

How to search the databases in EBSCO

Which databases are available from EBSCO?

Different databases are available from each supplier. The EBSCO interface provides access to:

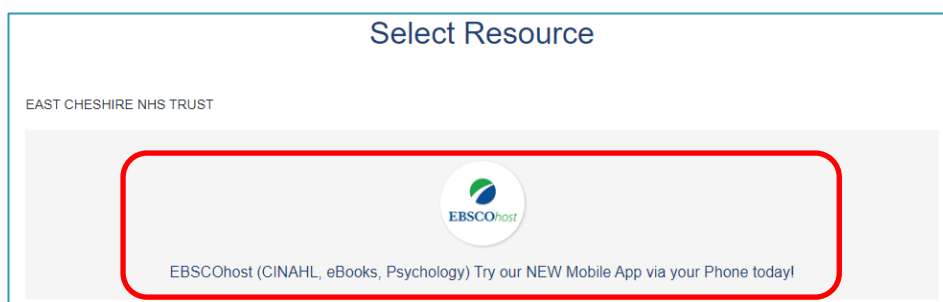
- Medline - comprehensive medical database covering all disciplines, from 1946 onwards.
- Cinahl – covers all aspects of nursing and allied health disciplines, from 1981 onwards.

Accessing EBSCO databases & creating a personal account

Go to the Library Website: www.eastcheshirenhslibrary.net

Select “**Evidence Resources**” – Scroll down to the ‘Databases’ drop-down – Select “**Search EBSCO**”.

You may be prompted to sign in at this stage. **Sign in using your OpenAthens account**. Click the **EBSCOhost** link to search the databases.

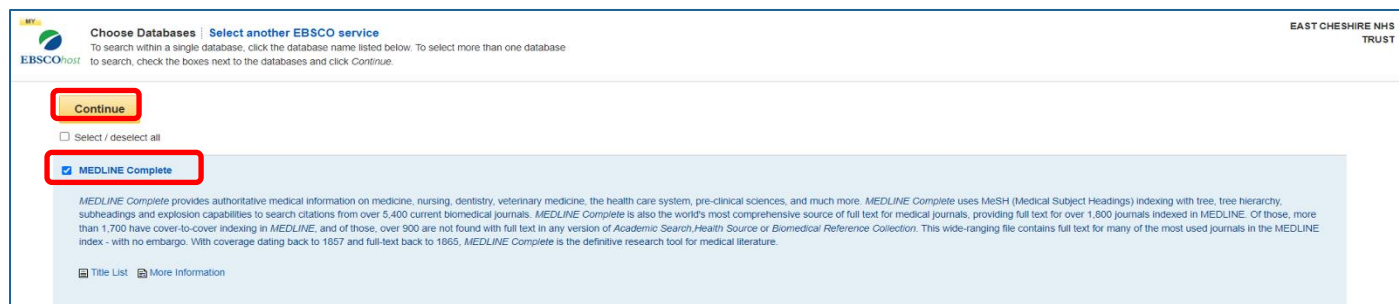


This will take you to the following **EBSCO** front page.

To enable full functionality (save searches and results) and allow access to your **Folder** (previous searches etc.), click the **Sign In** link on the top bar.



Select the database you want to search, for instance **Medline Complete**. Then click **“Continue”**.



Choose Databases | Select another EBSCO service

To search within a single database, click the database name listed below. To select more than one database to search, check the boxes next to the databases and click Continue.

