Health is responsible for health services (such as GPs and hospitals) and personal social services (such as residential care, child protection and home help) in England. This publication contains a selection of statistics from across this range of services. It is intended both to provide a useful starting point into DH statistics and act as a summary reference document.

Free on the Web: <http://www.performance.doh.gov.uk/HPSSS/HPSSSINT.HTM>

Health and Safety Executive Statistics

Statistics on work-related ill-health, injuries, dangerous occurrences, enforcement and gas safety.

Free on the Web: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/index.htm>

Health Survey for England

Summary of key findings.

Free on the Web:
<http://www.official-documents.co.uk/document/deps/doh/survey02/summ02.htm>



Hospital Activity Statistics

Regional performance statistics for bed occupancy, support facilities, attendance figures, day care, imaging and radiodiagnostics, and intensive care and high dependency.

Free on the Web:

http://www.performance.doh.gov.uk/hospitalactivity/about_data/index.htm

Hospital Episode Statistics

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) provide information on admitted patient care delivered by NHS hospitals in England from 1989. This is used to provide wide-ranging analysis for the NHS, Government and many other organisations and individuals who have an interest in health and healthcare administration.

Free on the Web: <http://www.hesonline.org.uk/>

Hospital Waiting Times/ List Statistics

Free on the Web: <http://www.performance.doh.gov.uk/waitingtimes/index.htm>

NHS Hospital and Community Health Services Non-Medical Workforce Census England 2003

Provides a variety of statistical information about physiotherapists and other allied health personnel employed by the NHS.

Free on the Web:

<http://www.publications.doh.gov.uk/public/nonmedicalcensus2003.pdf>

Statistics – Scotland

General Register Office for Scotland

The General Register Office for Scotland is the department of the devolved Scottish Administration responsible for the registration of births, marriages, deaths, divorces and adoptions in Scotland, and for carrying out periodic censuses of Scotland's population.

Free on the Web: <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/>

Scotland's Health on the Web

Online health information provided by NHS Scotland.

Free on the Web: <http://www.show.scot.nhs.uk/>

Scottish Health Statistics

National Statistics for Scotland was introduced in June 2000, but the statistics do generally pre-date this.

Free on the Web: <http://www.isdscotland.org/isd/>



NHSScotland Workforce Statistics

Scientific, therapeutic and technical staff.

Free on the Web:

http://www.isdscotland.org/isd/info3.jsp?pContentID=1363&p_applic=CCC&p_service=Content.show&

Statistics – Wales

Health Statistics Wales

“Health Statistics, Wales” is an annual publication prepared by the National Assembly for

Wales. It contains summary text along with graphs and tables that provide information on the health of the population and the range and quality of health care services in Wales. All statistics relate to Wales except where otherwise indicated. Many tables enable comparisons to be made between NHS Trusts or Health Authorities.

Free on the Web:

<http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwales/content/publication/health/2002/hsw2003/hsw2003-intro-e.htm>

Staff Directly employed by the NHS [in Wales]

[2002]

Free on the Web:

<http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwalesheadline/content/health/2003/hdw20030514-e.htm>

Statistics for Wales

The Statistical Directorate collects, processes, interprets and publishes information about the economic and social condition of Wales, and promotes the use of that information in decision making within government and beyond. Covers a wide range of topics including demography, health, housing, education, training, agriculture, industry, the economy, local government, transport, the environment and the Welsh language.

Free on the Web: <http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwales/>

Statistics – Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA)

NISRA is Northern Ireland’s official statistics organisation.

Free on the Web: <http://www.nisra.gov.uk/> - search National Statistics



Department of Health, Social Security and Public Safety, Northern Ireland

Free on the Web: <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/stats&research/index.asp>

Statistics – International

European Observatory on Healthcare Systems

The European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies supports and promotes evidence-based health policy-making through comprehensive and rigorous analysis of the dynamics of health care systems in Europe.

Free on the Web: <http://www.euro.who.int/observatory>

European Region - World Confederation of Physical Therapy

Statistics on physiotherapy profession in member countries

Free on the Web: <http://www.physio-europe.org/>

Eurostat Datashop

Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Communities, supplies the most up-to-date, complete and detailed statistical information on all 15 European Union countries and the euro-zone.

