

The Cochrane Library database

CONTENT

The Cochrane Library is one of the best sources of up to date and reliable information on the effects of health care interventions. It is a major source for evidence based health care and is produced by the Cochrane Collaboration - an international network of individuals and institutions committed to preparing, maintaining, and disseminating systematic reviews of the effects of health care. It is divided into sections, which can be browsed individually or searched simultaneously:

1. The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR; Cochrane reviews):
 - Complete reviews – the full text of regularly updated Cochrane Reviews, prepared and maintained by Collaborative Review Groups.
 - Protocols - for reviews currently being prepared (all include an expected date of completion). Protocols are the background, objectives and methods of reviews in preparation.
2. Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE; other reviews), including:
 - Abstracts of quality assessed systematic reviews
 - Other reviews: bibliographic (reference) details only.
3. The Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL; clinical trials)
 - Provides information on published reviews on the effects of health care, displayed as abstracts.
4. The Cochrane Methodology Register (Methods Reviews)
 - Bibliography of published reports that are relevant to performing a review, displayed as references.
5. Health Technology Assessment Database (Technology Assessments)
 - Database of references & abstracts of completed and ongoing health technology assessments projects.
6. NHS Economic Evaluation Database (NHS EED)
 - Contains economic evaluations of healthcare interventions
7. About the Cochrane Collaboration (Cochrane Groups)
 - Contains information on the different groups within the Cochrane Collaboration

HOW TO GET STARTED

Access to the Cochrane Library is via the Digital Library on the library website: www.libweb.anglia.ac.uk or alternatively direct at:

Log in to the library website, using your University Login. Click on **Advanced Search** and select '**Health**' from the drop down choose subject menu to go direct to the database list for health. Once you find Cochrane in the list of databases, click on the title to link to the Cochrane library screens.


(Note: Although Cochrane is listed within the digital library with a tick box, it is best searched by itself by linking through to the Cochrane website.)

Alternatively within Digital Library choose **Database Finder** and search for the Cochrane library, then click on the title to get to the Cochrane search screens.

Access to the Cochrane Library, both on and off campus, is free and is available to students, health professionals and the public at: www.thecochranelibrary.com/

HELP

On screen help:

- Use the **HELP**  button located within the Cochrane Library screens.
- Within the Advanced Search page there are Search Tips – located at the right hand side of the screen.
- There are additional guides and online tutorials for the Cochrane library, available at: <http://olabout.wiley.com/WileyCDA/Section/id-390244.html>

From the library:

Help is available in a variety of ways:

- Ask at the Reception or Enquiry Desks within the library
- Visit the Help & Advice section of the library website. You can "**Ask Us**" by phone, email or online chat at:



www.libweb.anglia.ac.uk/askus

- **Book a Librarian Service**
www.libweb.anglia.ac.uk/bookalibrarian/index_bal.html
If you need more in depth help make a 30 minute appointment with your subject librarian.
- Try our Information Skills Tutorial PILOT at:

www.libweb.anglia.ac.uk/pilot

This is an online tutorial covering information searching and referencing.

- Alternatively, especially if there are no 'Book a Librarian' slots convenient for you, contact one of the Health and Social Care librarians directly:
- **Chelmsford**
 - Maurice Wakeham (Faculty Liaison Librarian: Health/Social Care/ Education) 0845 196 3766 maurice.wakeham@anglia.ac.uk
 - Carol McMaster (Faculty Liaison Librarian: Health/Social Care/ Education) 0845 196 4643 carol.mcmaster@anglia.ac.uk
 - Rebecca Mackle (Assistant Librarian: Health/Social Care/Education) 0845 196 4623 rebecca.mackle@anglia.ac.uk
 - Sophie Pattison (Assistant Librarian Trainee: Health/Social Care/ Education) 0845 196 3746 sophie.pattison@anglia.ac.uk
 - Jane Shelley (Assistant Librarian: Health/Social Care/Education) 0845 196 3760 jane.shelley@anglia.ac.uk
- **Fulbourn, Peterborough and Cambridge**
 - Peter Stokes (Assistant Librarian: Health/Social Care/Education) 0845 196 5376 peter.stokes@anglia.ac.uk