Continue

☐ Select / deselect all

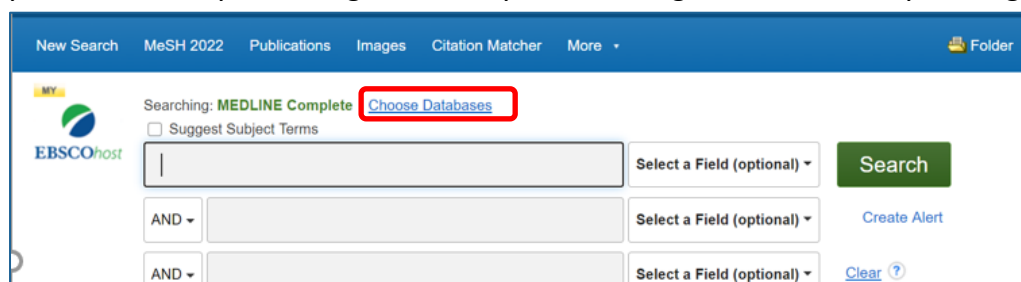
☒ **MEDLINE Complete**

MEDLINE Complete provides authoritative medical information on medicine, nursing, dentistry, veterinary medicine, the health care system, pre-clinical sciences, and much more. MEDLINE Complete uses MeSH (Medical Subject Headings) indexing with tree, tree hierarchy, subheadings and explosion capabilities to search citations from over 5,400 current biomedical journals. MEDLINE Complete is also the world's most comprehensive source of full text for medical journals, providing full text for over 1,800 journals indexed in MEDLINE. Of those, more than 1,700 have cover-to-cover indexing in MEDLINE, and of those, over 900 are not found with full text in any version of Academic Search, Health Source or Biomedical Reference Collection. This wide-ranging file contains full text for many of the most used journals in the MEDLINE index - with no embargo. With coverage dating back to 1857 and full-text back to 1865, MEDLINE Complete is the definitive research tool for medical literature.

[Title List](#) [More Information](#)

We recommend searching one database at a time.

If you would like to change your database, from the menu above the search bar you will see the database you are currently searching, and here you can change the database by clicking on **‘Choose Databases’**.



New Search MeSH 2022 Publications Images Citation Matcher More

Folder

MY

EBSCOhost

Searching: MEDLINE Complete **Choose Databases**

☐ Suggest Subject Terms

Select a Field (optional)

Search

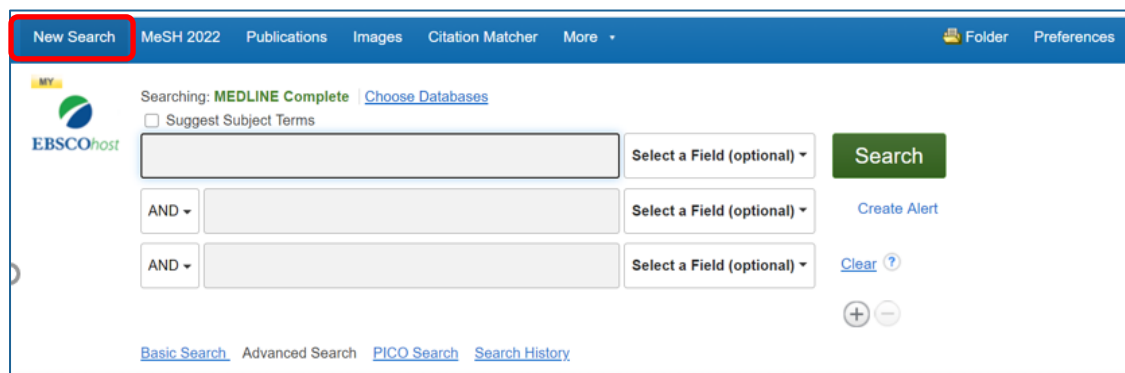
AND Select a Field (optional)

Create Alert

AND Select a Field (optional)

Clear ?

Once you have selected a database, you can begin searching. If the screen displayed is not shown, click the **New Search** button in the top left.