Free on the Web: <http://www.eudatashop.gov.uk/>

World Health Organization Statistical Information Service

Free on the Web: <http://www3.who.int/whosis/menu.cfm>

UK Government publications

UK Parliament

Free on the Web: <http://www.parliament.uk/>

Official Documents

The Official Documents website contains a selection of Government titles covering a very broad range of topics including the economy, work and welfare, health, transport and the environment. There are two main groups: Command Papers (White Papers & Green Papers) and House of Commons Papers. Acts of Parliament and Statutory Instruments can be found on HMSO website.

Free on the Web: <http://www.official-documents.co.uk/>



Her Majesty's Stationery Office

Free on the Web: <http://www.hmso.gov.uk/>

Department of Health

The Department of Health publishes a wealth of material for health and social care professionals and other stakeholders. The fully-searchable publications library contains all documents published department-wide. Almost all the material now published by DH is available in electronic format in this section.

Free on the Web:
<http://www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Publications/fs/en>

Scottish Government

Full-text electronic versions of publications from 1997 onwards.

Free on the Web: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/publications/recent.aspx>

Scottish Parliament

Free on the Web: <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/>

National Assembly of Wales

Free on the Web: <http://www.wales.gov.uk/index.htm>

National Assembly of Wales Key publications

Free on the Web: <http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypub/index.htm>

Northern Ireland Assembly

Free on the Web: <http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/index.htm>

Northern Ireland Assembly Publications

Free on the Web: <http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/io/4.htm>

Research

Center Watch

A clinical trials listing service containing resources for patients and for research professionals. The site has an American bias but it does have international listings of ongoing clinical trials and profiles of research centres and other clinical trials service providers, although it is not exhaustive.



Free on the Web: <http://www.centerwatch.com/>

Clinical Evidence

Clinical Evidence is a compendium produced by the BMA of best available evidence for effective healthcare. Its contents are driven by questions rather than by the availability of research evidence. Instead of starting with the evidence and summarising what is there, they identify important clinical questions, and then search for and summarise the best available evidence to answer them. Clinical Evidence specifically aims not to make treatment recommendations. It includes information on benefits, harms and outcomes to assist discussions of the treatments and their effects. It promotes informed decision making by summarising what's known, and not known, about the treatment and prevention of nearly 200 medical conditions.

Free Web Access in England: <http://www.library.nhs.uk/>

Free Web Access in Scotland: <http://www.show.scot.nhs.uk/elibrary/>

Free Web Access in Wales: <http://www.wales.nhs.uk/>

Free Web Access in Northern Ireland: <http://www.library.nhs.uk/>

Clinical Trials Database

This US database offers up-to-date information for locating federally and privately supported clinical trials for a wide range of diseases and conditions. A clinical trial (also clinical research) is a research study of human volunteers to answer specific health questions. Interventional trials determine whether experimental treatments or new ways of using known therapies are safe and effective under controlled environments. Observational trials address health issues in large groups of people of populations in natural settings.

The Clinical Trials Database currently contains approximately 9,300 clinical studies sponsored by the National Institutes of Health, other federal agencies, and private industry. Studies listed in the database are conducted primarily in the United States and Canada, but include locations in about 90 countries.

Free on the Web: <http://www.clinicaltrials.gov/>

Current Controlled Trials

Current Controlled Trials is published by BioMed Central, an independent publishing house, committed to providing immediate free access to peer reviewed biomedical research.

This site has two resources:

- Database of randomised controlled trials with an International Standard Randomised Controlled Trial Number (ISRCTN)
- *metaRegister* of Controlled Trials (mRCT) An international database combining registers of ongoing randomised controlled trials in all areas of healthcare



Free on the Web: <http://www.controlled-trials.com/>

Higher Education & Research opportunities in the United Kingdom (HERO)

The official gateway site to the UK's universities, colleges and research organisations.

Free on the Web:

http://www.hero.ac.uk/sites/hero/uk/universities___colleges/index.cfm

National Research Register

The NRR Projects database is an amalgam of records that have been submitted by over 350 organisations ("data providers"), the vast majority coming from the National Health Service in England, Scotland and Wales. The Register provides a reasonable record of projects that were ongoing from early 2000 onwards.

Free on the Web: <http://www.update-software.com/national/>

Outcome Measures Database

The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy outcome measures database contains the details of outcome measures in a number of clinical areas. The database contains details of the title of the measure, a brief summary, time to do, training requirements, equipment, cost, distribution, patient population, locale, original reference, development, reliability, responsiveness, validity, miscellaneous information, disclaimers and descriptors.

