

Library and Information Services

Working together to support RCOT members



Royal College of
Occupational
Therapists



CINAHL and Medline: searching these databases through the EBSCOHOST platform (basic searching guide)

To access CINAHL and Medline (on the EBSCOHOST platform) through the RCOT website, you need to be logged in as a member to the website.

On the EBSCOHOST platform you can store articles and save searches. To do this you need to set up a personal folder. To set up a folder, choose the 'Sign in' option (shown circled in red in Fig.1 below) You can then retrieve saved articles and searches each time you access the EBSCOHOST platform.

To help ensure the best results use the Advanced search option (shown circled in black in Fig. 1)

Fig. 1

The screenshot shows the EBSCOHOST search interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'New Search', 'Subjects', 'Publications', 'Indexes', 'Sign In', 'Folder', 'Preferences', 'Languages', 'Help', and 'Exit'. The 'Folder' link is circled in red. Below the navigation bar, the search area includes a search box, a 'Search' button, and options for 'AND' and 'Select a Field (optional)'. The 'Advanced Search' link is circled in black. Below the search area, there are search options including 'Search Modes and Expanders' with radio buttons for 'Boolean/Phrase' and 'Find all my search terms', and checkboxes for 'Apply related words' and 'Also search within the full text of the articles'. A 'Reset' button is also visible.

1. To begin searching CINAHL and Medline:

Before searching the databases it's worth making sure you have a clear idea of the approach for your search. Think of the terms you want to use (including synonyms and alternative spellings etc.) and in which fields you want to use these terms. It can be helpful to have this plan written down before you begin searching on the databases. Information skills sheets at: <https://www.rcot.co.uk/practice-resources/library-resources/information-skills> can help you plan and prepare your search

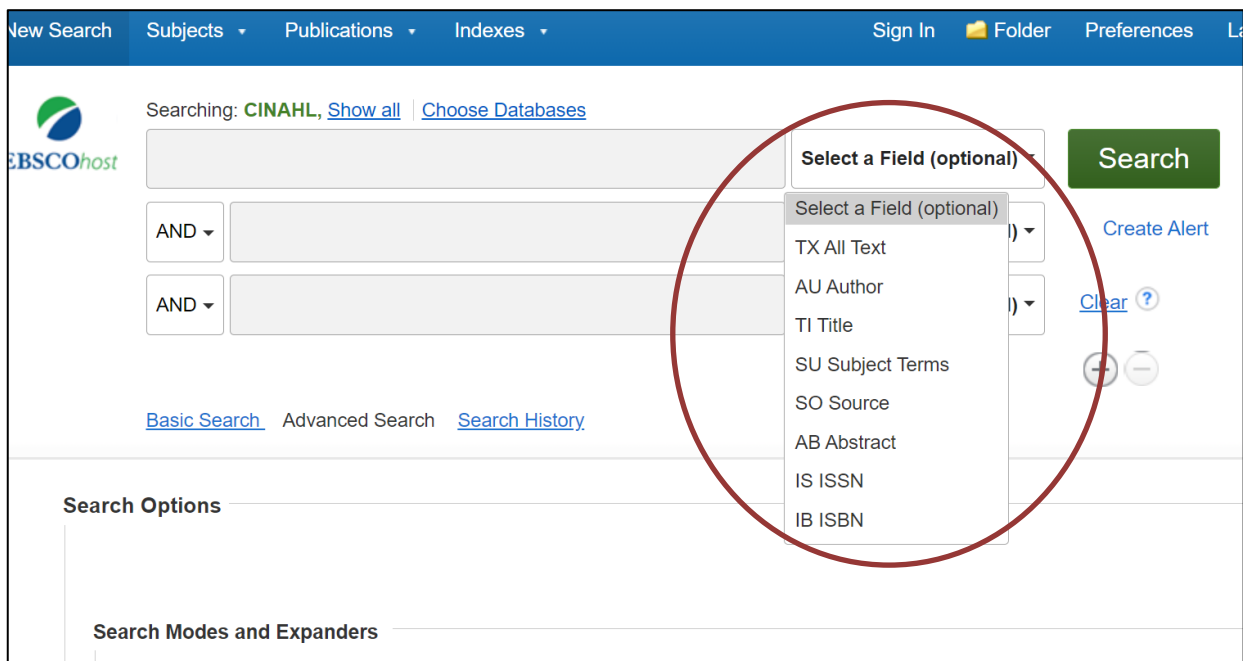
- a) At the 'advanced' search screen, use the search fields in the top section of the screen to enter your terms
 - Search terms can be entered in the first search box to the top left of the screen
 - Select a field in which to search, from the drop-down list (shown circled in red in Fig. 2, or leave the option as 'select a field')

