

The Cochrane Library

The Cochrane Library is the premier resource for information on evidence-based medicine. It is composed of a number of different databases including the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (Cochrane Reviews), the Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE), the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL), the Cochrane Database of Methodology Reviews (Methodology Reviews) and others.

Getting Started

From the CSC Libraries homepage, <http://library.stkate.edu>, click on **Find Articles** then **Databases and Indexes**. Select COCHRANE LIBRARY (under c in the alphabetical database listing.)

Off-Campus users will need to enter their CSC network login or KateWay login to access the databases. Contact the Help Desk (651-690-6402) for assistance with these logins.

Searching

The CSC library has set the default search screen to the COCHRANE ADVANCED SEARCH to allow easier access the full search feature page for Cochrane.

Advanced Search Screen

Use the five search text boxes to input search terms.

Use the pull down boxes to limit the search to the following fields:

- All text (very broad)
- Record title
- Author
- Abstract
- Keywords
- Tables
- Publication type
- Source
- DOI (an image number)

Use the Boolean operators to relate the terms using AND, OR, or NOT.

Search Tips

Multi-word or phrase searching

An assumed AND operator is used for spaces between terms. To search for the exact phrases, use quotation marks around the phrase or use the **NEXT** operator. The **NEAR** operator will find words within a specified number of words of one another.

Examples: “acute bronchitis” or acute **NEXT** bronchitis will find the exact phrase *acute bronchitis*
endocrine NEAR/5 therapy matches endocrine within 5 words of therapy

Search History and Limiting

The Search History includes a listing of all Cochrane Library searches used during your current session. New searches can be added directly by using the text box and limiters at top of page. You can build a new search in the text box by combining previous searches with one another or with new terms using Boolean operators.

Example: (#1 AND #2) OR (#3 AND #4) #1 AND bone

Limit searches by product (Cochrane review, clinical trial, etc.), record status or date range.

MESH Searching

Many records on the Cochrane Library are indexed using MeSH from the National Library of Medicine. It is good practice to search the databases using these subject headings as well as using keywords.

MeSH Search Screen

Search for a MeSH descriptor
Enter MeSH term:

Search The Cochrane Library content
Add qualifier restriction:
 Go directly to Search History

Explose
All
Tree Number 1
Search this term only

Tree Number 1
[Musculoskeletal Diseases \[+12\]](#)
[Bone Diseases \[+18\]](#)
[Bone Diseases, Metabolic \[+6\]](#)
[Bone Demineralization, Pathologic \[+1\]](#)
[Mucopolidoses](#)
[Osteomalacia](#)
[Osteoporosis \[+1\]](#)
[Osteoporosis, Postmenopausal](#)
[Pseudohypoparathyroidism \[+1\]](#)
[Rickets](#)

Click on the **MeSH Search** option from the top menu bar.

Enter a word in the text box and click on **Thesaurus** to display the complete index of all MeSH descriptors that include the word.

Click on an index term to select it for a MeSH Tree Search and then check the "Search this term only" box and the GO button to display search results of the subject term. Or, to search on the Exploded (or entire) tree of terms, click the ALL box and then the GO button.

Displaying and Managing Results

The total number of record matches within each Cochrane database is displayed in the "Show Results" section near the top of the page. Click on the individual links to display the results for each database.

Records for the Cochrane Reviews and Methodology Reviews display a **P** or **R** image to indicate whether the document is a **protocol** or **review**. Some document listings also include a status indicator such as "New" or "Updated."

To view a document, click on the **Record** link. Full text reviews or protocols are available in PDF format. Other document types will contain citation or citation and abstract only.

Full-text PDF documents can be printed or saved by using the print and save buttons in the Adobe software.

Export to RefWorks

Mark the references you want to export. Click the **Export Selected Citations** button. In the **Export type** drop-down, select **Citation**. In the File Type drop down, select **PC** or **Macintosh**. Click **GO**. Select **Save** and name the file and select **Text Document** as the **Save As** file type.

Log in to your **RefWorks** account. Select **References/Import** from the toolbar. Select College of ST. Catherine as the Import/Data Filter Source. Select **Cochrane Library** as the Database. **Browse** to find the text file you saved to your computer. Click **Import**. Your records will appear in the **Last Imported Folder**.

Need Help? Ask a Reference Librarian. See library.stkate.edu for CSC Reference contacts and options.