Free on the Web:

<http://www.csp.org.uk/director/effectivepractice/outcomemeasures/database.cfm>

Patient-assessed Health Instruments

Patient-assessed Health Instruments is designed to assist health professionals choose the most appropriate instruments to measure health outcomes and quality of life. The database holds several types of questionnaires, interview schedules and rating scales that measure health and illness from the patient perspective. This web site is part of the National Centre for Health Outcomes Development (NCHOD) Knowledge Base. NCHOD is funded by the Department of Health.

Free on the Web: <http://phi.uhce.ox.ac.uk/>

RDInfo - Health-related research funding opportunities

The database currently holds information from 1166 funding bodies offering 4186 different awards.

Free on the Web: <http://www.rdinfo.org.uk/>



Research Findings Register

The Research Findings Electronic Register (ReFeR) is a database of the findings of research studies funded by the Department of Health.

Free on the Web:

http://www.info.doh.gov.uk/doh/refr_web.nsf/Home?OpenForm

Critical Appraisal Skills

Critical appraisal is a technique that, by reference to a framework of questions, increases the effectiveness of your reading, thus enabling you to quickly exclude papers that are of insufficient quality to inform practice, and to systematically evaluate those that remain to extract their most important points.

How to read a paper

This site offers the full text of a series of articles written by Trisha Greenhalgh and published in the BMJ on how to analyse biomedical research articles of various types, including making sense of the statistics.

Free on the Web: <http://bmj.bmjournals.com/collections/read.shtml>

Critical Appraisal Skills of Bio-medical Literature

A seminar by Alan O'Rourke that provides formats for the appraisal of a primary research article and a review article, an introduction to the evaluation of websites, a worked example and resources and background reading.

Free on the Web: <http://www.shef.ac.uk/uni/projects/wrp/ebpsem2.html>

Critical Appraisal

A site bringing together an introduction to Critical Appraisal skills with links to tutorials, tools, discussion groups, meta-analysis/reviews, study design and quality of life measures.

Free on the Web: <http://www.shef.ac.uk/~scharr/triage/index/critic.htm>

NHS Learning & Development Public Health Resource Unit

The Critical Appraisal Skills Programme (CASP) and evidence-based practice.

Free on the Web: <http://www.phru.nhs.uk/casp/casp.htm>

Evidence Based Practice

"Evidence- based medicine is the conscientious, explicit, and judicious use of current best evidence in making decisions about the care of individual patients." ⁽⁴⁾ So how do you know what is the 'best evidence'?

Levels of evidence

Research evidence has been arranged as a hierarchy or table that grades the evidence and levels of complexity of research methods. Although the idea of a hierarchy of evidence is generally agreed, the exact wording and subdivisions do vary. However, in all representations the higher the methodology is ranked (1 is the highest), the better is the evidence.

Table 2 Hierarchy of evidence ⁽⁵⁾

Rank	Methodology	Description
1	Systematic reviews and meta-analyses	Systematic review: review of a body of data that uses explicit methods to locate primary studies, and explicit criteria to assess their quality. Meta-analysis: A statistical analysis that combines or integrates the results of several independent clinical trials considered by the analyst to be "combinable" usually to the level of re-analysing the original data, also sometimes called: pooling, quantitative synthesis. Both are sometimes called "overviews."
2	Randomised controlled trials (finer distinctions may be drawn within this group based on statistical parameters like the confidence intervals)	Individuals are randomly allocated to a control group and a group who receive a specific intervention. Otherwise the two groups are identical for any significant variables. They are followed up for specific end points.
3	Cohort studies	Groups are selected on the basis of exposure to a particular agent and followed up for specific outcomes.
4	Case-control studies	"Cases" with the condition are matched with "controls" without, and a retrospective analysis used to look for differences between the two groups.
5	Cross sectional surveys	Survey or interview of a sample of the population of interest at one point in time.
6	Case reports.	A report based on a single patient or subject; sometimes collected together into a short series.
7	Expert opinion	A consensus of experience from the good and the great.
8	Anecdotal	Something told to you.



If you are doing a database literature search you can use filters to identify articles that have a specific level of evidence. (See: Filters)

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) aims to support research designed to improve the outcomes and quality of health care, reduce its costs, address patient safety and medical errors, and broaden access to effective services. Information from AHRQ's research helps people make more informed decisions and improve the quality of health care services. AHRQ was formerly known as the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research.