New Search MeSH 2022 Publications Images Citation Matcher More

Folder Preferences

MY

EBSCOhost

Searching: MEDLINE Complete [Choose Databases](#)

☐ Suggest Subject Terms

Select a Field (optional)

Search

AND Select a Field (optional)

Create Alert

AND Select a Field (optional)

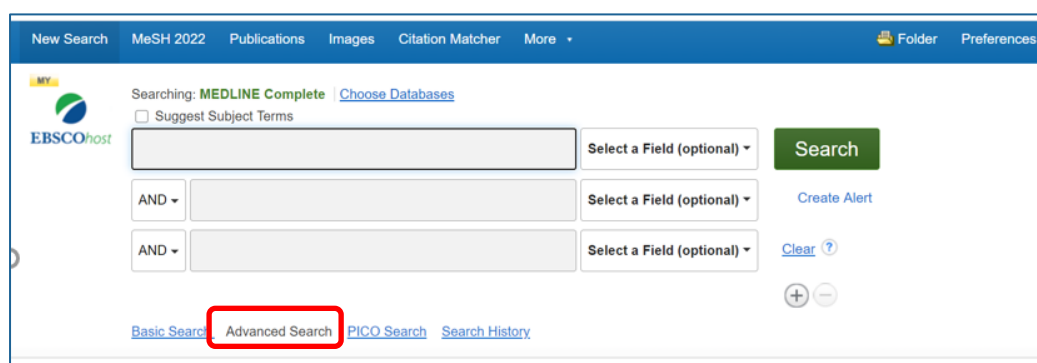
Clear ?

+ -

[Basic Search](#) [Advanced Search](#) [PICO Search](#) [Search History](#)

Searching EBSCO

1. To start a search, ensure ‘Advanced Search’ is selected:



New Search MeSH 2022 Publications Images Citation Matcher More

Folder Preferences

MY

EBSCOhost

Searching: MEDLINE Complete [Choose Databases](#)

☐ Suggest Subject Terms

Select a Field (optional)

Search

AND Select a Field (optional)

Create Alert

AND Select a Field (optional)

Clear ?

+ -

[Basic Search](#) **Advanced Search** [PICO Search](#) [Search History](#)

2. You can now start entering your search terms in the search box.
3. **To select which fields you would like to search, use the drop-down menus.** You can choose to search all text in an item's record, or narrow your search down to specific fields.

The screenshot shows the EBSCOhost search interface. At the top, there are navigation links: New Search, MeSH 2022, Publications, Images, Citation Matcher, and More. On the right, there are links for Folder and Preferences. The main search area includes a search box with the text "Searching: MEDLINE Complete" and a link to "Choose Databases". Below the search box, there are two rows for adding search terms, each with an "AND" dropdown and a "Select a Field (optional)" dropdown. The first dropdown is open, showing options: TX All Text, AB Abstract, AF Author Address, and AU Author. A green "Search" button is located to the right of the search box.

4. If you want to search more than one specific field, for example, Title and Abstract, you need to search for these on separate rows using 'OR'. Once you've entered your search term, select 'Search':

The screenshot shows the EBSCOhost search interface. The search box contains the text "passive smok*". Below the search box, there are two rows for adding search terms. The first row has an "OR" dropdown and a "Select a Field (optional)" dropdown set to "TI Title". The second row has an "AND" dropdown and a "Select a Field (optional)" dropdown set to "AB Abstract". A green "Search" button is located to the right of the search box. The "Create Alert" link is also visible.

Note that EBSCO will suggest similar concepts which may be useful as you type. These can be selected by clicking on them:

The screenshot shows the EBSCOhost search interface. The search box contains the text "passive smok*". Below the search box, there is a dropdown menu showing suggestions: "passive smoking", "passive smokers", and "passive smoking or second hand smoke or environmental tobacco smoke". The "Select a Field (optional)" dropdown is set to "TI Title". A green "Search" button is located to the right of the search box. The "Create Alert" link is also visible.

5. This will generate a results line for your search concept:

The screenshot shows the EBSCOhost search interface. The search box is empty. Below the search box, there are two rows for adding search terms, each with an "AND" dropdown and a "Select a Field (optional)" dropdown. The first dropdown is open, showing options: TX All Text, AB Abstract, AF Author Address, and AU Author. A green "Search" button is located to the right of the search box. The "Create Alert" link is also visible.

Below the search box, there are links for Basic Search, Advanced Search, PICO Search, and Search History. The "Search History/Alerts" section is visible, showing a table with the following columns: Search ID#, Search Terms, Search Options, and Actions. The table contains one row with the search ID# "S1" and the search terms "TI "passive smok*" OR AB "passive smok*". The search options are "Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects" and "Search modes - Boolean/Phrase". The actions are "View Results (4,828)".

