Cochrane Library: Quick user guide

What is The Cochrane Library?

The Cochrane Library presents the work of the Cochrane Collaboration and others interested in assembling the best possible evidence on the effects of health care. It is made up of a number of databases including The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews/CDSR (Cochrane Reviews), the Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effectiveness/DARE (Other Reviews) and the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials/CENTRAL (Clinical Trials). The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews is continuously updated. CENTRAL and About the Cochrane Collaboration (Cochrane Groups) are updated monthly, the rest quarterly.

Accessing The Cochrane Library:

The Cochrane Library is accessed via the E-resources Guide.

1. To open the E-resources Guide, go to: http://subjectguides.york.ac.uk/e-resources
2. When the E-resources Guide has opened select the C-D tab from the A-Z list at the top of the screen. An alphabetical list of resources is then displayed.
3. Click on Cochrane Library (Wiley). The resource will now open in a new window.

Simple search

To do a basic search, type your search terms into the search box, ensuring that Title, Abstract, Keywords has been selected from the dropdown menu, and click on Go.

The * has been used with terms that have variant endings, e.g. behaviour/behavioural/behaviour, etc.

Alternative expressions have been combined using OR.

Complex searches using Search Manager

Search Manager allows you to combine searches together to produce more complex searches. Click on Advanced Search then choose the Search Manager tab.

In the example overleaf, separate searches have been conducted for cognitive behav* therap* or cbt and for schizophren*. Click Go to carry out each search.

The searches are then combined by typing in the appropriate search ID numbers (#1, #2) together with and or or.
Viewing and working with your results

The number of results found is listed next to the database in which they appear.

Click on a title to view its abstract.

The default display is the Cochrane Reviews database. Click the toggles to switch between databases.

In this example, 59 Cochrane Reviews records have been found, 20 Other Reviews, and 267 Trials.

Labels indicate Reviews, Protocols, etc.

Click on the title of a review or protocol to move to options to view the full text. For records in other parts of The Cochrane Library an abstract is available; check YorSearch for full text availability.

Use the export options to save all or selected references.

Find out more

Click on Learn from the homepage to find out more about The Cochrane Library and how to use it. Click on Help on the homepage to access the online search manual. A detailed step-by-step guide and online tutorials are available on the Tutorials and guides tab of the Health Sciences Subject guide.