HOW TO SEARCH

The basic search screen

The screenshot shows the Cochrane Library search interface. At the top left is the logo and the text 'THE COCHRANE LIBRARY Independent high-quality evidence for health care decision making'. A 'Help' link is in the top right. The main search area has a dropdown menu set to 'Title, Abstract or Keywords', a search input field, and a 'GO' button. Below the search field is a link to 'Advanced Search'. A navigation bar contains 'HOME', 'SIGN UP', 'LEARN', 'ACCESS', and 'HELP'. A yellow notice banner is present. The main content area is divided into three columns: 'BROWSE COCHRANE DATABASE OF SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS' (with a list of topics like 'Anaesthesia & pain control'), 'SPECIAL COLLECTIONS' (with items like 'Care homes for older people'), and 'EDITORIAL' (with 'The use of Cochrane Reviews in NICE clinical guidelines'). On the right, there are promotional boxes for 'Cochrane Journal Club' and 'Podcasts from The Cochrane Library'. Annotations with arrows point to the search field, the 'Advanced Search' link, the 'Special Collections' section, and the 'Browse by subject / topic' list.

Browse the Cochrane Library

The browse options are available on the left of main screen, or if you are on the Advanced Search page towards the top of the screen. You can browse by topic,

A-Z list, updated reviews, Cochrane Review Group etc. Click on Expand to view these other Browse options. Click on the topic heading and then the further links until you obtain a list of reviews. Click on the title or PDF link to view the full text of documents.

Searching the Cochrane Library Basic Search

For a **simple search** use the search box on the opening screen.

- In the search box type a word or phrase.
Your search will by default look in the title, abstract and keywords of records. You can change the fields of the search from this default by clicking on the arrow and selecting another option e.g. keywords, record title only.
- In your search combine words or phrases using AND, OR and NOT (Boolean operators). These can be used to link words together e.g. a search for arthritis and methotrexate, will find all reviews mentioning both these keywords.
- Click on Go.

Advanced Search

- Click on in the search section of the screen, immediately below the Quick search box, to get to the advanced search screen.
- Advanced Search provides greater flexibility in searching, the ability to combine search words and to set limits on your search.

The Advanced Search screen:

The screenshot shows the 'Advanced Search' interface of the Cochrane Library. The page header includes the Cochrane Library logo and the tagline 'Independent high-quality evidence for health care decision making'. Navigation links for 'Updated Reviews | A-Z | By Review Group | Methods Studies | Technology Assessments | Economic Evaluations' are visible. The search area features a 'Search For:' section with five input boxes, each preceded by an 'AND' operator. A 'Search' button and a checkbox for 'Go directly to Search History' are located below these boxes. To the right, an 'In:' dropdown menu is set to 'Search All Text', with a list of other options including 'Record Title', 'Author', 'Abstract', 'Keywords', 'Title, Abstract or Keywords', 'Tables', 'Publication Type', 'Source', and 'DOI'. A 'SEARCH TIPS' sidebar on the right provides guidance on using Boolean operators and the AND operator. Three callout boxes with arrows point to specific elements: one to the AND operators, one to the search input boxes, and one to the 'In:' dropdown menu.

- Type your search words or phrases into the search boxes. Use the downward arrows to change the fields of your search. Combine words or phrases using the AND, OR and NOT (Boolean Operators) – use the downward arrow next to the AND to change the combining option.
- Change the field of your search (where the computer looks for your words) using the downward arrows.
You have a choice of:- Search All Text, Record Title, Author, Abstract, Keywords, Title, Abstract or Keywords, Tables, Publication Type, Source, or DOI.

- Click on Go.

Further tips for searching

- Combine words or phrases using Boolean Operators AND, OR and NOT can be used to link words together.
- Use an * for the truncation of words
e.g. a search for **midwife*** would find references to both midwife and midwifery.
- Use an * also as a wildcard, allowing for variations in spelling
e.g. search for **orthop*dics** would find references to orthopaedics or orthopedics.
- Search for exact phrases by enclosing the words in quotation marks
e.g. “rheumatoid arthritis” matches that exact term.

