



The aim of this guide is to support all those undertaking research, such as research projects for education and workplace projects including research studies and clinical trials.

The diagram above shows a typical and simplified research cycle and resources to support the different steps are highlighted below.

1. Finding information to support your research

You need to create a search strategy to ensure that you find key materials to support your research.

This needs to be planned so that you find all the material you need and have a contingency if your search does not find the results you might expect. Ultimately, a bit of planning can save you time.

Resources:

Books

You may start the process by using books and comprehensive reference texts to gain background on your topic. We also have useful books on research and study skills. Such as:

- How to Research (4th edition), Blaxter, L, Hughes, C and Tight, M
- Research Methods and Statistics, Walker, I
- Doing Your Research Project, Bell, J
- The Good Research Guide, Denscombe, M
- The Postgraduate Research Handbook, Wisker, G
- Introduction to Nursing Research: Incorporating Evidence Based Practice, Boswell, C and Cannon, S
- Nursing Research in Action, Burnard, P, Morrison, P, Gluyas, H

- Research Methods for Therapists, Drummond, A
- An Introduction to Research for Midwives, Rees, C

You can find our books by searching the library catalogue when on the Macclesfield Hospital site:
www.eastcheshirenhslibrary.net

Databases

To find information and published research about a particular topic you will need to use a relevant database. Databases hold information about a variety of publications including Reviews, Meta-analysis, Clinical trials, guidelines, quantitative research and qualitative research. Most databases are subject specific and any one database may not cover all that has been published. Therefore, depending on the scope of your project it is advisable to search more than one database to collect a comprehensive set of references.

There are many subject specific databases and a subscription is usually required to access them.

Databases are available to East Cheshire NHS staff and students:

Cochrane Library http://www.cochranelibrary.com/	Includes databases of systematic reviews and Central Register of controlled trials
Healthcare Databases Advanced Search http://hdas.nice.org.uk/	Includes Medline, CINAHL, EMBASE, BNI, AMED, Psycinfo and Health Management databases.
NICE Evidence http://www.evidence.nhs.uk/	Authoritative health and social care evidence-based information selected by NICE
PubMed (Medline) http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/	Biomedical literature from MEDLINE and life science journals. PubMed is freely available and passwords are only required when accessing full text articles.

Many of the databases contain abstracts or bibliographic information about publications. They may also have links to the full text item where it is available. By searching the databases you can find articles and links to the full text articles available in journals that we subscribe to.

Note: You will need an East Cheshire NHS Athens account to be able to access these resources fully.

If you are a member of a HE institution or professional organisation you may also have access to other databases that they provide.

Journals

The majority of our journals are available online and can be found by either browsing or searching for the title from our A-Z e-journals list:

A-Z list of journals: http://www.library.nhs.uk/booksandjournals/journals/	Follow the link and ensure that you log in with Athens. You can then search or browse for the title you need.
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Accessing online resources

To access many of our online resources you will need to register for an East Cheshire NHS Athens Account. If you already have an account you can also use [your My Athens](#) information at <https://openathens.nice.org.uk/>.

Open Athens account registration https://openathens.nice.org.uk/	Register for an East Cheshire NHS Athens account to give you full access to the online resources covered by our subscriptions.
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Inter Library Loan and Document Supply Services

If we don't hold the item you are interested in amongst our collections or stock we can try and obtain it for you.

To do this, complete the form on our website:

<http://www.eastcheshirenhslibrary.net/request-an-inter-library-loan.html>

Note: There is a small charge of £1/ item for this service. (If we use the British Library the charge is greater so please ask.)

Unpublished or “Grey Literature”

Finding grey literature can be problematic, as there is not a single database or resource which will allow you to search for all grey literature. It may be found in databases, by web search engines, in repositories or library catalogues. You may have to contact authors and organisations for reports etc.

eTHOS http://ethos.bl.uk/	Search for theses using the British Library service
North West Grey Literature Service, Stockport Library http://allcatsrgrey.org.uk/wp/	Grey literature services for the North West. Contact the library desk to find out more.
OpenDoar http://www.opendoar.org/	Search for content in repositories
Open Grey http://www.opengrey.eu/	Incorporates SIGLE - System for Information on Grey Literature in Europe. This is an open access database for bibliographical references of grey literature (paper) produced in Europe

Statistical data

You may need health related statistical data, such as causes of death, those relating to disease, incidence etc. to support your research.

There is a list of organisations which produce statistics in the appendix.

Organising your information

Whilst undertaking your project and to keep track of the information you find, you will need to ensure that you organise and document your information.

You can organise your references and documents that you find, and save time, by using reference management software. Also known as bibliographic management software this helps you to collect references, annotate them, store links and pdfs, create bibliographies and lists.

When you are ready to write up or publish your research, reference management software will also add the list of references to the bibliography at the end of your document. It can also help you format the bibliography in your chosen citation style (e.g. Harvard, APA, and Vancouver). The citation style for your references may depend on the publication you are writing for or your university or college if you are producing a dissertation or project.

To obtain reference management software you may have to purchase a licence or CD such as Endnote, RefWorks or Mendeley, which are all reference management programs. (You may be able to find freely available software such as Citeulike) If you are affiliated to a university they may also provide information on obtaining and using reference management software.

2. Funding Information

You may be interested in seeking funds to support your research, especially if it is a work based or clinical project. The list below highlights some of the funding organisations that may be useful, however, it is not comprehensive and you may be able to find others.