Repeat steps 3-5 for all keyword concepts.

Searching for subject headings (MeSH Headings)

6. To search for Subject Headings, tick “**Suggest Subject Terms**”:

The screenshot shows the EBSCOhost search interface. At the top left is the EBSCOhost logo. The search bar contains the text 'Searching: MEDLINE Complete' and a link to 'Choose Databases'. Below the search bar is a checkbox labeled 'Suggest Subject Terms', which is highlighted with a red box. To the right of the search bar are three input fields for 'Select a Field (optional)' and a green 'Search' button. Below the search bar are three more input fields for 'AND' and 'Select a Field (optional)', and a 'Create Alert' button. At the bottom are links for 'Basic Search', 'Advanced Search', 'PICO Search', and 'Search History'. There are also '+' and '-' buttons for expanding/collapsing the search criteria.

7. Type in the subject headings you want to search for and click ‘**Search**’:

The screenshot shows the EBSCOhost search interface. The search bar now contains the text 'passive smoking'. The 'Suggest Subject Terms' checkbox is now checked. The 'Search' button is highlighted with a red box. The rest of the interface is the same as in the previous screenshot.

8. The Thesaurus may have exactly what you’re looking for, or offer suggestions to other subjects – have a go at searching for alternative terms too. **Click on the relevant heading if there is one:**

The screenshot shows the MeSH Thesaurus interface. The search bar contains the text 'passive smoking'. Below the search bar is a table of results. The first row is 'Passive Smoking Use: Tobacco Smoke Pollution'. The second row is 'Tobacco Smoke Pollution'. The third row is 'Smoking, Passive Use: Tobacco Smoke Pollution'. The 'Tobacco Smoke Pollution' row is highlighted with a red box. To the right of the table is a 'Search Database' button. Below the button is a box with the text 'Check a box to select a subject heading to begin building your search strategy.'.

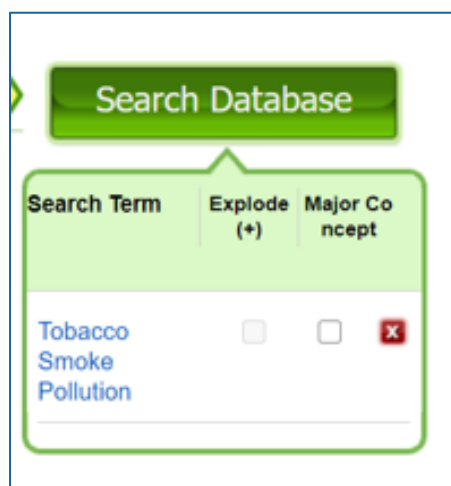
9. Tick term(s) you want to use, and they will appear on the righthand side.

The database will also give you options to apply **Explode** or **Major Concept** to the term selected, or to apply **subheadings** to the term; these options can widen or narrow the search.

To find out more about each term, click on the Scope icon.





10. Click '**Search Database**' to search for the subject heading:



Repeat steps 6-10 for all keywords.






Combining search terms and subject headings

11. Combine your terms and subject headings by selecting the search lines you want to combine, then click '**Search with OR**':

Search History/Alerts				
Print Search History Retrieve Searches Retrieve Alerts Save Searches / Alerts				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Select / deselect all Search with AND Search with OR Delete Searches Refresh Search Results				
Search ID#	Search Terms	Search Options	Actions	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S2	 (MH "Tobacco Smoke Pollution")	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (14,020) View Details Edit	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S1	 TI "passive smok*" OR AB "passive smok**"	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (4,828) View Details Edit	





Repeat steps 3-11 for all keywords / concepts.

