CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

MEDICAL LIBRARY

Supporting Literature Searching

Searching the Evidence using EBSCOHost

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

RAVEN

PsycINFO

Use to search PsycINFO with a RAVEN login,
(or CINAHL with an NHS ATHENS login)

September 2015

Supporting Literature Searching

Searching the Evidence using EBSCOHost

- Introduction 3
- How to access the EBSCOhost databases 3
- Planning your search 5
- Combining your search terms 7
- Limiting / refining your search 8
- Viewing your results 10
- Access to Full-Text Articles 12
- Selecting references to save/print/email 13
- Saving your Search Strategy and Alerts 15
- Suggest Subject Terms - how to make your search more comprehensive 16
- Further help 18

To help you use this guide,

indicates a step in the process of searching and retrieving articles.

indicates a tip, or an extra piece of information.

September 2015

Introduction

This guide is designed to give you a brief overview of how to search any database via the EBSCOHost interface. Depending on the ATHENS/ RAVEN password you are using, the range of databases will vary: University of Cambridge subscribe to a different set of databases via EBSCOHost compared with the NHS.

Access to PsycINFO via EBSCOHost for University of Cambridge users is achieved using a RAVEN username and password. Again, each institution has a different password, and you may be eligible for more than one: for example if you are studying part time at University of Cambridge, but also working part time at Addenbrooke's, you would be eligible for a University RAVEN password and an NHS ATHENS password.

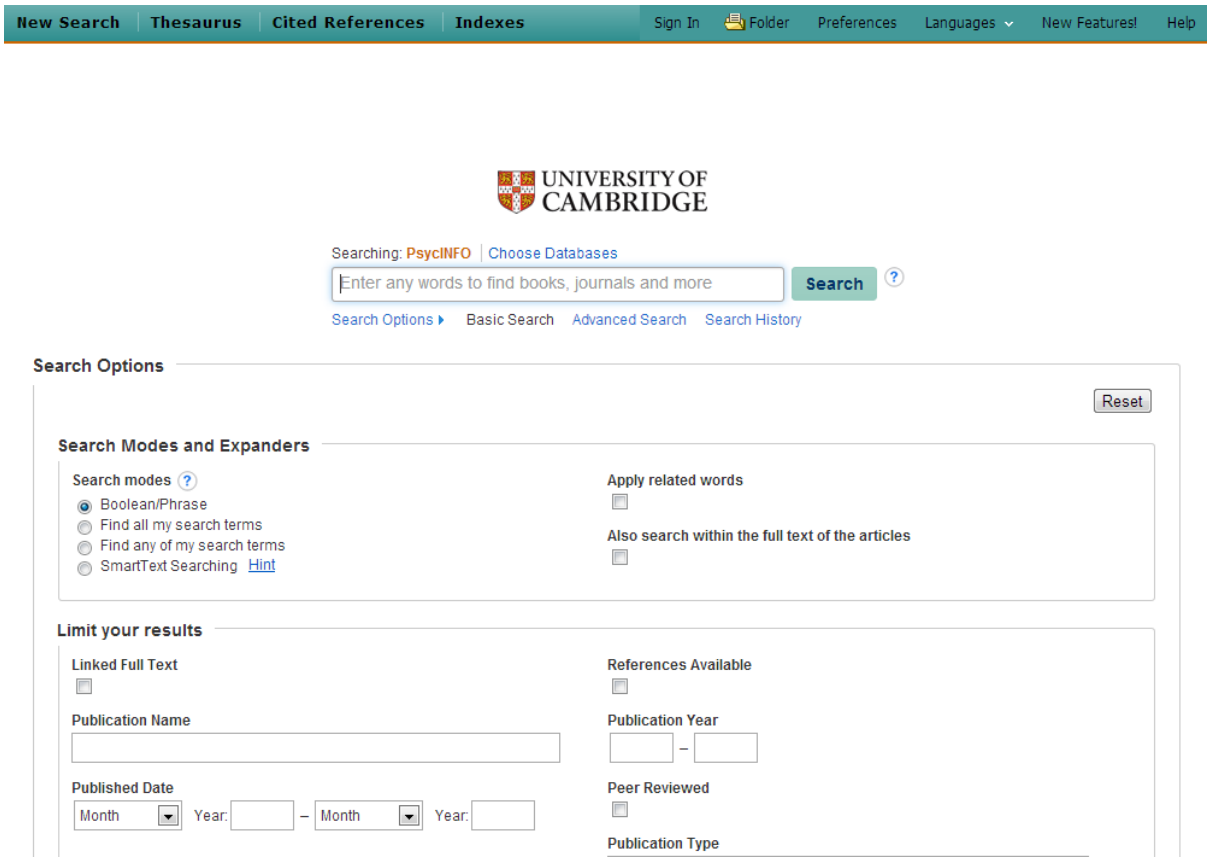
As a brief overview, this guide will help you learn the principles of how to search any database via EBSCOHost, regardless of which password you use to access it.

This guide will continue, assuming you are searching PsycINFO using a Cambridge University RAVEN login, but all of the instructions remain valid if you are searching CINAHL or HealthBusiness Elite.

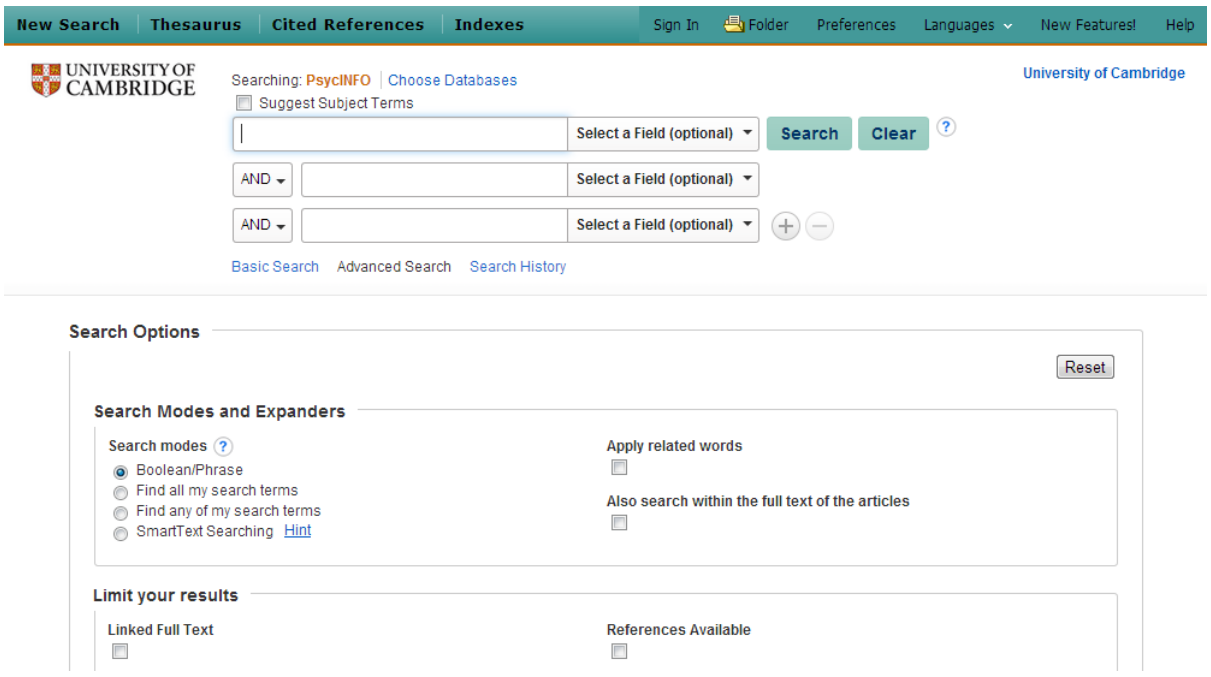
How to access the EBSCOhost databases

	If you have a RAVEN login
	Go to http://library.medschl.cam.ac.uk/ and click "Research Support" and "databases for literature searching" – scroll down to click PsycINFO "available using RAVEN". Click PsycINFO, and login with RAVEN if you are 'off campus'. Alternatively go to http://tinyurl.com/campsycinfo Click PsycINFO, and login with RAVEN if you are 'off campus'.
	If you are using an NHS ATHENS login
	Go to http://www.athensams.net/myathens - enter your NHS ATHENS username and password. Select EBSCO databases from the list. Tick the database you want to search from the selection available (searching one database at a time will give best results).