By choosing specific fields you can make your search more focused, including:

- **TI** - title – to retrieve records with your specific word in the title (makes the search narrower)
- **AB** - abstract – to retrieve records with a specific word in the abstract (makes the search broader)
- **Subject Terms** - to retrieve records that include your word in this field (makes the search broader)

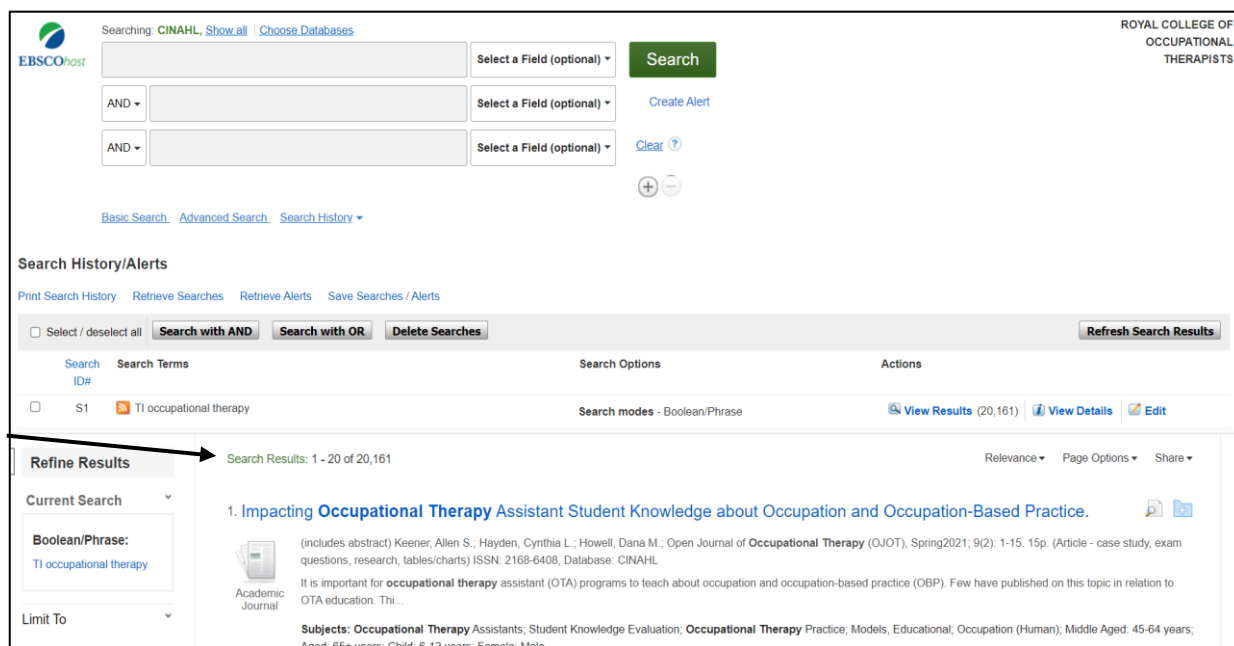
(Note that choosing specific fields is optional and you can opt to search for chosen terms across all the fields.)