HOW TO DISPLAY RESULTS

After you have undertaken a search the results will be displayed on the screen, as shown below:

The screenshot shows a search results interface. At the top, there are filter links: [Cochrane Reviews \[59\]](#), [Other Reviews \[38\]](#), [Clinical Trials \[2301\]](#), [Methods Studies \[18\]](#), [Technology Assessments \[0\]](#), and [Economic Evaluations \[0\]](#). A text box on the right says: "Further results options e.g. Clinical Trials, available here". Below the filters, it states: "There are 59 results out of 6500 records for: 'malaria in Title, Abstract or Keywords in Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews'". There are view options: "View: 1-25 | 26-50 | 51-59" and an "Export All Results" button. The main section is titled "Record Information" and lists four records. A text box on the right says: "Click on the title of a record to view the full text of the review if available. You may get a choice of web or PDF formats." The records listed are:

- [Indoor residual spraying for preventing malaria](#) (Bianca Pluess, Frank C Tanser, Christian Lengeler, Brian L Sharp, May 2010)
- [Vaccines for preventing malaria \(pre-erythrocytic\)](#) (Patricia M Graves, Hellen Gelband, January 2009)
- [Oral iron supplementation for preventing or treating anaemia among children](#) (Juliana U Ojukwu, Joseph U Okebe, Dafna Yahav, Mical Paul, October 2009)
- [Artemisinin-based combination therapy for treating uncomplicated malaria](#) (David Sinclair, Babalwa Zani, Sarah Donegan, Piero Ollaro, Paul Garner, October 2009)

The results screen provides a list of results including systematic reviews – Cochrane Reviews. They are split into type - towards the top of the screen you can select the various types:

Other Reviews, Clinical Trials, Methods Studies, Technology Assessments, Economic Evaluations, Cochrane Groups.

To view more details and link to the full text of an item where available, click on the title. Some records give you a reference and abstract e.g. to a journal article while some results give you links to the full text.

Where the full text is available you will usually have a choice of format for the full text - a web version (which you have to view a page at a time, or hyperlink to the section you are interested in viewing) or a link to the PDF copy of the complete full text.

Picture of links to a Cochrane review

THE COCHRANE LIBRARY
Independent high-quality evidence for health care decision making
from The Cochrane Collaboration

LOGIN
Enter e-mail address
Enter password
REMEMBER ME
NOT REGISTERED ?
FORGOTTEN PASSWORD ?
INSTITUTIONAL LOGIN >

Home > Evidence Based Medicine > Evidence-Based Medicine > Database Home > Abstract

DATABASE TOOLS
Save to My Profile
Recommend to Your Librarian

DATABASE MENU
Database Home

FIND ARTICLES
A-Z
By Topic
New Reviews
Updated Reviews
By Review Group

OTHER RESOURCES
Other Reviews
Clinical Trials
Methods Studies
Technology Assessments
Economic Evaluations

Intervention Review
Topical silver for preventing wound infection
Marja N Storm-Versloot¹, Cornelis G Vos¹, Dirk T Ubbink², Hester Vermeulen²
Database Title
The Cochrane Library

Editorial Group: [Cochrane Wounds Group](#)
Published Online: 11 May 2010
Assessed as up-to-date
DOI: 10.1002/14651062.cd007619
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Published by John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

Additional Information ([Show All](#))
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Abstract
Background
Silver-containing...
ns, but evidence of their

Links to saving, exporting, or emailing the record

Click here to get to the PDF summary/full or web HTML versions of the review.

Reading the charts – Statistical analysis diagrams

Many of the Cochrane Reviews include **odds-ratio diagrams** that display the analyses of the results of each trial included in the review. Each diagram lists the outcomes, the number of studies that analysed the outcome, the total number of participants, the statistical method used (Relative Risk, Odds Ratio, Weighted Mean Difference), and effect size. The analyses are displayed as diagrams that display a meta-analysis of the trial data. The odds-ratio diagrams can be accessed by clicking on the "Figures" link in the Cochrane Review document's table of contents to show all the diagrams (web version) or within the body of the PDF documents.