Free on the Web: <http://www.ahrq.gov/>

Centre for Evidence Based Medicine

Established in Oxford as the first of several centres throughout the UK with the aim of promoting evidence-based health care and providing support and resources to anyone requiring them.

Free on the Web: <http://www.cebm.net/>

Centre for Health Evidence

A complete set of Users' Guides to Evidence Based Practice originally published as a series in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA).

Free on the Web: <http://www.cche.net/usersguides/main.asp>

Clinical Evidence

Clinical Evidence, from the BMJ Publishing Group, is the international source of the best available evidence for effective health care. See also: Research p40

Free on the Web: <http://www.clinicalevidence.com/>

Clinical Improvements Projects Database (CLIP)

The CLIP database is a new eGuidelines initiative providing a single resource for those involved in promoting and implementing improvements in clinical practice.

Free on the Web: <http://www.eguidelines.co.uk/clip/>

Cochrane Library

The Cochrane Library is the probably the premier resource for clinical evidence. It is compiled by clinicians, consumers and researchers from around the world to support health care decisions and inform people receiving care. The Cochrane Library contains several databases that can help practitioners and consumers access reliable up-to-date information about effectiveness. These resources are continually reviewed and updated to ensure the information remains current.



The first three resources in the Cochrane Library are arranged in a hierarchy of evidence - the higher up the list, the better the evidence.

The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR)

Reviews are presented in two sections:

Complete reviews – almost 2000 full-text articles reviewing the effects of specific health care interventions. The reviews are highly structured and systematic, with evidence included or excluded on the basis of explicit quality criteria, to minimise bias. Data are often combined statistically (in what is called a meta-analysis) to increase the power of the findings of numerous studies, each too small to produce reliable results individually.

Protocols – information about 1400 reviews in preparation, including the background, rationale and methods.

The Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effectiveness (DARE)

DARE includes structured abstracts of nearly 4500 systematic reviews from around the world, which have been evaluated by reviewers at the National Health Service Centre for Reviews and Dissemination in the UK. Only reviews that meet minimum quality criteria are included in DARE. These reviews cover topics that have yet to be addressed in Cochrane reviews.

The Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL)

CENTRAL is the Cochrane Collaboration's register of controlled trials. The register provides bibliographic information (i.e. abstracts rather than full-text) on nearly 400,000 reports of trials identified by contributors to the Cochrane Collaboration. CENTRAL provides individual reviewers with easy and reliable access to the maximum possible number of trials relevant to their review topic. Trials are identified from multiple sources, including searches of bibliographic databases, hand searches of many hundreds of journals and conference proceedings, and searches of other trial registers. Since the overriding aim is to create an unbiased source of data for systematic reviews, all known controlled trials are included in CENTRAL irrespective of language of publication or where and when the studies were conducted.

The Cochrane Database of Methodology Reviews (CDMR)

In the same way that decisions about health care should be based on evidence, so too should the methods that are used in systematic reviews. Many of the methods used in reviews are based on logical arguments, but it's important that these are tested empirically. The aim of CDMR is to summarise the empirical basis for decisions about methods for systematic reviews. As with CDSR, the reviews are presented in two sections – as complete reviews and protocols.

The Cochrane Methodology Register (CMR)

Intended for those who want to investigate a particular area or method relating to the science of systematic reviews. CMR is a rapidly expanding register of nearly 5000 published reports of empirical studies of methods used in reviews. Similar to the trials register, CMR is intended to provide those doing methodology reviews with easy access to the maximum number of relevant studies.

About the Cochrane Collaboration

This section of the Library gives detailed information on the many individual entities from around the world that co-ordinate the work of the Cochrane Collaboration.



Here, for example, you'll find information about each of the 49 Cochrane review groups, including the location of their editorial base, the range of topics the group covers, a list of contributors, sources of funding and how to contact them.

Health Technology Assessment Database (HTA)

Many organisations and government agencies around the world carry out health technology assessments. These assessments look at the medical, social, ethical and economic implications of health technologies (e.g. pharmaceuticals, vaccines, medical and surgical procedures) with a view to informing policy decisions. The HTA database contains over 3600 records of completed and ongoing assessments from members of INAHTA – the International Network of Agencies of Health Technology Assessment.

NHS Economic Evaluation Database (EED)

Because health care resources are finite, decision-makers are becoming increasingly aware that information on costs needs to be considered alongside information on effectiveness. This database contains 13,400 published economic evaluations of health care interventions from around the world, and is maintained by the National Health Service Centre for Reviews and Dissemination in the UK. A large proportion of these economic evaluations have been quality assessed and include a structured summary that outlines the practical implications.

