

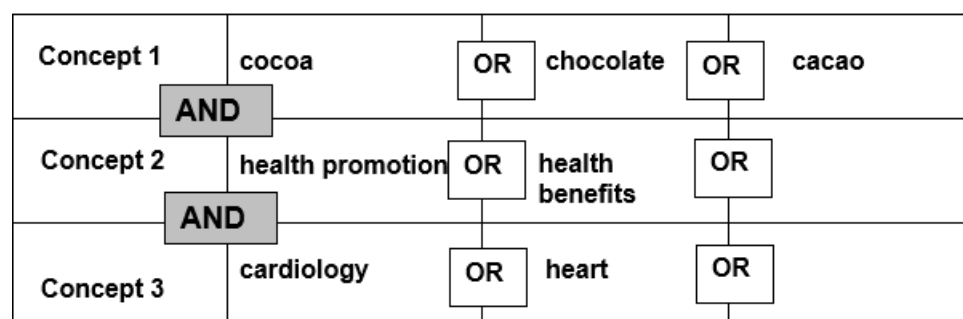
Advanced Searching in Ebsco Eresources

To undertake more detailed searches within Ebsco there are some options to consider

1. [Building your search strategy using multiple rows on the Advanced Search form](#)
2. [Creating separate search sets and then combining these sets](#)
3. [Using subject headings](#) – see our [separate guide](#)

Which to choose will depend on how complex your search is likely to be. Think carefully about your search strategy first using sections 1-3 of [our form](#). This should help you identify your keywords and whether they fall into different 'concepts'. Look also for alternative versions of your keywords to allow for different ways of writing.

Using section 3 from the form you may draw up these concepts:



1. Building your search strategy using the Advanced Search form

Once identified you can combine your keywords using Boolean connectors (AND / OR / NOT) in the multiple row search form. Boolean connectors allow you to include or exclude keywords to build more complex searches. You can also use other functionality such as phrase searching (speechmarks around phrases) and truncation (root of a word with a *). See our [tips guide](#) for more on these options.

In the example below we are

1. Combining alternative words with OR eg cocoa OR chocolate OR cacao
2. Enclosing phrases in speechmarks eg "health promotion". This brings the two words together in that order.
3. Using the truncation tool to find any possible endings eg cardio* would find cardiovascular or cardiology etc.

In this example we are connecting each concept with AND

Searching: CINAHL Ultimate

MyEBSCO

1	cocoa OR chocolate OR cacao	⊗	All fields	▼
2	AND ▼ "health promotion" OR "health benefit"	⊗	All fields	▼
3	AND ▼ cardio* OR heart*	⊗	All fields	▼

Add row
Delete row

Clear all
Search

Try to avoid using OR between each line as that can skew the search strategy. Use the OR within each line to incorporate alternative keywords.

You can add other rows if you need to, for example, if you have another concept to add in if it is a complex topic or if you want to focus on just one type of research eg

Searching: CINAHL Ultimate MyEBSCO

	cocoa OR chocolate OR cacao	⊗	All fields
AND	"health promotion" OR "health benefit**"	⊗	All fields
AND	cardio* OR heart*	⊗	All fields
AND	experimental OR quantitative OR epidemiolog*	⊗	All fields

⊕ Add row ⊖ Delete row Clear all Search

4. Using NOT

You can use NOT to exclude certain terms which are not relevant. For example to remove any results about reviews or meta analysis click on the drop down by AND and select NOT. Then add the words to exclude – if more than one separate by an OR.

Important – put this NOT command on the last line so it works on the whole search

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	cocoa OR chocolate OR cacao	⊗	All fields
AND	"health promotion" OR "health benefit**"	⊗	All fields
AND	cardio* OR heart*	⊗	All fields
NOT	review OR meta-analysis	⊗	All fields

⊕ Add row ⊖ Delete row Clear all Search

Be cautious about using NOT as it may lose some relevant material. It might be better to add a relevant keyword for example: rather than using NOT to exclude children, add a row to use AND to search for adults (or use an age filter if one).

Once you are happy with your keywords then you can select any filters relevant to your inclusion / exclusion criteria.

5. Limiting by fields

The default in Ebsco is to look for your keywords in the title, abstract and subject terms. You may also want to limit some of your keywords to eg the title. This will help to focus in on your topic and reduce numbers of results.

