Quantum Clinical Search – Search Tips

General search — getting started

To search Clinical Resources, enter your terms into the search box or create a more complex search using Boolean, nesting, phrase searching or wildcards.

**Boolean logic** defines relationships between terms in a search:

- **‘And’** combines search terms so that each search result contains all of the terms. “Asthma and children” finds articles that contain both “asthma” and “children”.
- **‘Or’** combines search terms so that each search result contains at least one of the terms. “Asthma or allergy” finds results that contain “asthma” or “allergy”.
- **‘Not’** excludes terms so that each search result does not contain any of the terms that follow it. “Asthma not allergy” finds results that contain “asthma” but not “allergy”.

**NOTE:** When executing a search, ‘and’ takes precedence over ‘or’.

**Nest** search terms using parentheses. Enclose search terms and their operators in parentheses to specify the order in which they are interpreted. Information within parentheses is read first, then information outside parentheses is read. Entering “(allergy or asthma) and children” retrieves results containing the words “allergy” or “asthma” together with the word “children”.

**Exact phrases** may be searched by enclosing search terms within double quotes. **NOTE:** When Boolean operators are contained within a phrase that is enclosed in quotes, the operator is treated as a ‘stop word’. Where this is the case, the search engine will look for any single word in the phrase instead.

**Stop words** – such as “been”, however”, “or”, “so”, “the”, “for”, “of”, “after” – are always ignored if entered with your search, even if they are enclosed in quotation marks.

**Proximity operators** are composed of a letter (‘N’ or ‘W’, not case sensitive) and a number (specifying the number of words). The proximity operator is placed between the words that are to be searched.

- **Near operator (N)** — N5 finds specified words if they are within five words of one another, regardless of the order in which they appear. “Brain N5 hypoxia” finds results that would match “brain hypoxia” as well as “hypoxia of the brain”.
- **Within operator (W)** — W3 finds specified words if they are within three words of one another, in the order in which you entered them. For example, “clinical W3 path” finds results that would match “clinical path” but would not match “path to clinical care”.
Wildcards/truncation are used to create searches where there are unknown characters, multiple spellings or various endings. A wildcard cannot be used as the first character in a search term.

- The ‘?’ wildcard matches exactly one letter. Replace each unknown character with ‘?’; e.g., type ‘cha??ix’ to find ‘champix’ or ‘chantix’.
- The ‘#’ wildcard matches zero or one letter. Place ‘#’ where an alternate spelling might contain an extra character; e.g., type ‘gyn#ecology’ to find ‘gynecology’ or ‘gynaecology’.
- The ‘*’ wildcard (also called truncation symbol) matches multiple letters. Replace the ending of a search term with an ‘*’; e.g., type ‘bio*’ to find the words ‘biography’ or ‘biology’. The asterisk (*) may also be used between words to match any word: ‘electronic *record’ will return results that contain ‘electronic medical record’ or ‘electronic health record’.

Advanced search

‘Advanced search’ allows more complex searches when you use multiple search statements, select different fields such as ‘title’ or ‘author’, and/or use different Boolean operators within and between search statements. You can also select ‘Popular’ filters prior to running your search.

1. Click the ‘Advanced search’ link next to ‘Clinical search’ box.
2. On the ‘Advanced search’ screen, enter search terms in the boxes provided.
3. If desired, restrict your results to a ‘Title’ or ‘Author’ search using the ‘Select a field’ drop-down menu.
4. Select a Boolean operator (and, or, not) to combine terms.
5. If you need more rows, click the (+) link. To delete a row, click the (-) link.
6. You can filter your results using the ‘Popular filters’, ‘Search options’ or ‘Publication date’ and ‘Language’ filters.
7. Click ‘Search’ to display results.

Filtering options

1. Popular filters — Found in the left-hand column, these can be applied by selecting the checkbox next to the desired filter or selecting the desired filter (blue). They include: Full-text available, Point-of-care summaries, Guidelines, Books, Journal articles, English only, Publication date.

2. More filters — Selecting this option opens a separate window, where you can apply filters by selecting the appropriate checkbox and clicking ‘Update’. They include: Publication type, Language, Journal title, Subject, Database.

The ‘Popular’ and ‘More’ categories can be expanded or collapsed. The ‘+’ sign indicates a collapsed view; the ‘-’ sign indicates an expanded view.

When a filter is applied:
only results that meet the filtering criteria will be displayed

activated filters appear in the ‘Filters’ area at the top of the left-hand column; they can be removed by clicking the red ‘x’.

Accessing full-text

By default, search results display records that have full-text available. This function can be removed by unchecking ‘Full-text available’ under ‘Popular filters’. When full-text is available, a ‘Full-text’ link is shown at the bottom of the brief record and/or at the top of the detailed record page. Full-text articles open in a separate window, via the journal or within a PDF viewer.

Results folder

The search tool allows you to save search results to a personal results folder. All saved items remain in your folder until you remove them. Add items in any of the following ways:

- Click the ‘Add to folder’ link located at the bottom of the record. This adds just the single selected item to your folder.
- Click the ‘Add to folder’ link found in the top right-hand corner of the page. This adds all items listed on the page to your folder.
- From the ‘Detailed record’, click the ‘Add to folder’ link found in the top right-hand corner of the page.

You can access your results folder here or by selecting the ‘View results folder’ link in the right-hand column of the search results page.

Search history

All searches performed during your session are available within ‘Search history’. Access your search history here or by selecting the ‘View search history’ link in the right-hand column of the search results page.

You can combine recent searches and retrieve previously saved searches. To combine recent searches, select specific lines of your search statement by marking the checkboxes at left and clicking ‘Search with and’ or ‘Search with or’.
NOTE: ‘Search history’ lists only searches from the current session. Your session will be cleared when you close the browser. To learn how to save your search, see ‘Saving searches’.

**Saving searches**

All searches performed during your session can be saved, using the ‘Save search’ button found at the top of search results and on the ‘Search history’ page. To retrieve previously saved searches, select the ‘View saved searches’ page in the right-hand column of the search results page, and select one by clicking a title under ‘Search terms’. Combine saved searches by marking the checkboxes at left of the saved searches and clicking ‘Search with and’ or ‘Search with or’.

Remove saved searches by checking the box next to the desired search and clicking ‘Delete’.

**Sharing pages or search results**

Search results and pages can be shared using email, Facebook, Twitter or LinkedIn. Select the ‘Share this page’ link found in the tool menu, top right.

Need more help? Ask a Librarian