Free on the Web: <http://www.library.nhs.uk/> or <http://www.thecochranelibrary.com>

Evidence Based Practice

Covers finding the evidence, assessing the evidence and putting the evidence into practice.

Free on the Web: <http://healthlinks.washington.edu/ebp>

Health Evidence Bulletins – Wales

Signposts the best evidence across a broad range of evidence types and subject areas.

Free on the Web: <http://hebw.uwcm.ac.uk/>

Netting the Evidence

Netting the Evidence is intended to facilitate evidence-based healthcare by providing support and access to helpful organisations and useful learning resources, such as an evidence-based virtual library, software and journals.

Free on the Web: <http://www.shef.ac.uk/~scharr/ir/netting/>

TRIP Database

TRIP was created in 1997 to bring together all the 'evidence-based' healthcare resources available on the Internet. It started with 1,100 links recorded from 15 sources and since then it has grown in both coverage and usability. Includes peer-reviewed journals and 'eTextbooks'. The TRIP Database has recently been enhanced (Apr 2004); non-subscribers are restricted to 5 free searches per week.



Subscription: <http://www.tripdatabase.com/>

Guidelines

AGREE Collaboration

AGREE stands for "Appraisal of Guidelines Research and Evaluation". The central aim of the project is to enhance effective health care policy in Europe by promoting the diffusion of a comprehensive approach to the production, dissemination and evaluation of high-quality clinical guidelines through established networks.

Free on the Web: <http://www.agreecollaboration.org/>

Guidelines Finder

Guidelines Finder provides an index to clinical guidelines and currently holds details of over 800 UK national guidelines with links to Internet downloadable versions of the guidelines. It is updated on a weekly basis.

Free on the Web: <http://www.library.nhs.uk/>

Australian Physiotherapy Association

APA clinical guidelines – search guidelines.

Free on the Web:

http://apa.advsol.com.au/scriptcontent/sg_guidelines.cfm?section=members

eGuidelines

It provides primary care guideline summaries, news of new guidelines and related issues, and links to over 200 clinical governance and medical sites. Registration is required - free with hardcopy subscription, or £23.50 p.a. for electronic subscription

<http://www.eguidelines.co.uk/>

National Guideline Clearinghouse (NGC)

National Guideline Clearinghouse is a public resource for evidence-based clinical practice guidelines. NGC is sponsored by the [Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality \(AHRQ\)](#), and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, in partnership with the [American Medical Association](#) and the [American Association of Health Plans-Health Insurance Association of America](#).

Free on the Web: <http://www.guideline.gov/>

New Zealand Guidelines Group

The New Zealand Guidelines Group leads a movement towards the delivery of high quality health and disability service throughout New Zealand through a change in culture based on evidence and effectiveness.