12. In the example below, line S3 combines the results for one concept (passive smoking) and line S6 for the second concept (cancer). One you have searched all your concepts, **combine them using 'Search with AND'**:

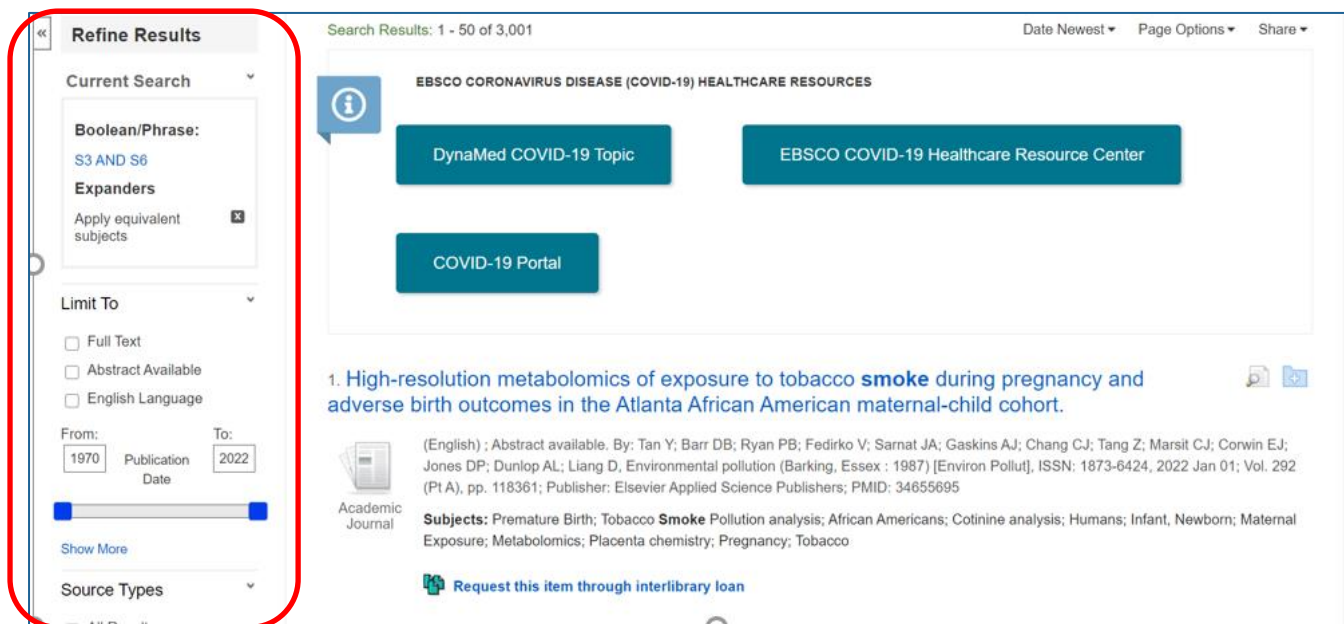
Print Search History Retrieve Searches Retrieve Alerts Save Searches / Alerts				
<input type="checkbox"/> Select / deselect all Search with AND Search with OR Delete Searches Refresh Search Results				
Search ID#	Search Terms	Search Options	Actions	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S6	 S4 OR S5	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (4,376,534) View Details Edit	
<input type="checkbox"/> S5	 (MH "Neoplasms")	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (460,599) View Details Edit	
<input type="checkbox"/> S4	 cancer or neoplasms or oncology or tumour or malignancy	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (4,376,534) View Details Edit	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S3	 S1 OR S2	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (15,885) View Details Edit	
<input type="checkbox"/> S2	 (MH "Tobacco Smoke Pollution")	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (14,020) View Details Edit	

Filtering and saving results

13. To filter or limit your results you will need to click view results:

<input type="checkbox"/> Select / deselect all Search with AND Search with OR Delete Searches Refresh Search Results				
Search ID#	Search Terms	Search Options	Actions	
<input type="checkbox"/> S7	 S3 AND S6	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (3,001) View Details Edit	
<input type="checkbox"/> S6	 S4 OR S5	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (4,376,534) View Details Edit	
<input type="checkbox"/> S5	 (MH "Neoplasms")	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (460,599) View Details Edit	
<input type="checkbox"/> S4	 cancer or neoplasms or oncology or tumour or malignancy	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (4,376,534) View Details Edit	

