Cochrane Library Database is a collection of medical information produced by Cochrane and other entities intended for practical use by healthcare personnel. Cochrane Reviews, the central focus of the database, provide systematic reviews and analyses, published on a monthly basis.

To Access Cochrane Library Database

Go to the Libraries’ homepage:
www.tarleton.edu/library

Click on Databases A-Z.
Then, click on the B-C tab.

Click on Cochrane Library from the list.

The Advanced Search screen of Cochrane Library will open.

But first, a bit about the many things that you can find in Cochrane Library…
A **systematic review** is the study of specialized empirical evidence gathered to discern and identify research that answers a unique research question. These systematic reviews, which are gathered and published on a monthly basis by the Cochrane Group, are updated regularly through the review of new studies. The systematic reviews are a useful tool to medical personnel who would like to provide patient care with the most up-to-date information.

*Another area of the database is Trials.*
Trials records, found within Cochran Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL), contain bibliographic information and abstracts (if available) about controlled trial reports in various languages. Users will find the full trial report in the databases PubMed (found in Tarleton's databases A-Z) and Embase as well as Clinicaltrials.gov.

Also available are Clinical Answers.

Cochran Clinical Answers (CCA) provide usable, point-of-care information taken from a Cochran Review(s), based on a PICO -- Population, Intervention(s), Comparison(s), and Outcome(s) -- framework, designed for healthcare professionals use. CCA are prioritized for inclusion based upon the relevance of the answer in response to the clinical need.

Scroll down the homepage to locate Highlighted Reviews, Editorials, and Special Collections.
Let’s move on to searching.

**Highlighted Reviews** are systematic reviews selected from the monthly publication. To view all the reviews for the month, go to the complete issue.

**Editorials** focus on topics related to systematic reviews or other topics of interest and are designed to create discussion within the healthcare community in order to stimulate good decision-making for clinical care and policy-making.

Cochrane’s Editor-in-Chief commissions editorials.

**Special Collections** cover a variety of topics and are the result of an accepted proposal to the Cochrane Editorial and Methods Department.

*Scroll to the bottom of the homepage to locate the Browse by Topic area.*

In the **Browse by Topic** tab, users may click on a desired topic to reveal all the Cochrane Reviews in that area. Users may also move to the **Browse by Cochrane Review Group** tab to view Topics in this area.

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Let’s move on to **Searching**.
Searches may be performed from the Cochrane homepage by entering a search in the search box and selecting the type of search desired, then clicking the search icon.

Users may also perform advanced searches by clicking the Advanced Search button.

All searches will display results in a table format. Users should first filter results by making selections from the Filter your results column on the left-hand side of the page. Users may select the desired type of results from the tabs.

102 Cochrane Reviews matching on "skin cancer in Title Abstract Keyword - (Word variations have been searched)"

Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews
Issue 3 of 12, March 2019

Order by Relevance

1. Teledermatology for diagnosing skin cancer in adults
   Naomi Chuchu, Jacqueline Dimos, Yemsi Taiwoings, Rubeta N Matin, Susan E Bayliss, Clare Davenport, Jacqueline F Moreau, Oliver Bassett, Kathie Godfrey, Colette O'Sullivan, Fiona M Waller, Richard Motley, Jonathan J Deeks, Hywel C Williams, Cochrane Skin Cancer Diagnostics Peer-Review Group
The Advanced Search page has three tabs: Search, Search manager, Medical terms (MeSH).

Under the **Search** tab, users may select the type of search by clicking on the drop-down arrow to reveal the choices.

A search term or phrase should be entered in the next box.

**Searches** performed in the **Search tab** may be refined by using the **Search limits** button.

Users may select their desired limitations and **Apply limits** to their search.

To execute the search, users will click **Run search**.
Searches are done by entering terms into the first box. Searches may be manipulated through various features shown below.

Lines may also be added or subtracted by clicking the plus or minus signs to the left of the numbered search rows.

Searches may be saved by clicking the Save this search button.

A Sign in box will then appear. Users must click on Institutional login, and, once again, use your NTNET account to sign in.

Clicking the “S” button expands the search area to add or subtract search lines, which helps to define the search more.

Clicking on the Limits button allows the user to add limits, as previously shown, to the search.