HOW TO SAVE RESULTS

Export Selected or Export All Results

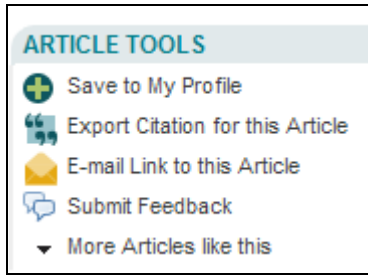
You can either export all the results from a search or alternatively tick the boxes on the left of the results screen to select specific references for future printing, saving, exporting or viewing.

Then choose the correct export button. Links to these buttons are at the bottom of the search results screen:



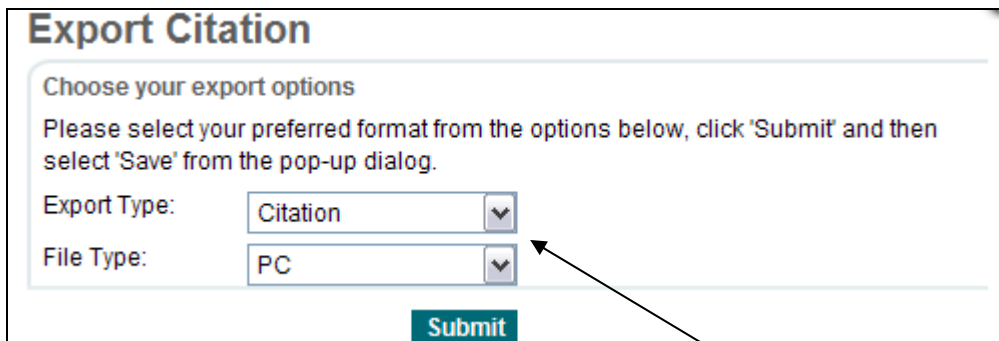
Click on chosen route and follow the screen instructions for saving to PC etc. Use the drop down arrows to change selections if required.

Alternatively if you are viewing an individual article you can follow the options on the right or the screen to export citation (save and export to RefWorks for example) or email a link to the article.



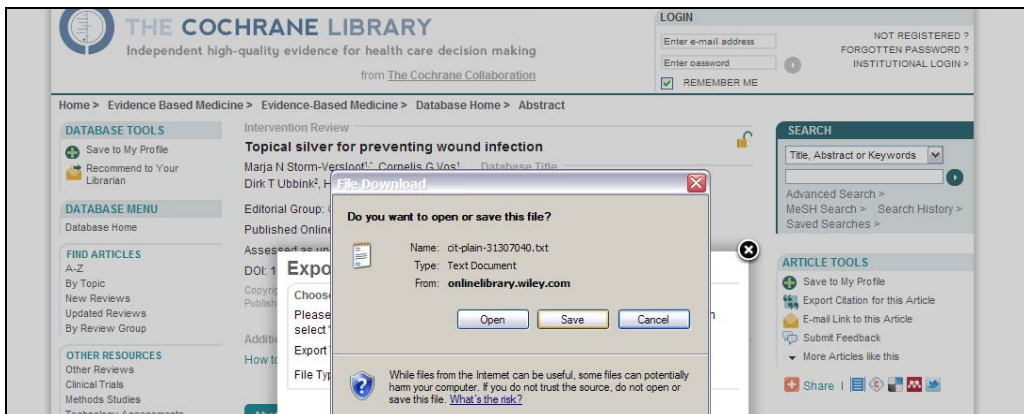
How to export your Cochrane references into RefWorks

Select the record(s) you wish to export to RefWorks and click on Export citation or export selected citations.



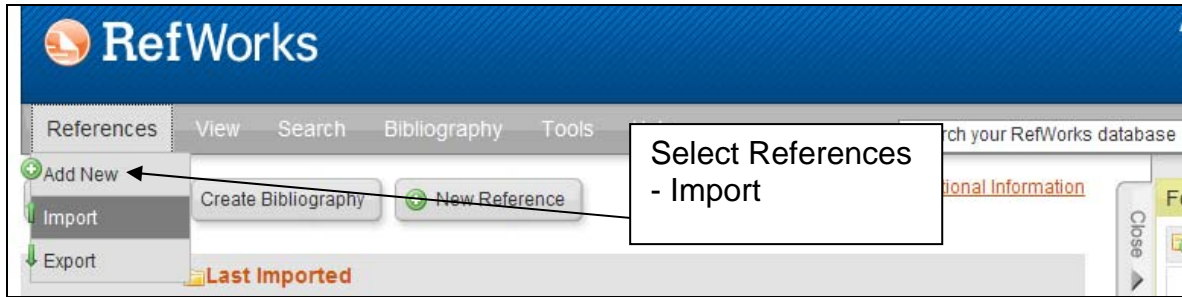
In the pop up 'Export Citation, box click on Submit. If required change the Export Type to Citation and Abstract and PC to MAC using the drop down arrows.