14. On the results page, **you can filter down or limit your results** by publication date, language, gender etc. on the left-hand side options bar:

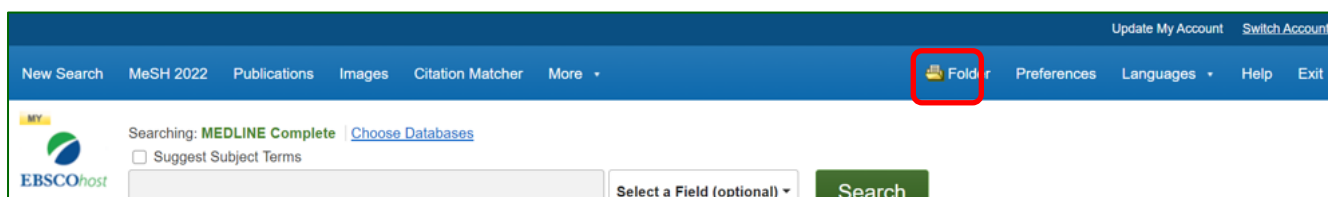


15. You can save individual results by **clicking the folder icon**. The database will display folders to which you can save the result; **My Folder** is the default option. **Click this link** and the item(s) selected will be saved:



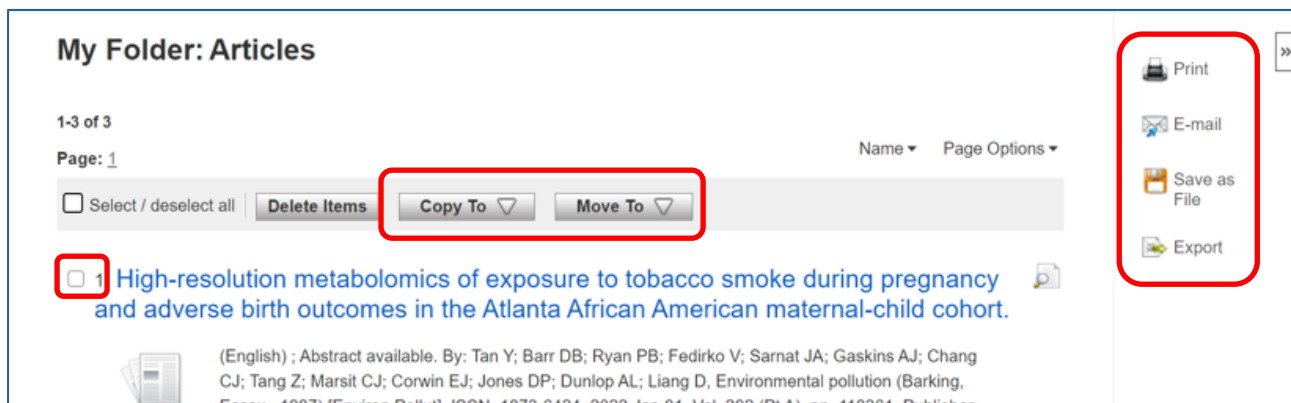
Should you wish to keep the results long term or do multiple search queries we would suggest that you set up individual folders.