University of Cumbria | Searching: CINAHL Ultimate Advanced search PICOT

	cocoa OR chocolate OR cacao	⊗	Title - TI
AND	"health promotion" OR "health benefit**"	⊗	All fields
AND	cardio* OR heart*	⊗	All fields

2. Creating separate search sets and then combine

There are benefits to using this option in terms of trying out different combinations of keywords. It also provides the number of results for each concept if you need to record this information as part of making your search replicable.

Firstly, search on each set of keywords or concept in turn to create separate search sets

NB: Clear the search form between each search.

You will then see the sets in the search history under the search boxes

Search history			
0 selected			
Combine individual searches using Boolean operators: Combine with AND Combine with OR Save search set			
ID	Search	Search options	Results
☐ S3	cardio* OR heart*	Find all my search terms; Apply equivalent subjects	610,431
☐ S2	"health promotion" OR "health benefit"	Find all my search terms; Apply equivalent subjects	118,158
☐ S1	cocoa OR chocolate OR cacao	Find all my search terms; Apply equivalent subjects	4,198

Then using the tick boxes select the sets you want to combine, press 'Combine with AND' and click Search.

NB: Remember to clear form first before doing this action

Search history			
3 selected			
Combine individual searches using Boolean operators: Combine with AND Combine with OR Save search set			
ID	Search	Search options	Results
☒ S3	cardio* OR heart*	Find all my search terms; Apply equivalent subjects	610,431
☒ S2	"health promotion" OR "health benefit"	Find all my search terms; Apply equivalent subjects	118,158
☒ S1	cocoa OR chocolate OR cacao	Find all my search terms; Apply equivalent subjects	4,198

You should now see the combined set on your search history – in this example S4

ID	Search	Search options	Results
☐ S4	(S3) AND (S2) AND (S1)	Find all my search terms; Apply equivalent subjects	37
☐ S3	cardio* OR heart*	Find all my search terms; Apply equivalent subjects	610,431
☐ S2	"health promotion" OR "health benefit"	Find all my search terms; Apply equivalent subjects	118,158
☐ S1	cocoa OR chocolate OR cacao	Find all my search terms; Apply equivalent subjects	4,198

You might then decide to enter another concept too to try out different ideas.

ID	Search	Search options	Results			
☐ S5	supplement*	Find all my search terms; Apply equivalent subjects	133,248			
☐ S4	(S3) AND (S2) AND (S1)	Find all my search terms; Apply equivalent subjects	37			
☐ S3	cardio* OR heart*	Find all my search terms; Apply equivalent subjects	610,431			
☐ S2	"health promotion" OR "health benefit"	Find all my search terms; Apply equivalent subjects	118,158			
☐ S1	cocoa OR chocolate OR cacao	Find all my search terms; Apply equivalent subjects	4,198			

You can then combine this new concept with the previously combined set to give set S6

Combine individual searches using Boolean operators: Combine with AND Combine with OR Save search set						
ID	Search	Search options	Results			
☐ S6	(S4) AND (S5)	Find all my search terms; Apply equivalent subjects	11			
☐ S5	supplement*	Find all my search terms; Apply equivalent subjects	133,248			
☐ S4	(S3) AND (S2) AND (S1)	Find all my search terms; Apply equivalent subjects	37			
☐ S3	cardio* OR heart*	Find all my search terms; Apply equivalent subjects	610,431			
☐ S2	"health promotion" OR "health benefit"	Find all my search terms; Apply equivalent subjects	118,158			
☐ S1	cocoa OR chocolate OR cacao	Find all my search terms; Apply equivalent subjects	4,198			

NB: if need be, you can edit or delete each search set by clicking on the 3 dots to the right of each set.

You can also have the option to save the whole set at the top of the table or individual sets using the bookmark icon.

Searching in another database

If you wish to duplicate your search in another database then you can swop to that database using the highlighted link at the top of the search form as shown below. You can select one or more databases if you wish on the following screen.

University of Cumbria | Searching: CINAHL Ultimate [Advanced search](#) | [PICOT](#)

	All fields
AND	
All fields	
AND	
All fields	

Add row Delete row [Clear all](#)

3. Using subject headings

Another way to search is to use the subject headings assigned to each article by the database. This allows you to use controlled language to find your search terms even when not specifically used by the author of the article. See more on [this guide](#).

Further help

Email@ skills@cumbria.ac.uk