The front page will look like:



	Always pick "advanced search", it will make it easier to run a more thorough search. This will give you a set of search boxes, plus a "suggest subject terms" option.



Planning your search

Before starting your search you should ask questions of yourself such as:

- What are the keywords?
- Are there any other ways to spell the keywords?
- Are there any other words which mean the same thing (synonyms)?
- Are there any related keywords I want to include?
- What limits do I want to apply

First you need to clarify the question you wish to answer, and the keywords you will search with.

In this guide we will search for papers that might answer the following question:

How effective is cognitive behaviour therapy for smoking cessation?

In this search there are 2 key terms:

```
Cognitive behaviour therapy
Smoking
```

It is important to consider other synonyms and spelling variations: **behaviour** will find a different set of results from **behavior**

	Boolean Logic OR will search for articles containing any of the terms we choose. Use OR to combine synonyms, alternative spellings or related items AND will search for articles which contain all of the terms we have chosen.

This means that the strategy might look like this:

```
cognitive behaviour therapy OR cognitive behavior therapy
                          AND
        smoking OR smoke OR smoker or tobacco
```

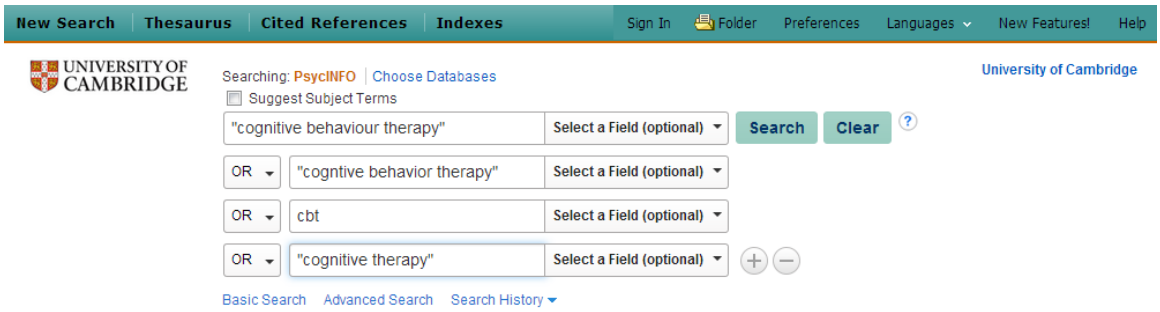
	Phrase Searching: If you want to search for a distinct phrase put it in quotation marks e.g. "healthcare worker" This will instruct the database to find only those words next to each other in that order. Otherwise the search will be e.g. healthcare AND worker
	Truncation By adding a * at the end of the word ensures the database also finds plurals and variations in word ending. For example, worker* will find both worker and workers.

	Synonyms Always remember that the computer is a machine - it will search for the words you type in. It will not automatically find articles talking about tobacco or cigarettes just because you search for smoking - even if those connections seem obvious to you.

Our strategy can be amended:

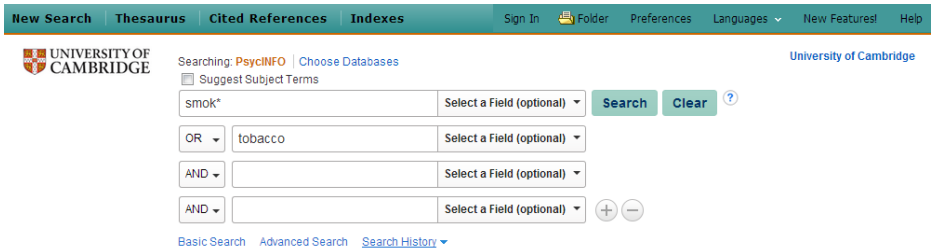
```
"cognitive behaviour therapy" OR "cognitive behavior therapy"
OR CBT OR "cognitive therapy"
AND
smok* OR tobacco
```

	Use the boxes in the advanced search option to search for the variations around your first keywords, and click Search. Ensure you are linking the different terms with OR
	You can add extra boxes by clicking



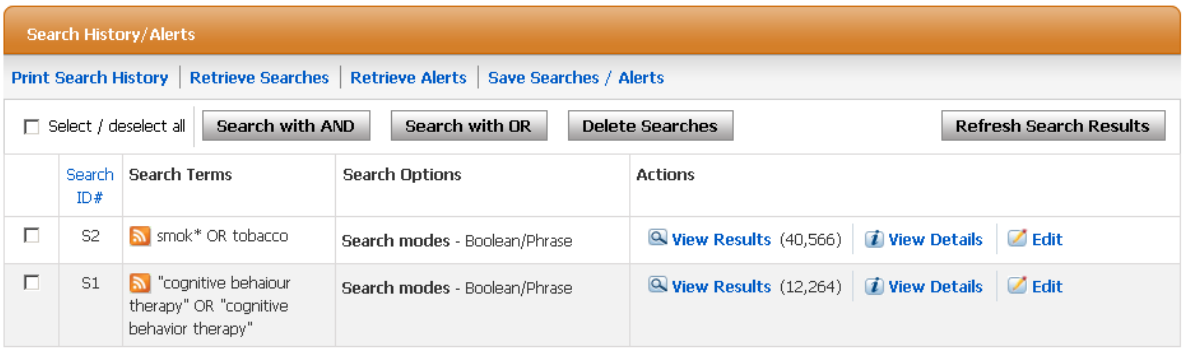
	Why can't we enter the whole question at once? It is tempting to put the whole search into the search box in one go. **Don't!!** - It is better to search in stages, searching only for related terms. Searching in stages, is better because: some databases will treat a string of words as one phrase, so you may find nothing or very little - searching in stages allows you to build up a much more complex and specific search - searching in stages makes it easier to correct mistakes.

	"Clear" the search fields, and type in your second search term: `smok*` and `tobacco` in the search boxes, remembering to link them with OR



The number of hits you get for each line of your search might feel overwhelming, but the number of hits you get when you combine the 2 lines using AND will reduce the hits to a more manageable number.