16. To **export results**, click on **Folder**:

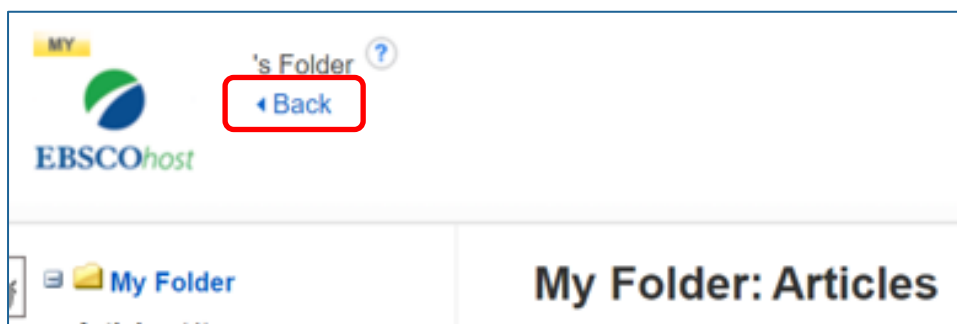


17. Select the results you would like to export and click on the output format / action.

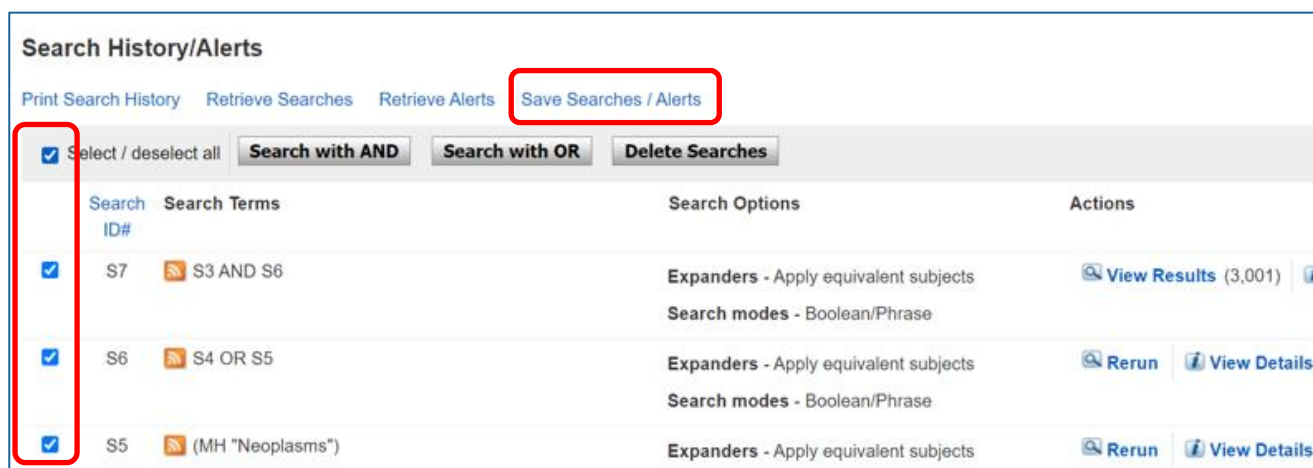
From here you can print or save your results as a file, send them via email, export to reference management software:



18. As well as saving the results, **we highly recommend saving your search**. To view your search, **go back to your Recent Search by clicking the 'Back' option**:



19. Select the search lines and click '**Save Searches / Alerts**':



20. Give your **search strategy a name** and add a description if you wish. Click '**Save**':

Folder List

Name of Search/Alert:

Description:

Date Created: 1/11/2022

Databases: MEDLINE Complete
CINAHL Plus with Full Text
Psychology and Behavioral Sciences Collection
eBook Collection (EBSCOhost)

Search Strategy: S3 AND S6

Interface: EBSCOhost

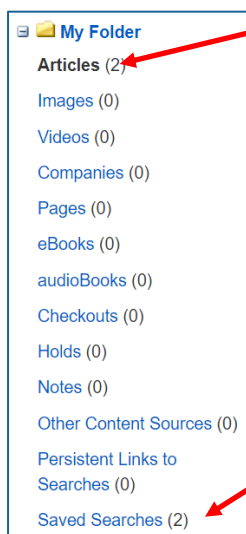
Save Search As: ☒ Saved Search (Permanent)
☐ Saved Search (Temporary, 24 hours)
☐ Alert

Save **Cancel**

21. You can access your saved searches and saved results from your Folder:



Select your articles of saved searches from the bar on the left:



More questions?

The Library & Knowledge Service offers one-to-one and group training sessions. Get in touch to arrange a session tailored to your individual needs:

Tel: **01625 66 1362**

Email: ecn-tr.StaffLibrary@nhs.net

Web: www.eastcheshirenhslibrary.net