Fig. 2



- b) Click 'search' to begin the search process and then view the results (see Fig. 3)

Fig. 3



2. Combining search terms

Search terms can be combined in a number of ways

- a) *within* a search box or
- b) by using a number of search boxes (see Fig. 4)

Use Boolean operators to combine your search term:

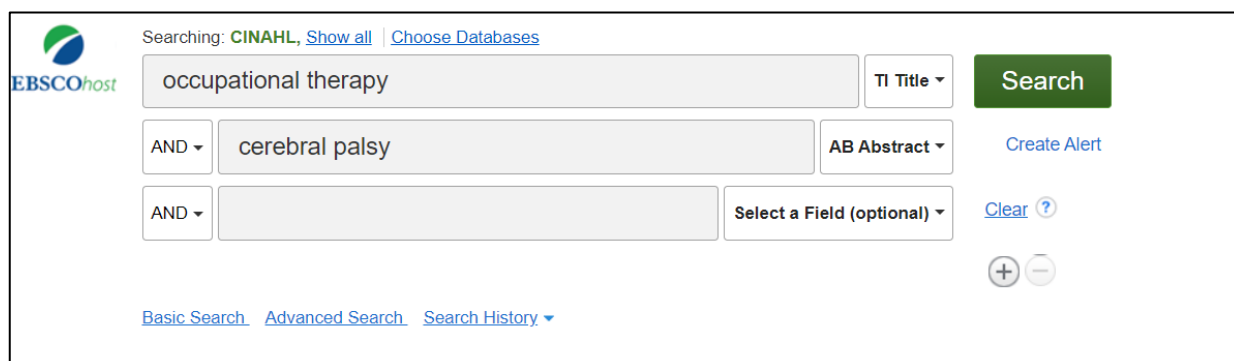
And – combines concepts or terms so that each search result contains all of the terms. For example, occupational therapy AND paediatrics finds articles that contain *both terms (narrows search)*

OR – combines search terms so that each search result contains at least one of the terms. For example, occupational therapy OR paediatrics finds results that contain *either term (broadens search)*

NOT – excludes terms so that each search result does not contain any of the terms that follow it, e.g. mental health NOT children finds results that contain the term mental health but not the term children (*this option should be used with caution as the NOT operator can exclude results you may be interested in- for more information about this ask your librarian*).

See the information skills guide ‘Searching for evidence – literature searching’ for further information on combining search terms <https://www.rcot.co.uk/practice-resources/library-resources/information-skills>

Fig. 4



3. Search tips

Truncation and Wildcards

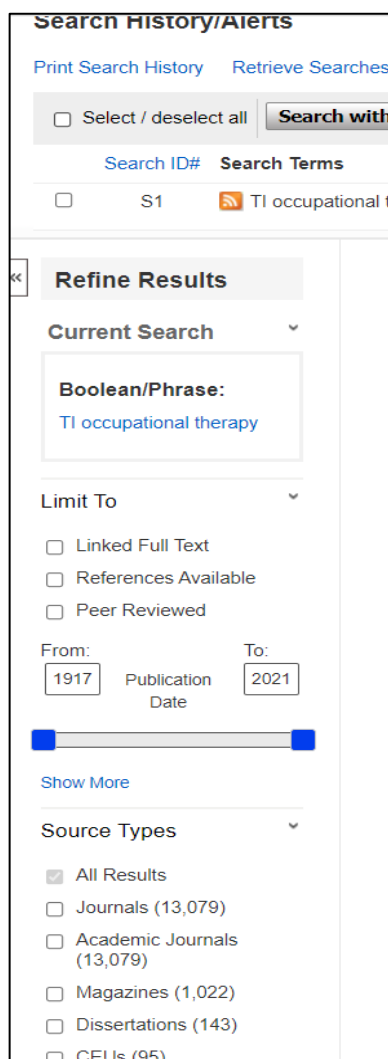
The truncation or wildcard symbols can be used to create searches where there are unknown characters, multiple spellings or numerous endings.

- **Truncation.** In EBSCOHOST, the truncation symbol is represented by an asterisk (*). Enter the root of the search term and replace the ending with an *, e.g. type child* to find the words child and children.
- **Wildcard.** The Wildcard is represented by a question mark (?). Enter your search terms and replace each unknown character with a ?, e.g. type p?diatric will find paediatric or the American spelling variant pediatric.