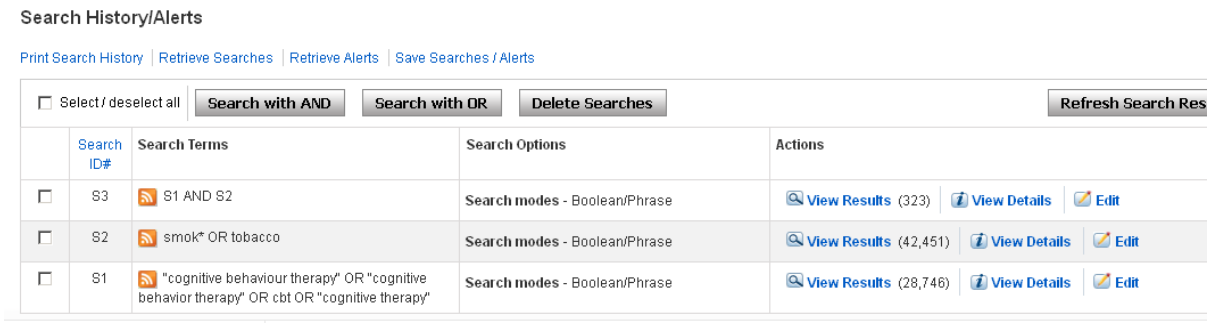
	Click "search history" to see all the terms you've searched for so far.



Combining your search terms

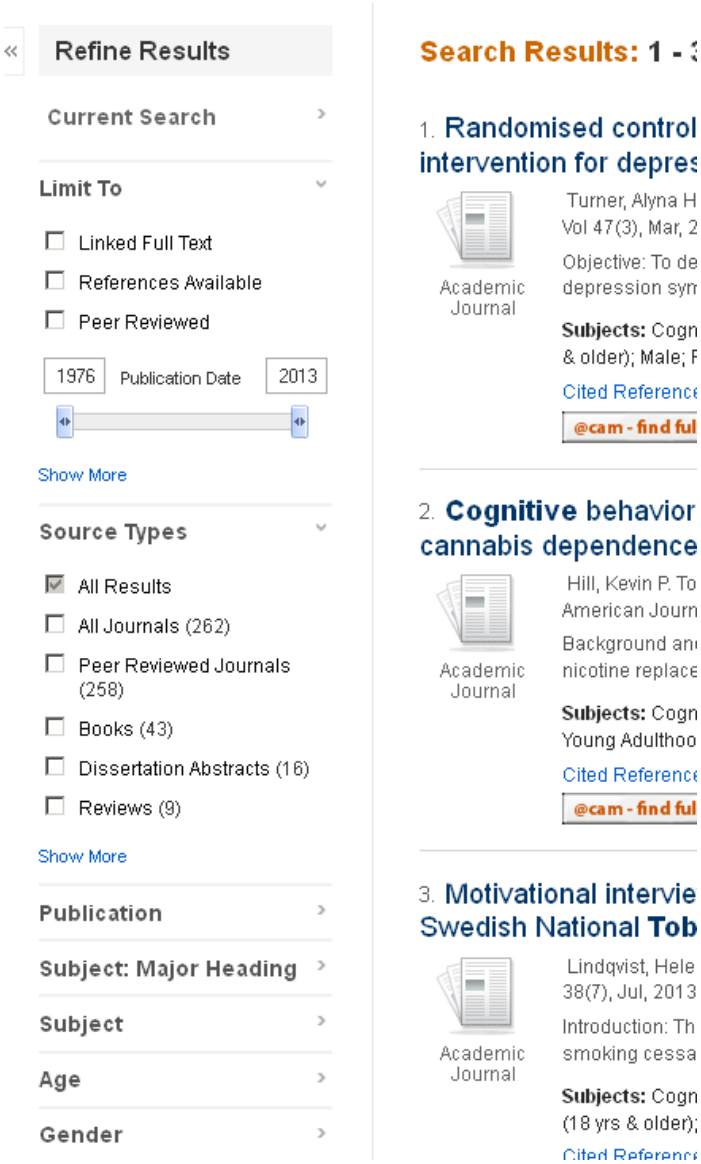
We need to link the two lines of your search - to retrieve papers that are talking about BOTH cognitive behaviour therapy AND ALSO smoking.

	Clear the search box. Tick line S1 and also S2, and "Search with AND"



You can now "view results". The number of hits is now much more realistic, but you may still want to refine the search further.

Limiting / refining your search

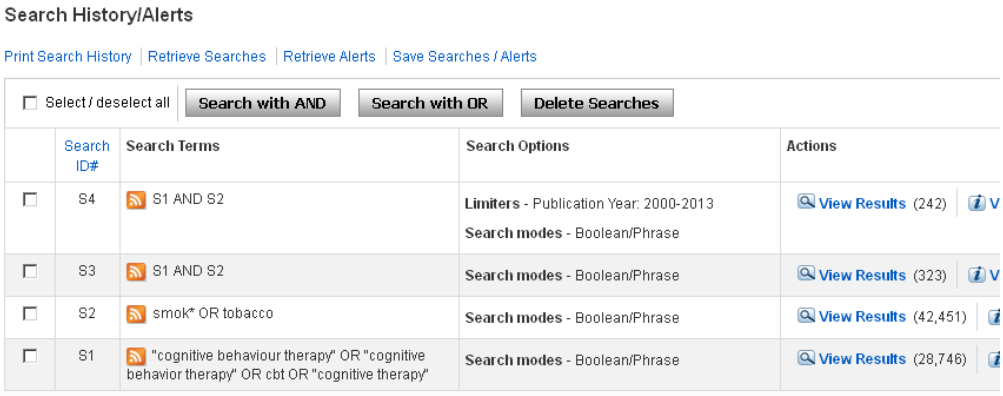


When you look at the results of your search, there is a panel on the left of the screen which will allow you to refine your search.

Perhaps you only want articles in English, or published in the last 10 years? The toolbar on the left will allow to you make these refinements.

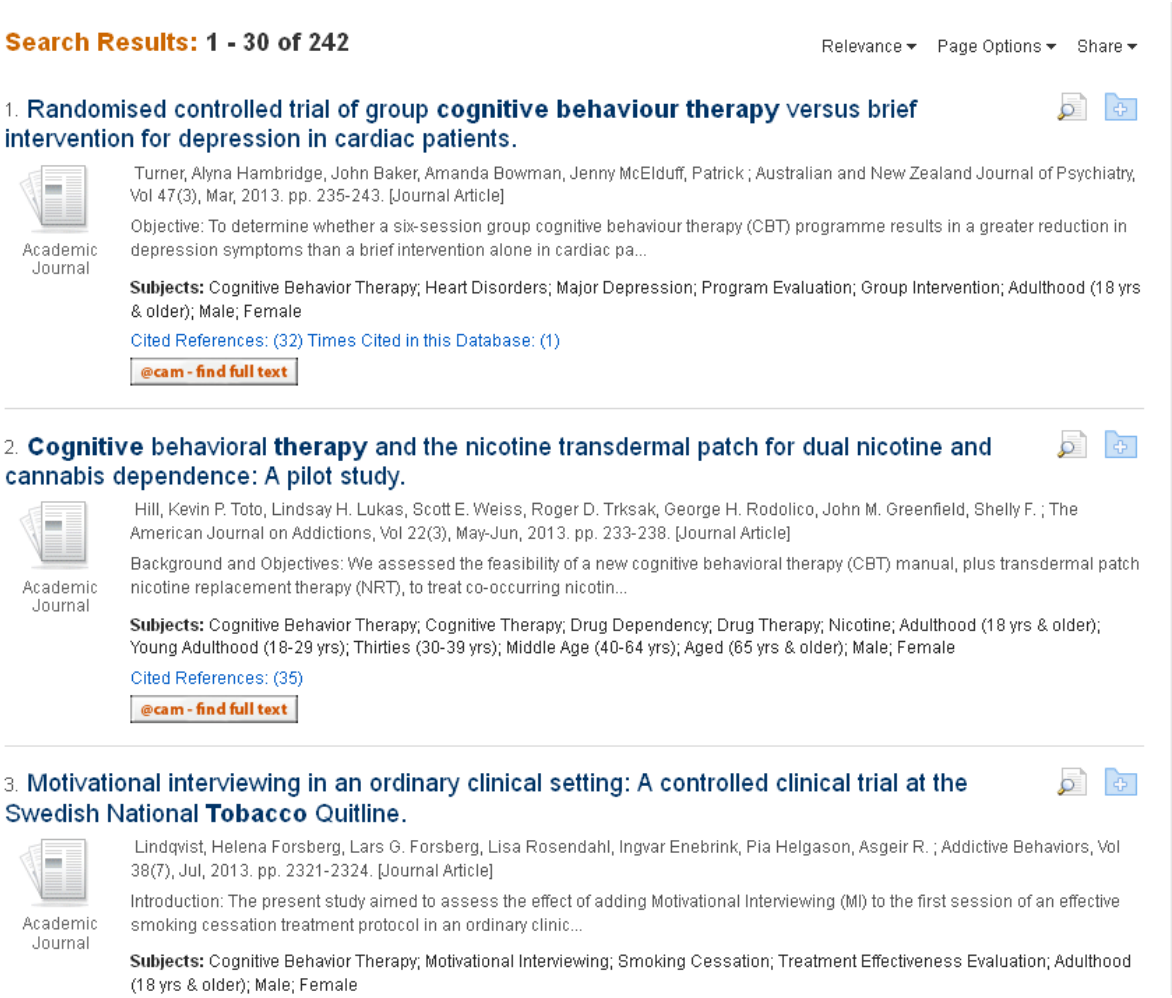
	Make your selection from the choices available, and update to apply the limits to your search

