Cochrane

Contents
The Cochrane Library is a search engine for the databases produced by the Cochrane Collaboration or were made commissioned by them. The Cochrane Collaboration aims to provide individual clinical trials and their systematic reviews and meta-analyses about therapy and diagnosis. Quarterly the following databases are updated:

1. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR): texts of regularly updated systematic reviews about the effects of interventions compiled by the Cochrane Collaboration itself
2. Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE): abstracts and reviews of systematic reviews which have not been carried out by the Cochrane Collaboration
3. Cochrane Central Register of Controlled trials (CENTRAL): details of quality assessed, randomized controlled trials
4. Cochrane Database of Methodology Reviews (CDMR): systematic reviews of methodological studies
5. Cochrane Methodology Register (CMR): studies about methods used in reviews as well as methodological studies
6. Health Technology Assessment Database (HTA): evaluations of technologies used in healthcare
7. NHS Economic Evaluation Database (NHSEED): economic evaluations of interventions in healthcare

Start
- Go to the homepage of the VU: www.ub.vu.nl
- Type cochrane libr in the search menu
- Choose e-Resources
- Click Go!

Browsing
In the middle of the screen certain features allow to browse through sections and databases. It is also possible to see quickly what is new or modified through: Highlighted new and updated Cochrane Reviews.

Searching
1. Search
In the opening screen there is a search box on the right hand side. From the dropdown menu searching in different ways is possible through parts of the reference. Alternatively the Advanced Search or search through Mesh Search can be used.

2. Advanced search
Search for terms and combine them in a certain way. The fields which can be searched are the same as Search.
- Limit a search to one or more databases
- Choose references with a certain Record status (e.g. ‘Withdrawn’ or ‘New’)
- Select a time frame
Example:

Limits can be used via the Limits-icon product types, status or date of publication.

While searching use the following options can be used:
- Combine terms with Boolean operators. Please note: always type these in capitals! E.g. paracetamol OR nsoids or osteoarthritis AND (knee OR knees)
- Truncation by means of the asterisk (*), e.g. diabet* will find diabetes and diabetic
- Combining sets through the Search Manager, e.g. #1 AND #2
- Combined terms between quotation marks, e.g. "cell death"

3. MeSH Search
Through the button ‘MeSH Search’ a search can be done with the keyword system of Medline: the Medical Subject Headings (MeSH). Note: using Mesh will only find references from Medline!

Results
The search results will be shown by database. Click on the name of the section to view the records. The result will be sorted to Relevance by default. Also Alphabetical or Date can be used for sorting, which are on the right hand side of the screen. Clicking on the title Title will show the full record.

Saving
- Printing through the print button of your Internet browser
- References can be saved as text files for importing to software such as Reference Manager and EndNote through the Export All Results button
- Searches can be saved as e-mail alerts in an own profile with the Save Strategy button. You can register through Register free of charge.

Help
- On the opening screen there is an help function available on the right hand side under Help! New users start here.