

Example Search Strategy (Dialog-Datatar)

1. **Logging in:**
 - a. Select the **Healthcare Library** website (<http://healthcarelibrary.org.uk>).
 - b. Select **Electronic Resources**, then **Databases**.
 - c. Select **Dialog-Datatar**.
 - d. Type in **User ID** and **Password** (User ID starts **nhs** and **NO** Capitals).
 - e. Click in the box by the database you wish to search and click the blue advanced search button.
 - f. The **Advanced Search Page** will appear.

2. **Identify your research question:**
 - a. Is exercise of benefit to stroke patients?
The key concepts are **Exercise** and **Stroke**.
Also identify narrower and broader concepts:
Broader aspects of exercise could be **Rehabilitation**.
Stroke is also referred to as **CVA** or **Cerebral Vascular Accident**.

3. **Search for each concept separately:**
 - a. Type **Exercise** into the search terms box and click in the Thesaurus mapping box. Click on the dark blue **Search** button.
 - b. Click next to the most appropriate subject heading listed.

databases
NHS portal

Thesaurus mapping: MEDLINE - 1996 to date (MEDL)

No.	Database	Search term	Info added since	Results	
1	MEDLINE - 1996 to date	exercise	unrestricted	61081	show titles

search
cancel

To search select one or more of the Mesh headings below.
The search terms will be combined with one of the following Boolean operators:

OR ▼

Select	MeSH headings	Explode	Major MeSH headings	Subheadings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	EXERCISE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	OBESITY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	EXERCISE-THERAPY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	EXERTION	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	EXERCISE-TEST	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

c. Ignore explode, major mesh headings, subheadings and Click on **Search**.

Exercise will now be listed within your Search History.

d. Now type in Stroke into the search terms box. Click on Search.

e. Click next to the most appropriate subject heading listed.

databases NHS portal

Thesaurus mapping: MEDLINE - 1996 to date (MEDL)




No.	Database	Search term	Info added since	Results	
3	MEDLINE - 1996 to date	stroke	unrestricted	45820	show titles

search cancel

To search select one or more of the terms below.

The search terms will be combined with one of the following Boolean operators:

OR

Select	MeSH headings	Explode	Major MeSH headings	Subheadings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	 CEREBROVASCULAR-ACCIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	 BRAIN-ISCHEMIA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	 FIBRINOLYTIC-AGENTS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

f. Ignore explode, major mesh headings, subheadings and Click on **Search**.

Cerebrovascular Accident will now be listed within your Search History.

4. Combine your search terms to find articles that are common to both:

Type in the search number of the two search terms (joined by **and**) that you wish to combine and remove the tick in the Thesaurus mapping box.

Advanced Search: MEDLINE - 1996 to date (MEDL)

run saved search limit repeat remove duplicates split email save search create alert

Search history:

No.	Database	Search term	Info added since	Results		
1	MEDLINE - 1996 to date	exercise	unrestricted	61081	show titles	rank
2	MEDLINE - 1996 to date	EXERCISE.W..DE.	unrestricted	20095	show titles	rank
3	MEDLINE - 1996 to date	stroke	unrestricted	45820	show titles	rank
4	MEDLINE - 1996 to date	CEREBROVASCULAR-ACCIDENT.DE.	unrestricted	12551	show titles	rank

[hide](#) | [delete all search steps...](#) | [delete individual search steps...](#)

Enter your search term(s): [Search tips](#) Thesaurus mapping

2 and 4 w hole document

Results will be listed in your Search History.