When you refine your search the result will go into your Search History. This means that you will always be able to revert back to the original set of hits if you feel you have made too many refinements, or want to search differently.



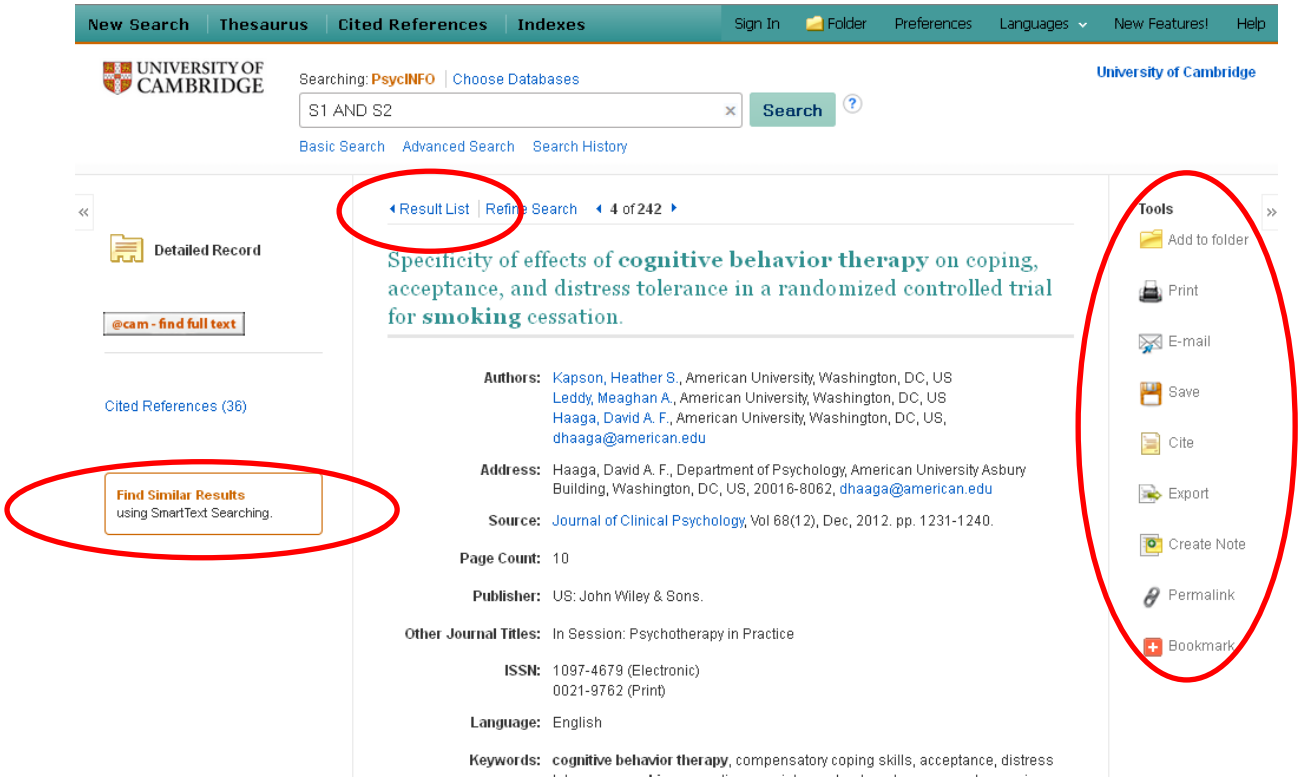
Viewing your results

Looking at the results of your search



PsycINFO shows us a Summary record, giving details of Title, Authors, Source (ie Journal title, year, month, volume, part and pages), and the first few words of the abstract.

	Click on the title to view the full amount of information held. This includes the abstract, keywords, and an option to "find similar results" (an easy way to find more relevant articles).



You can print or email or export the reference at this stage, by using the options on the right, but it might be more useful to "Add to folder". This option will let you gather up all the references you find useful, and then do something with *all* of these references in one batch, rather than individually - a more efficient way of working.

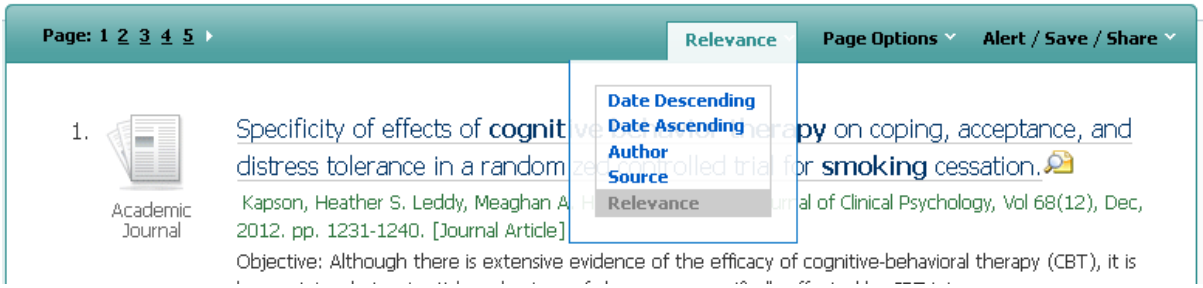
To go back to viewing the whole list of results click "result list" (above the title of the paper).