Free on the Web: <http://www.nzgg.org.nz/>

Physiotherapy-specific CSP endorsed guidelines

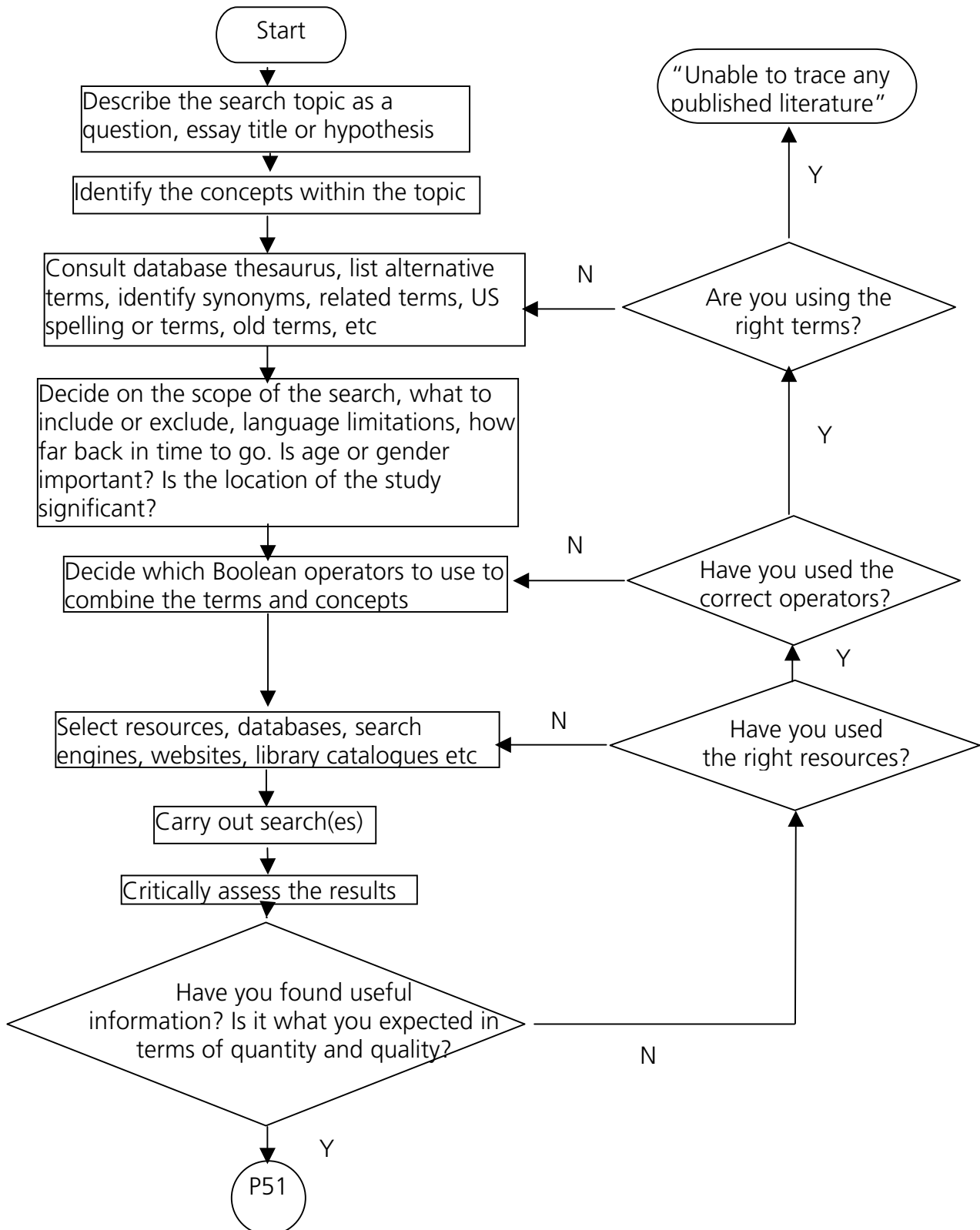
Guidelines endorsed by the CSP.

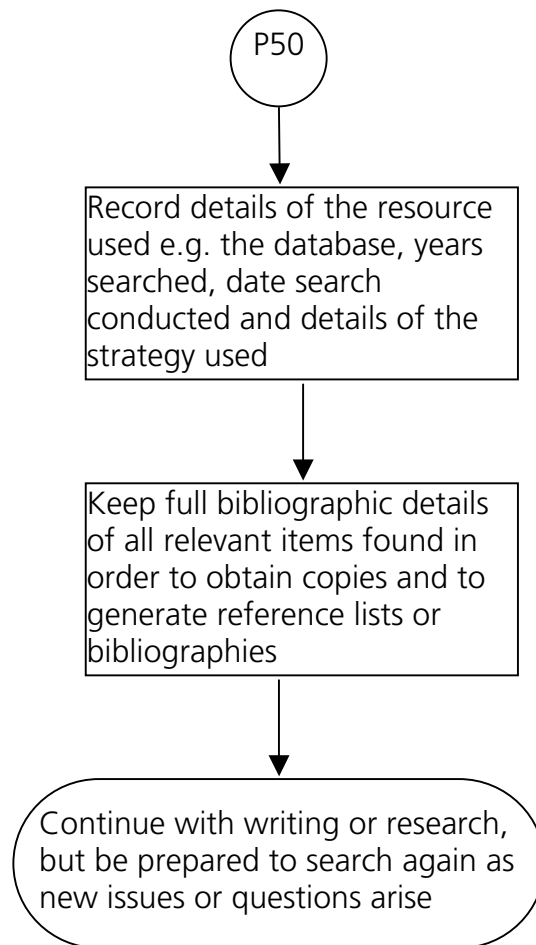
Free on the Web:

<http://www.csp.org.uk/director/effectivepractice/clinicalguidelines/physiotherapyguidelines.cfm>

APPENDIX 1

Stages of a literature search diagram. See 'How to search'





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