Search history:

No.	Database	Search term	Info added since	Results		
1	MEDLINE - 1996 to date	exercise	unrestricted	61081	show titles	rank
2	MEDLINE - 1996 to date	EXERCISE.W..DE.	unrestricted	20095	show titles	rank
3	MEDLINE - 1996 to date	stroke	unrestricted	45820	show titles	rank
4	MEDLINE - 1996 to date	CEREBROVASCULAR-ACCIDENT.DE.	unrestricted	12551	show titles	rank
5	MEDLINE - 1996 to date	2 AND 4	unrestricted	73	show titles	rank

Limit your search further (Optional) – by year and language of publication. Type 2000 in the Information added since box and click in the Documents in English

Enter your search term(s): [Search tips](#) Thesaurus mapping

Information added since: or:

- Documents with abstracts
- Documents in English
- Documents relating to males
- 'In process' documents (those with no indexing)
- Review articles
- Documents relating to humans
- Documents relating to adults
- Meta-analysis articles
- Documents relating to animals
- Documents relating to children (0-18 years)
- Priority journals
- Documents relating to females
- Exclude 'in process' documents

Now click the **search** button. The results will be listed in your search history.

Now combine the limits with your original search and click search.

Enter your search term(s): [Search tips](#) Thesaurus mapping

The results will be in your search history

Search history:

No.	Database	Search term	Info added since	Results		
1	MEDLINE - 1996 to date	exercise	unrestricted	61081	show titles	<input type="button" value="rank"/>
2	MEDLINE - 1996 to date	EXERCISE.W..DE.	unrestricted	20095	show titles	<input type="button" value="rank"/>
3	MEDLINE - 1996 to date	stroke	unrestricted	45820	show titles	<input type="button" value="rank"/>
4	MEDLINE - 1996 to date	CEREBROVASCULAR-ACCIDENT.DE.	unrestricted	12551	show titles	<input type="button" value="rank"/>
5	MEDLINE - 1996 to date	2 AND 4	unrestricted	73	show titles	<input type="button" value="rank"/>
6	MEDLINE - 1996 to date	LG=EN	2000	2534724	show titles	<input type="button" value="rank"/>
7	MEDLINE - 1996 to date	5 AND 6	various	57	show titles	<input type="button" value="rank"/>

[hide](#) | [delete all search steps...](#) | [delete individual search steps...](#)

5. **View your results and select relevant references:**

- Click on **show titles** next to the results you wish to view listed in the Search History.
- Click next to the references that are relevant so that you can print/save those details.
- Results are displayed 20 at a time, click on **Next titles** to view the next 20 references.
- Click on **Link to fully indexed abstract** to read abstracts and list Subject Headings for a particular article.
- Click on **Back** button to return to the list of references.
- Click on **full text available** link to view an article in another window.

To Print selected references:

- Once you have selected all relevant references scroll down the page to the **Citation Manager**.

Selection	Display Format	Output Format	Act
<input type="checkbox"/> from this page <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> from all pages	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FULL <input type="checkbox"/> SHORT <input type="checkbox"/> MEDIUM <input type="checkbox"/> CUSTOM Help with Formats	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HTML <input type="checkbox"/> Tagged (for tables) <input type="checkbox"/> PDF <input type="checkbox"/> RTF <input type="checkbox"/> ResearchSoft <input type="checkbox"/> WebCharts Help with WebCharts Download WebCharts	<input type="button" value="display"/> <input type="button" value="save"/> <input type="button" value="print preview HTML/tagged"/>
			<input type="button" value="email"/>
Sort your entire search result by Publication year <input type="button" value="v"/> Ascending <input type="button" value="v"/>			<input type="button" value="sort"/>

- Click from all pages in the Selection box.
- Click next to how much information you wish to keep (Full, Short, Medium, Custom in the Display Format box).
- Choose what type of output you want in the Output Format box.
- Select **Print Preview**.
- Displayed will be all the information that you have chosen.
- Click on **Print** on your Internet Browser Toolbar.
- Once printed click on **Back** button and then **Search page** button.

6. To **Change Database** –

- a. Click on **Databases** on the toolbar.



- b. Now select the box by the database you wish to search and click advanced search

7. **To Finish:**

- a. Click on **Logoff** on the top toolbar once you have finished searching, then logoff from Athens.