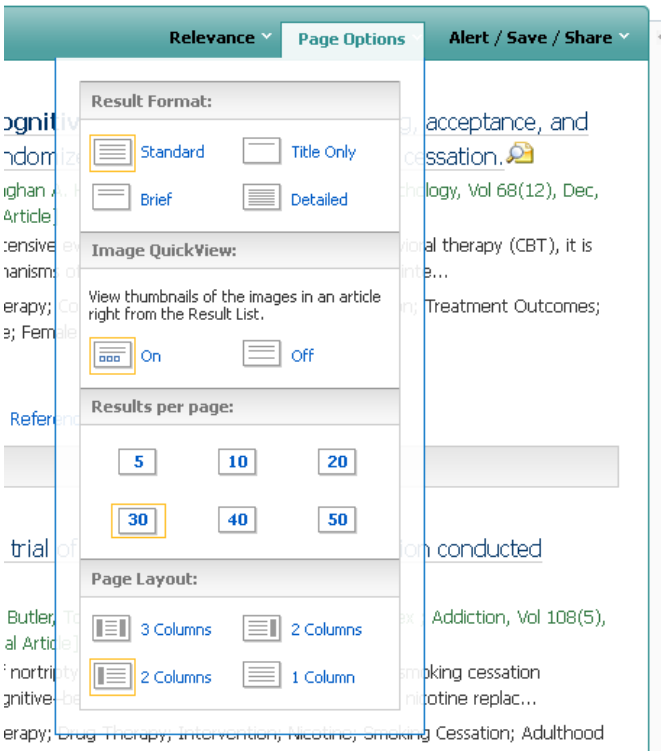
	You can also preview the abstract and add to folder from the results list: just click the icon to preview the abstract, and to add the article to the folder.

When you have put a reference in the "folder" you will be reminded of this in the results list

Preferences

The default view is that the results are presented by "relevance". If you prefer a more objective presentation you can opt to view in date order.





You can also choose to view up to 50 articles per page, and make other viewing choices from the Page Options available.

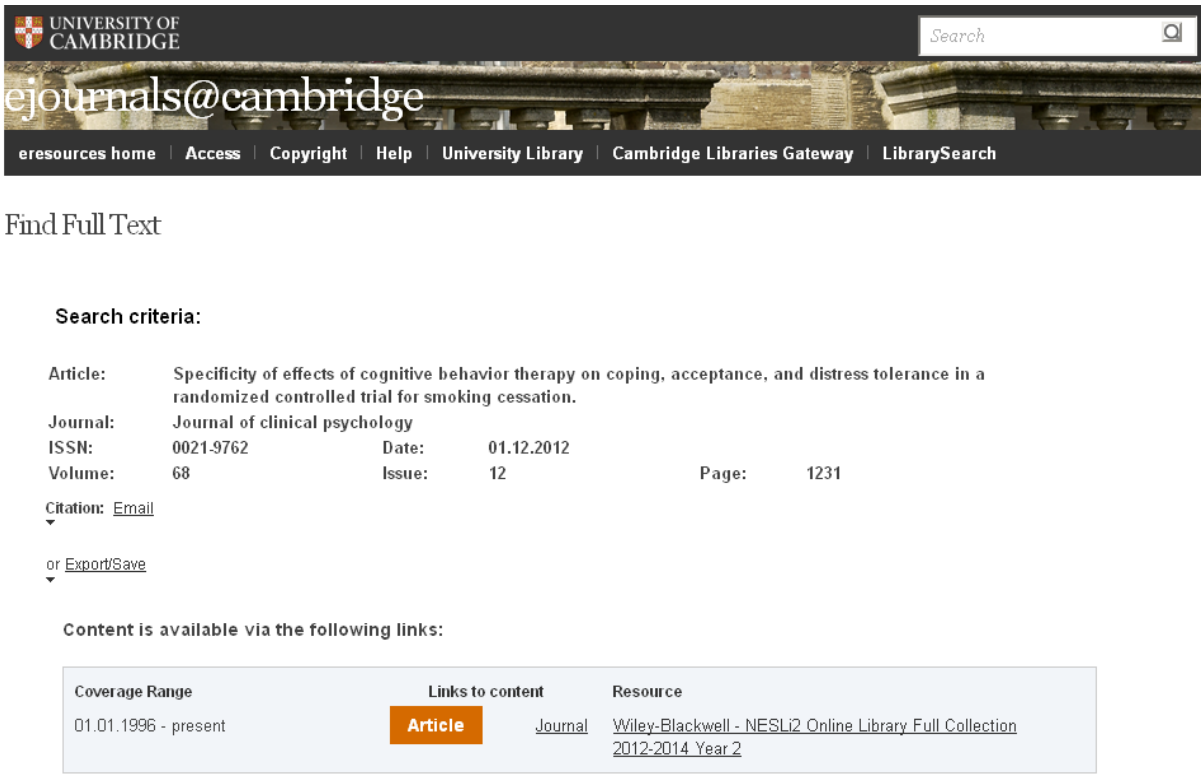
Access to Full-Text Articles

You may notice the

button on the articles

This will allow you to check whether the Library subscribes to the journal that you need.

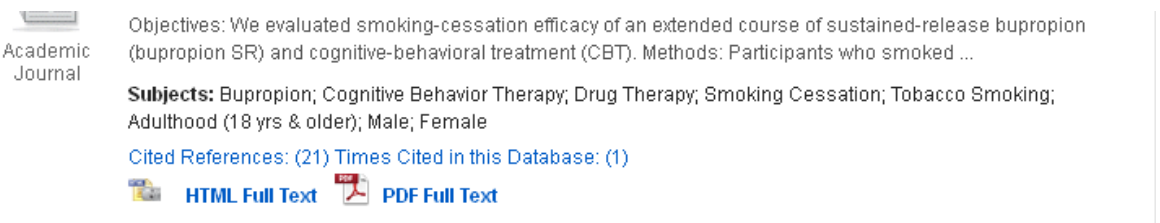
Click on the "@cam - find full text" button on a paper.
If the article is available online, you'll see a new window open with this sort of message:



Click on the "article" button to access the article, and the PDF.

By no means all articles will be available in electronic format. But the Medical Library may hold the paper copy of the journal you need, so you'll be able to make a copy. Alternatively, you may have additional access to ejournal via NHS ATHENS or other logins.

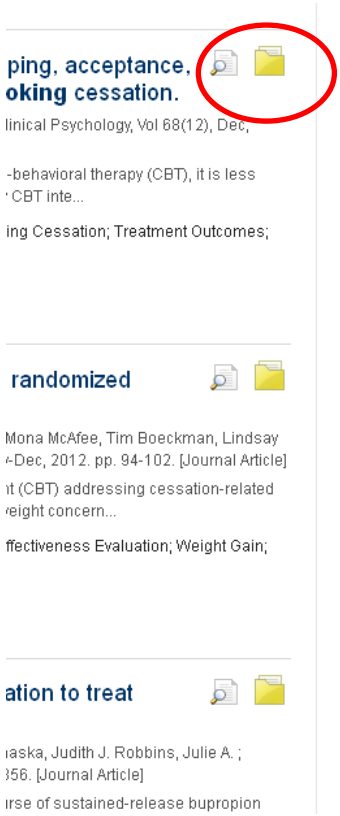
Some paper may give you access to the PDF immediately:



Selecting references to save/print/email

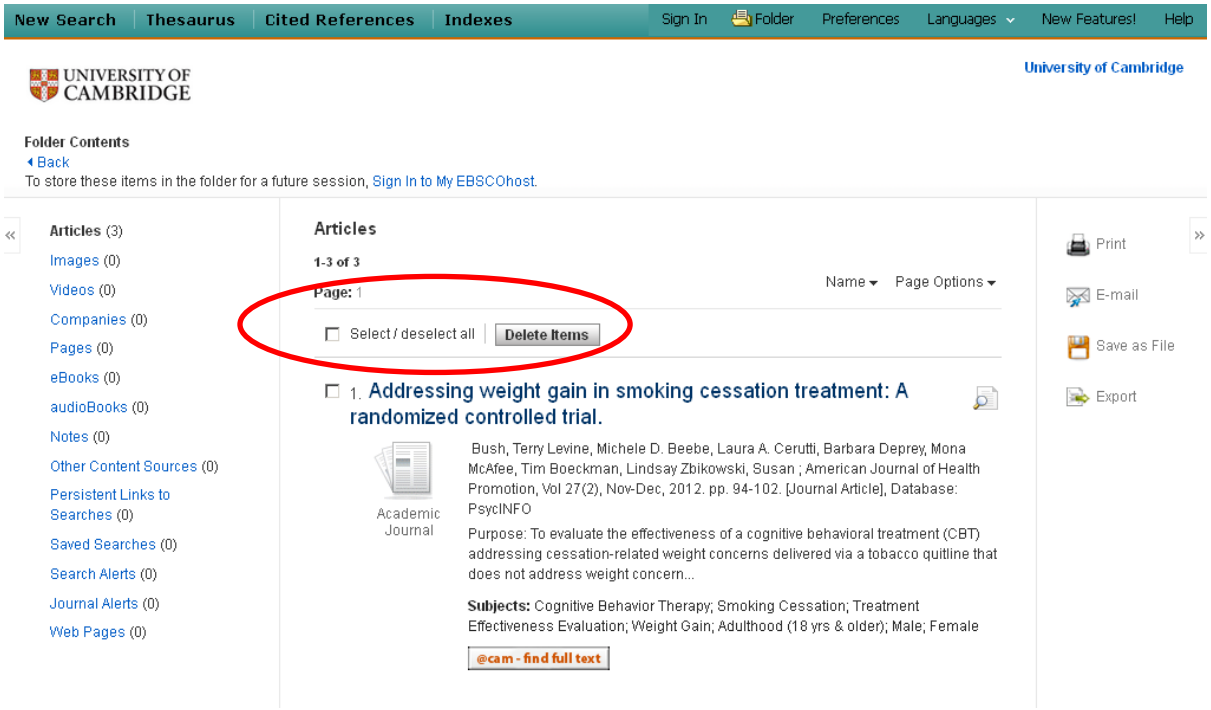
While you can print or email or export the references one at a time when you click the title to read the abstract, it might be more efficient to **"Add to folder".**

This option will let you gather up all the references you find useful, and then do something with *all* of these references in one batch, rather than individually - a more efficient way of working.

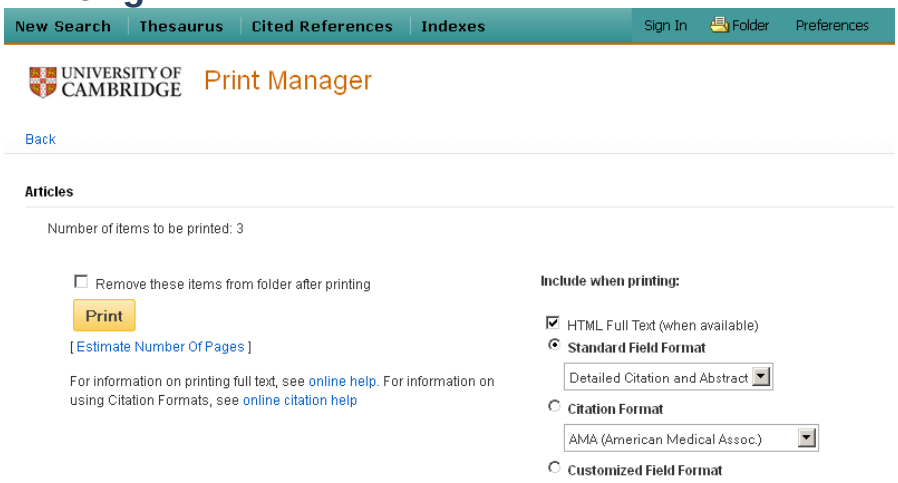


Once you've added all the articles that you want to the folder, scroll up to the top of the page, to open the folder

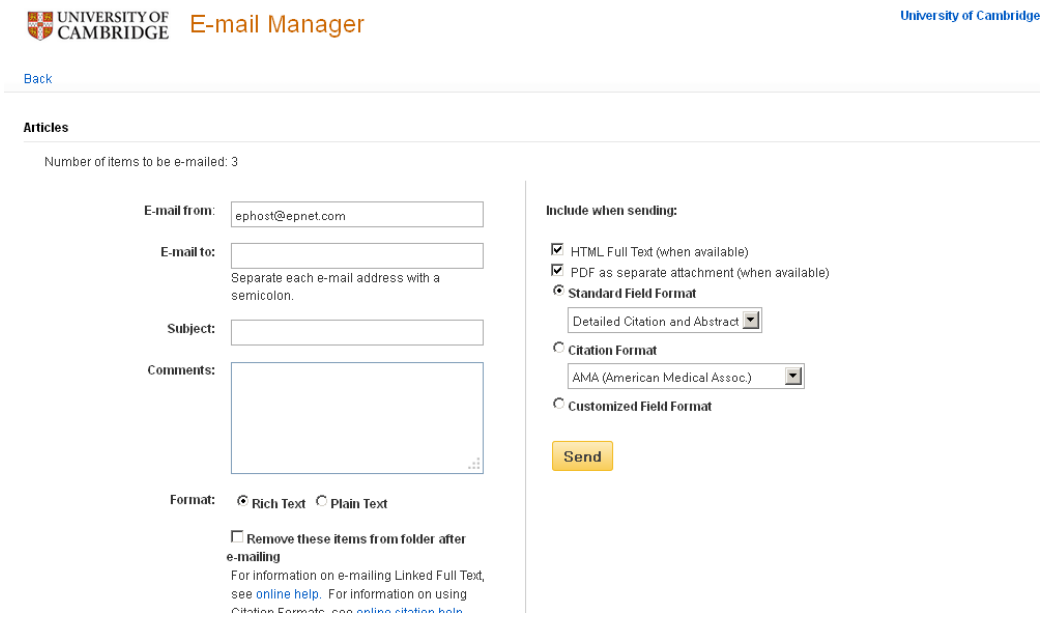
In the folder, you can **select all** the articles, and send them to print or email or export them to a reference management tool.



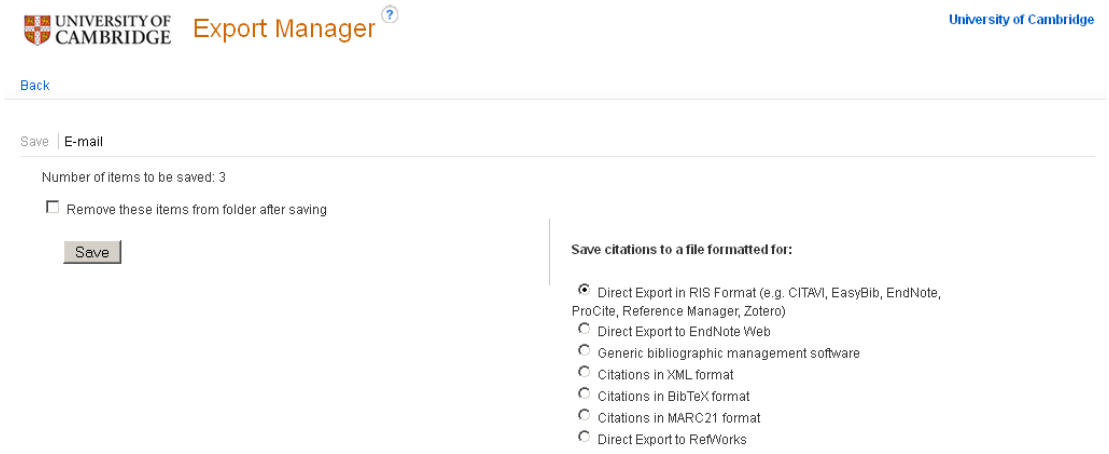
Printing:



Emailing:



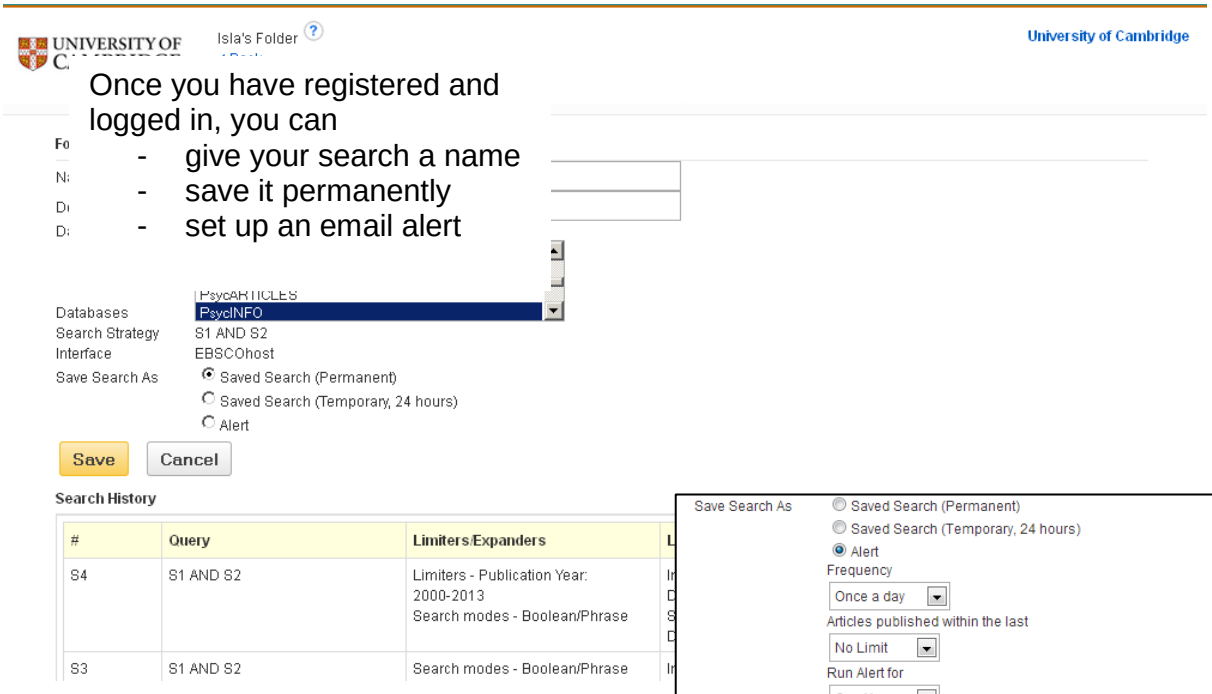
Exporting:



Saving your Search Strategy and Alerts

In the Search History view, there is an option to save your search history. It is necessary to create an additional username and password, but the advantage of saving your search history is that you can:

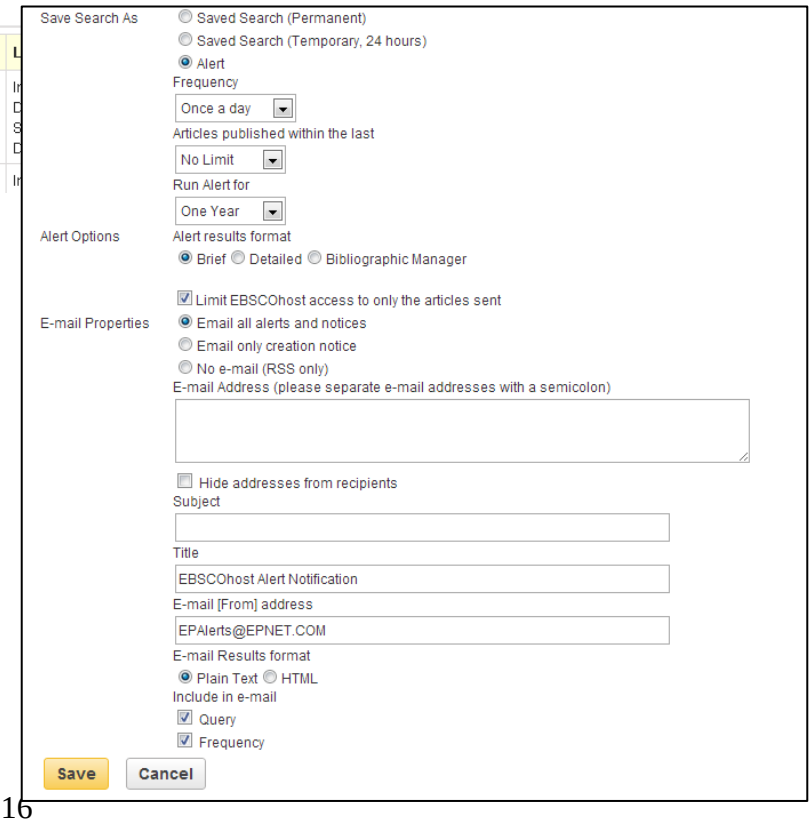
- run your strategy again at a future date, perhaps amending it
- set up regular emails alerting you to new articles of interest.



Once you have registered and logged in, you can

- give your search a name
- save it permanently
- set up an email alert

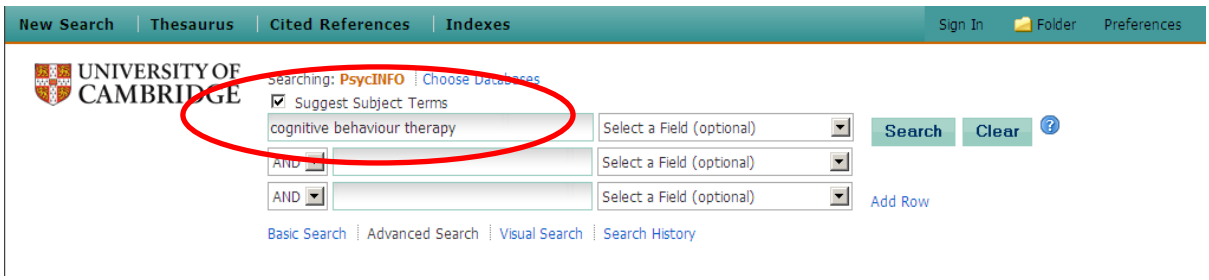
If you chose to set up an email alert you will have more choices:



Suggest Subject Terms - how to make your search more comprehensive

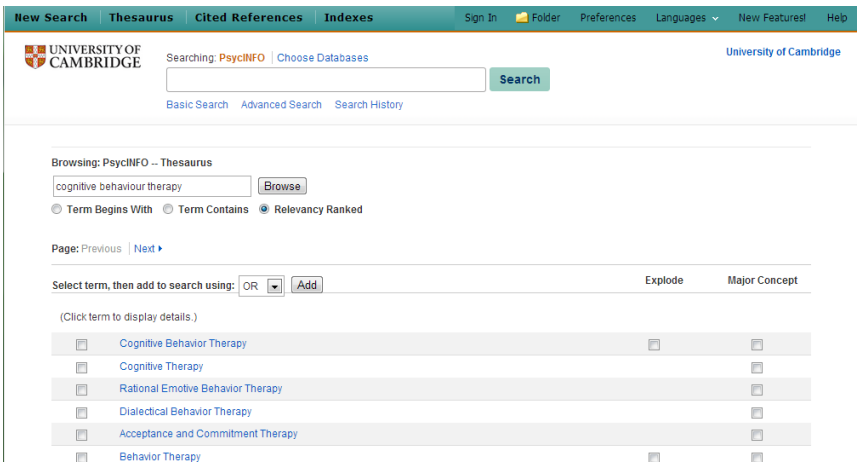
	TIP: WHAT ARE SUBJECT TERMS? Subject Terms are a list of words and phrases that are used to index references in databases such as PsycINFO. They provide a consistent term to identify all the papers talking about a particular topic, rather than *just* the papers that use the keywords you know about. In this way, a Subject Term search might get more hits than a "freetext" search – because there are lots of ways of talking about a topic: the result is a more **sensitive** search The opposite also occurs sometimes – a subject term search retrieves fewer hits than a freetext search. The hits you retrieve with the subject term search will be more **specific**. Subject headings are arranged in a hierarchy like a family tree – so that there are some **broader** terms (ie general – such as respiratory disorder), and some **narrower** ones which lie beneath the broader terms (ie more specific – such as asthma). You may have heard about MeSH (Medical Subject Headings) in relation to Medline/Pubmed searches. Other databases, including PsycINFO, use a similar system.

	Type in a keyword from your search, and click the "suggest subject terms" box, and "search"



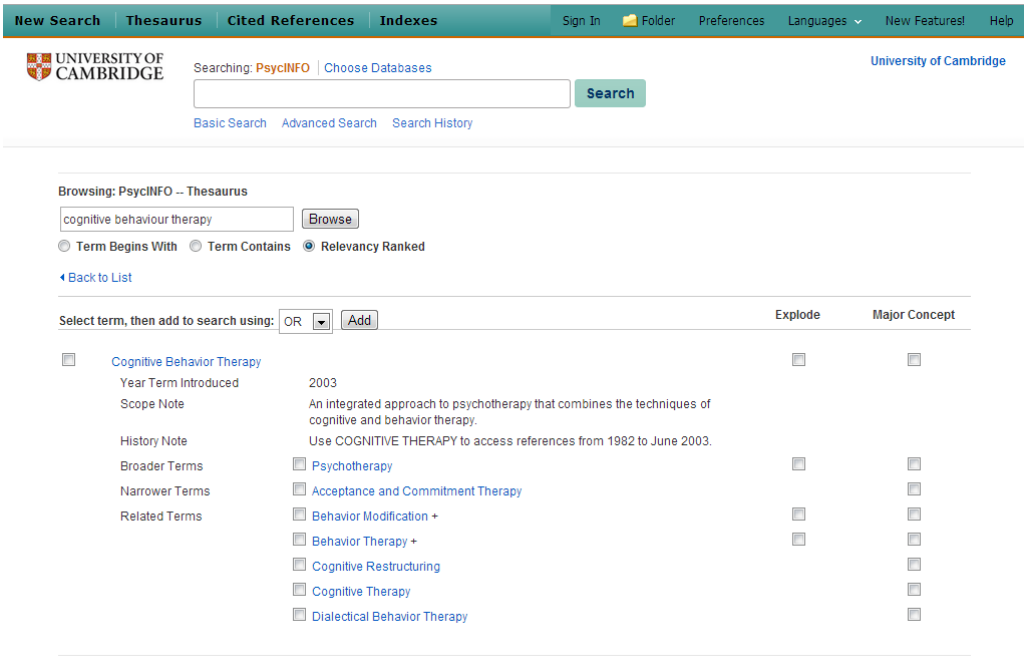
The database will try to match your term against the controlled vocabulary in the Thesaurus. If it can find an exact match, great, but sometimes it will try to suggest terms that you may find relevant.

	If you can find a match, click the term itself to find out more.



You can read:

- a definition,
- information about when the term was introduced as a Subject Term,
- options to chose a broader term
- or a narrower term.

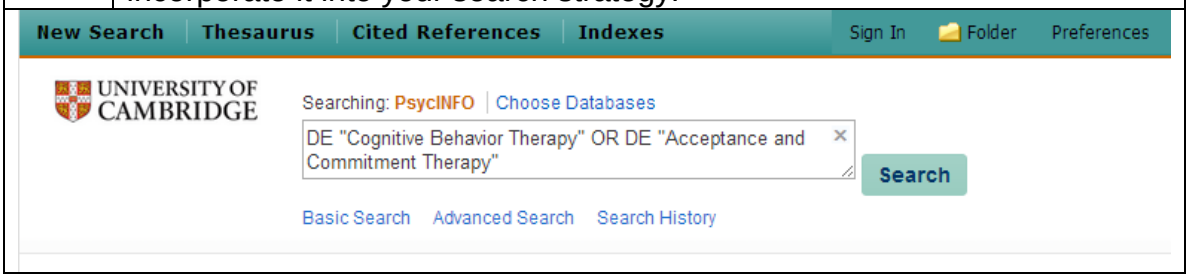


If you decide that this term is the right one for your search, you should tick either the "explode" or "major concept" box.

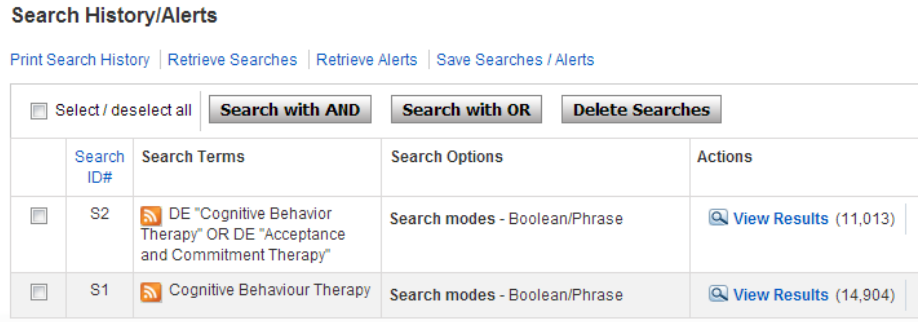
	Explode and Major Concept
	If you **explode** you will include any terms that are ***narrower*** – any more specific terms. In this example, if you "explode" cognitive behavior therapy, the search results will include papers that are talking particularly about Acceptance and Commitment Therapy. This will increase the number of hits you retrieve. If you pick a very broad term, using the *explode* option will significantly increase the number of hits.

	If you tick the **major concept** option, your search will retrieve only those papers for which this is the main topic – so you will retrieve very much fewer hits, and might miss some relevant papers.
	It is generally better to tick **explode,** and to have a larger number of hits, since you can use the search history to combine different search terms to get the best strategy, and so the best selection of papers to chose from.

	Tick the "explode" option for cognitive behavior therapy, and click "add". You'll see the subject terms in the search box. Click Search to add this to your search history, and to be able to incorporate it into your search strategy.



In this example, the subject term gets fewer hits than the freetext search – but the hits will be more specific i.e. more relevant. Combine the line with the subject terms with other lines in your strategy as instructed in this guide.



Further Help

Free help and support in searching databases is available from any NHS Library in the East of England.

At Addenbrooke's and University of Cambridge contact:

Isla Kuhn, Veronica Phillips, Eleanor Barker
Cambridge University Medical Library

Email: librarytraining@medschl.cam.ac.uk
Phone: (01223) 336750
Web: http://library.medschl.cam.ac.uk