4. Limit your results

Refine your search using additional limiters, such as date range, peer reviewed articles and / or English language only, listed at the left-hand side of the screen after running your initial search. (See Fig. 5). *Use carefully as applying too many limiters can refine your search too much and can exclude relevant articles.*

Fig. 5



Note that the limiter 'Linked Full Text' may be checked as a default. If it is you will only retrieve articles that are available electronically via the RCOT. If you wish to search for all articles whether electronic or not you can uncheck this box. This can be worth doing if you want to see the full range of results. You may need to contact libraries you have access to, to see if they hold (electronically or in print) copies of the non-full text articles listed in the results.

6. View Results list

- You can sort the Results list by date, source or relevance using the drop-down list at the top. (shown circled in red in Fig. 6)
- Click on an individual title to view a detailed citation
- Click on the Page options link to change the view for *all* items on the results list
- Click on "Add to folder" to select records that are of interest to you and put these in a folder

Fig.6

The screenshot displays a search results interface. At the top, there are navigation links for 'Basic Search', 'Advanced Search', and 'Search History'. Below this is a 'Search History/Alerts' section with options like 'Print Search History', 'Retrieve Searches', 'Retrieve Alerts', and 'Save Searches / Alerts'. A search bar contains the terms 'TI occupational therapy' and shows 'Search Results: 1 - 20 of 20,161'. On the left, there are filters for 'Refine Results', 'Current Search', and 'Limit To', including options for 'Linked Full Text', 'References Available', and 'Peer Reviewed'. The main results area shows two articles. The first article is '1. Impacting Occupational Therapy Assistant Student Knowledge about Occupation and Occupation-Based Practice...' and the second is '2. Increasing Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Occupational Therapy Education: The Role of Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE®) Standards...'. A red circle highlights the 'Relevance' dropdown menu in the top right corner of the results area, which is currently set to 'Relevance' and has options for 'Date Newest', 'Date Oldest', and 'Source'.

7. Save, email results

Once you have chosen the results that are most relevant, click on the 'Folder view' link to view the selected citations (circled in red in Fig.7). You can then save the records or email the result list to your personal email address

Fig. 7

The screenshot displays the EBSCOhost search interface. At the top, there are search input fields with 'AND' operators and 'Select a Field (optional)' dropdown menus. A 'Search' button is highlighted in green. Below the search fields, there are links for 'Basic Search', 'Advanced Search', and 'Search History', with 'Search History' circled in black. The 'Search History/Alerts' section shows a table of search terms and options. Below this, the 'Refine Results' section is visible, showing the current search criteria as 'S1 AND S2'. The search results list includes a citation titled '1. The Effect of the Combination of Active Vestibular Interventions and Occupational Therapy on Balance in Children with Bilateral Spastic Cerebral Palsy: A Pilot Randomized Controlled Trial.' In the bottom right corner, a 'Folder has items' panel is visible, with a 'Go to: Folder View' link circled in red.

EBSCOhost THERAPISTS

Select a Field (optional) Search

AND Select a Field (optional) Create Alert

AND Select a Field (optional) Clear ?

Basic Search Advanced Search Search History

Search History/Alerts

Print Search History Retrieve Searches Retrieve Alerts Save Searches / Alerts

Select / deselect all Search with AND Search with OR Delete Searches Refresh Search Results

Search ID#	Search Terms	Search Options	Actions
S3	S1 AND S2	Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (2,113) View Details Edit
S2	cerebral palsy	Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (62,548) View Details Edit
S1	occupational therapy	Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (106,230) View Details Edit

Refine Results

Current Search

Boolean/Phrase: S1 AND S2

Search Results: 1 - 20 of 2,113

1. The Effect of the Combination of Active Vestibular Interventions and Occupational Therapy on Balance in Children with Bilateral Spastic Cerebral Palsy: A Pilot Randomized Controlled Trial.

(includes abstract) RASSAFIANI, Mehdi; AKBARFAIMI, Nazila; HOSSEINI, Seyed Ali; SHAHSHAHANI, Soheila; KARIMLOU, Masoud; TABATABAI GHOMSHEH, Farhad; Iranian Journal of Child Neurology, 2020; 14(4): 29-42. 14p. (Article - research, tables/charts, randomized controlled trial) ISSN: 1735-4668, Database: CINAHL

Folder has items

- Musculoskeletal diagnoses...
- Impact of somatosensory l...
- The Effect of the...

Go to: Folder View