

# Cochrane Library

Top tips to make your search of the Cochrane Library more efficient.

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# 1 How to access the database

The best way to access all databases is to go via the Medical Library website:

<https://library.medschl.cam.ac.uk/research-support/databases/> and then select what you want. Cochrane Library does not require any Athens or Raven login to use.

## 2 Advanced search – building your search strategy

You will need to search in both the Search and MeSH tabs. In each tab, search/browse for the terms you want, and click 'Send to Search Manager'. You then combine the terms in the Search Manager using AND, OR, or NOT.

-	+	#1	(diabetes):ti,ab,kw	S	Limits	86884
<small>(Word variations have been searched)</small>						
-	+	#2	MeSH descriptor: [Carbutamide] explode all trees	MeSH		2
-	+	#3	#1 or #2	Limits		86884
-	+	#4	("patient information"):ti,ab,kw	S	Limits	2222
<small>(Word variations have been searched)</small>						
-	+	#5	("patient education"):ti,ab,kw	S	Limits	12733
<small>(Word variations have been searched)</small>						
-	+	#6	MeSH descriptor: [Patient Education as Topic] explode all trees	MeSH		8487
-	+	#7	#4 or #5 or #6	Limits		14720
		#8	#3 and #7	Cancel	Continue	

Hint: Your search will be more accurate if you search for each term individually, and combine them at the end.

## 3 Filters – how to narrow down your search

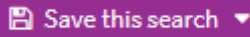
Too many search results? Use the filters on the results page to narrow things down. You will find them in the left-hand sidebar of the results page.

## 4 Accessing full text

Clicking on the title of any article found in your search results will take you directly to the full text. All results found in the Cochrane Library should be freely accessible without any login.

## 5 Saving your search history

Click the 'Save this Search' button (underneath the search history). You will need a login for Cochrane Library to save your search history.

 Save this search ▾

## 6 Saving your search results

Select the results you wish to save, and then click Export Selected Citations. You then have the option to save in a variety of file formats. RIS is compatible with all referencing software.



Export selected citation(s) ✕

2 citation(s) selected for download

Save citation to: [CiteULike](#) [Mendeley](#) [RefWorks](#)

Select the format you require from the list below

[Plain text](#) | [RIS \(EndNote\)](#) | [RIS \(Reference Manager\)](#) | [RIS \(ProCite\)](#) | [BibTeX](#)

Preview of format

Provider: John Wiley & Sons, Ltd  
Content: text/plain; charset="UTF-8"

TY - JOUR  
AN - CD005268  
AU - Duke, SAS  
AU - Colagiuri, S  
AU - Colagiuri, R  
TI - Individual patient education for people with type 2 diabetes mellitus

Include abstract Download

Hint: make sure you select the option to include the abstracts in your exported results.

## 7 Extra features

Cochrane Library is known for being a database of high quality systematic reviews, but it also indexes ongoing clinical trials, protocols and other types of study. You can navigate between these different types of study using the tabs at the top of the search results.

<b>Cochrane Reviews</b> 20	Cochrane Protocols 0	Trials 1904	Editorials 0	Special collections 0	Clinical Answers 1	Other Reviews
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20 Cochrane Reviews matching "#8 - #3 and #7"

# 8 More help and support

There is [a help guide, information about regular online training and three online self-paced tutorials, plus more support, on the Cochrane training hub.](#)

Or contact the Medical Library training team.

Email: [library@medschl.cam.ac.uk](mailto:library@medschl.cam.ac.uk)

Phone: (01223) 336 750