Funding Bodies and Grants	
Action Medical Research for Children http://www.action.org.uk/our-research/apply-research-grant	Charity funding medical research for treating disease and disability.
Association Medical Research Charities http://www.amrc.org.uk/our-work/funding-clinical-studies-0	Information about charitable funding of clinical studies plus general information on website
BMA Research Grants http://www.bmafoundationmr.com/	Grants are awarded for a variety of medical research areas including arthritis, cardiovascular and cancer.
Europe PubMed Central Grant Finder http://europepmc.org/grantfinder	Provides a list of European PMC funders http://europepmc.org/Funders/ who require research to be made freely and readily available.
The Health Foundation http://www.health.org.uk/funding-and-fellowship-opportunities	Health Foundation is an independent charity funding healthcare research.
Medical Research Council http://www.mrc.ac.uk/funding/	Information about Medical Research Council funding and schemes for the biomedical sciences.
National Institute for Health Research https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding-and-support/funding-for-training-and-career-development/	Information funding, research and career development grants from the National Institute of Health Research.
Research Councils UK http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/funding/	Seven Research councils provide funding across a range of disciplines. See also Biotechnology and Biomedical Sciences Research Council

	http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/
UK Clinical Research Collaboration www.ukcrc.org	Clinical Research Network information, funding and research support information.
Wellcome Trust https://wellcome.ac.uk/funding/scheme-finder	Information about the Wellcome Trust funding opportunities in biomedical sciences.

3. Implementing your research project

You may need to think about research procedures, data management and research ethics when implementing your project.

If you need toolkits or advice for conducting health research, the following organisations may be useful:

Conducting research	
CRN Greater Manchester (covers East Cheshire) https://www.nihr.ac.uk/nihr-in-your-area/greater-manchester/	Resources and contacts for the Clinical Resource Network Manchester see also information about the Clinical Research network http://www.crn.nihr.ac.uk/
Equator: Enhancing the QUAlity and Transparency Of health Research http://www.equator-network.org/	An international initiative aimed at enhancing the quality and transparency of health research. The website has useful resources and toolkits to support the research process and publication.
NHS Health Research Authority –Research Ethics http://www.hra.nhs.uk/research-ethics-committee-members/	Research Ethics committees and information.
NHS R&D North West http://www.research.northwest.nhs.uk/	Support for research, development and innovation in the North West
Research Design Service North West http://www.rds-nw.nihr.ac.uk/	Provides design and methodological support to health and social care researchers in the North West of England
UK Clinical Research Collaboration http://www.ukcrc.org/	The UK Clinical Research Collaboration brings together the NHS, research funders, industry, regulatory bodies, Royal Colleges, patient groups and academia. Includes information about research infrastructure, research networks and trials.
UKCRC Registered Clinical Trials Units Network http://www.ukcrc-ctu.org.uk/	The UKCRC Registered Clinical Trials Units (CTUs) website provides information on CTUs that have expertise in centrally coordinating multicentre clinical trials, as well as in trial design, data management, and analysis. It will be particularly relevant to clinical researchers and funders wishing to identify Clinical Trials Units (CTUs).
Understanding Health Research http://www.understandinghealthresearch.org	A tool to guide you through understanding and evaluating research. Aimed at lay people and professionals.

Disseminating your results

There are various ways in which you might want to share your work and let others know the outcomes of your research.

For example, you may want to publish your research or present it at a conference. The funders of your research (e.g. NHS or research bodies) may also require you to publish your research and make these outputs “Open Access” so that they are readily available to be widely viewed and shared.

Scholarly societies and commercial publishers usually provide advice and guidance on their websites about getting published.

Publishing Research	
Instructions for authors in the health sciences http://mulford.utoledo.edu/instr/	Provides links to web sites which provide instructions to authors for over 6,000 journals in the health and life sciences
RCN - Getting published https://www.rcn.org.uk/professional-development/research-and-innovation/get-a-research-paper-published	Information from Royal College of Nursing about writing and getting articles published.
http://authorservices.taylorandfrancis.com/	Information about the publishing process

Appendix

Statistical data	
A selection of providers of statistical information for the UK	
Government Official Statistics https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics	Official UK statistics (free from political influence). You can search by department or topic e.g. Hospital Episode Statistics.
Health and Social Care Information Centre-Statistics http://content.digital.nhs.uk/statisticsa-z	From the Health and Social Care Information Centre a national provider for information, data and IT systems for health and social care.
Office for National Statistics (ONS) https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare	The recognised national statistical institute for the UK. ONS is responsible for collecting and publishing statistics related to the economy, population and society at national, regional and local levels.
ONS Neighbourhood statistics https://www.ons.gov.uk/help/localstatistics	ONS Area statistics (largely England and Wales) provides detailed statistics for specific geographic areas
NHS England Statistics http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/	Health and social care statistics on a range of work areas http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/
Public Health England Statistics https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics?departments%5B%5D=public-health-england	Official statistics from Public Health England
Worldwide	
Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (US) http://www.cdc.gov/DataStatistics/	Data from the US Centre of Disease Control and Prevention
European Health Statistics https://ec.europa.eu/health/home_en	European statistical reports
WHO: Global Health Observatory http://www.who.int/gho/en/	Links to the global health data repository , reports and statistics

Help and Assistance:

Your NHS Library & Knowledge Service can offer assistance in searching for existing evidence, keeping you up-to-date, publications, training, appraisal skills, reference management, referencing and advice. Further information can be found on the library web pages: www.eastcheshirenhslibrary.net

Contact:

East Cheshire NHS Library & Knowledge Services

Telephone: 01625 661362

Email: ecn-tr.stafflibrary@nhs.net