At the Save window, click on Save, and note where you save to e.g. desktop and change and note down the file name for future reference.



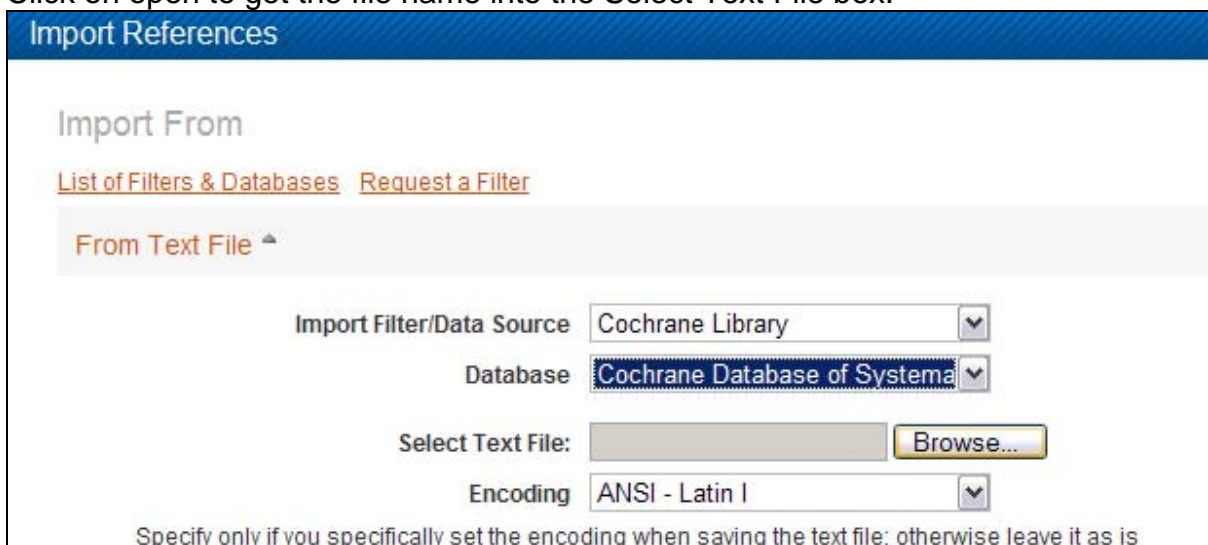
Log in to RefWorks with your University Login, following the link on the library website under Referencing – RefWorks.

Once in RefWorks select from the main top menu: References – Import:

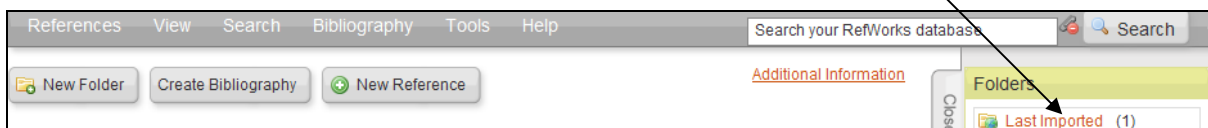


In RefWorks at the 'Import References' pop up window, choose **Cochrane Library** for the Import Filter/Data Source and **Cochrane Database of Systematic** for the Database field.

Click on Browse and search for your saved file.
Click on open to get the file name into the Select Text File box.



Close this window down, and then in RefWorks, click on 'Last imported' folder on the right.



HOW TO QUIT

How to quit the Cochrane Library

To exit the Cochrane library database, simply close the window by clicking on the cross in the red box in the top right corner.