Clicking on the MeSH button allows the user to limit using MeSH terms, or the user may select the third tab among the Advanced search tabs, the Medical terms (MeSH) tab, for more in-depth exploration of various medical terms.

Let’s learn about MeSH terms and using the MeSH tab.
The Medical terms (MeSH) tab may be used to search using the national Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) controlled vocabulary thesaurus. MeSH terms are used to help describe medical terms and categorize them in a database. Users may use this tab to look for additional words to use in further searches as well as view results from the search.

Users may enter familiar words or phrases in the first search box even though it’s indicated that a MeSH term should be entered. Cochrane will predict the term to the closest MeSH term.

Example: Terms Entered: skin cancer     Changed Term: Skin Neoplasms

MeSH term searches give results in three ways: Thesaurus Matches, MeSH Trees, and Search Results. All three ways show numerous related terms useful for further searches as well as giving the table of results as shown in all searches.

**Thesaurus Matches** show three types of matches: Exact Term Matches, Phrase Matches, and Any Word Matches, all of which give various words similar to the search word.

**MeSH Trees** show MeSH terms organized in a hierarchy of related terms. Clicking the **Explode all trees** button reveals the hierarchy of terms.

**Search Results** give options for viewing trials and Cochrane systematic reviews results by clicking the **View results** button.
Results from searches done from the homepage or from the various tabs of the Advanced Search page will all give results in the same table format. The table has six tabs: Cochrane Reviews, Cochrane Protocols, Trials, Editorials, Special Collections, Clinical Answers, and Other Reviews.

Using the **Cochrane Reviews** tab, you will find systematic reviews. With the oversight of and collaboration with the Cochran Review Group, the authors design, research, and write a systematic review, which is then edited and peer-reviewed by a Cochran Review Group.

Using the **Cochrane Protocols** tab, you will find information about the formation of research questions, criteria for article inclusion, designs of the studies, and benefits and harms associated with the studies. Authors are required to update their reviews and to respond to comments; otherwise their reviews will be withdrawn.

Using the **Trials** tab, you will find bibliographic information about trial reports found within **Cochran Controlled Register of Trials (CENTRAL)**. Full trials are published in the databases PubMed (found in the library’s Databases A-Z) and Embase as well as Clinical Trials.gov.

Using the **Editorials** tab, you will find expanded research commissioned by the Cochrane Editor-in-Chief, intended to generate dialogue and engender thoughtful decision-making by healthcare professionals for patient care and policy-making.

Using the **Special Collections** tab, you will find topical, overview articles focused on selected medical conditions or public health issues, commissioned by the Cochrane Editorial and Methods Department, for targeted healthcare audiences, and applicable for patient care.

Using the **Clinical Answers** tab, you will find usable, point-of-care information taken from Cochrane Review(s), based on a PICO -- Population, Intervention(s), Comparison(s), and Outcome(s) -- framework, designed for healthcare professionals to use for patient care.

Using the **Other Reviews** tab, you will find informative articles created outside of Cochrane, specifically from the Epistemonikos health evidence database.
Systematic review records contain a plethora of information. Users may scroll down to read through all the information that begins with the systematic review, as shown below:

**Finding Your Way through a Systematic Review**

Systematic review records contain a plethora of information. Users may scroll down to read through all the information that begins with the systematic review, as shown below:

**Selenium for preventing cancer**

Cochrane Systematic Review - Intervention  | Version published: 29 January 2018  | see what’s new

To the right of the systematic review is a column from which the user may select specific items to reveal those specific aspects of the article.

- **Cite this Review** is very helpful since Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews is cited as a journal itself. The APA Style Blog article, How to Cite Cochrane Reviews in APA Style, gives a good explanation and a sample reference.

- Readers may make comments under **Comment on Review**. Authors are required to reply.

- To read the full systematic review begin at **Abstract** and read through **Discussion**.

- Under **Information** users will find the DOI and Altmetrics.

- Under **Authors** is found all the authors’ credentials, contact information, and references to other articles by these authors.

- Under **History** is found the **Cochrane history** as this review has changed and been updated over time.

- Under **References** are all the references for the review with clickable access to those resources.

- Clicking on **Related content** will result in a page showing other related reviews and content, related MeSH headings, and, if available, related podcasts.

**Cochrane Library App**

Systematic reviews are available in abridged format from the Cochrane Library App which may be downloaded from iTunes or GooglePlay.