

## Cinahl/Embase Database Searching Guide (via EBSCO)

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### [A: Accessing the NHS Library and Knowledge Hub and Cinahl](#)

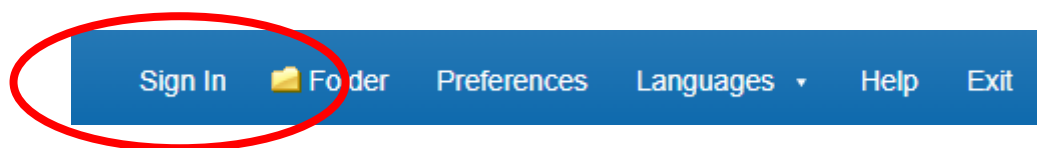
#### 1. Accessing the NHS Library and Knowledge Hub and Medline

- Go to the NHS Library and Knowledge Hub (KHub) and click on <https://library.nhs.uk/knowledgehub/>, then click on “Start your Search”. At the top of the page, click on the link highlighted in yellow that reads, “Sign into NHS Open Athens for full access”.
- If you do not have an NHS Open Athens account or it needs renewing, click on the link that says “Register for an NHS Open Athens” or alternatively go to <https://openathens.nice.org.uk/>.
- Once you have logged in you can do a quick search in the KHub search box or go down to the bottom of the page to “In-depth Searching” and click on “Cinahl” (or Embase etc) etc).
- This will take you to the Cinahl (provided by **Embase**) search page

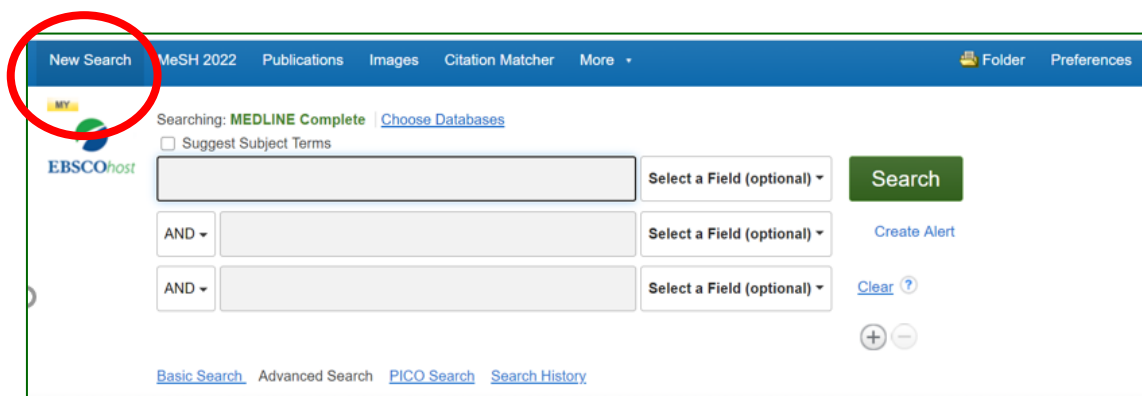
The screenshot displays the EBSCOhost search interface for Cinahl/Embase. At the top, a navigation bar contains links for 'New Search', 'Publications', 'CINAHL Subject Headings', 'Cited References', 'Citation Matcher', 'More', 'Sign In', 'Folder', 'Preferences', 'Languages', 'Help', and 'Exit'. Below this, the search area features a search bar with the text 'Searching: CINAHL | Choose Databases' and a 'Suggest Subject Terms' checkbox. To the right of the search bar is a 'Search' button. Below the search bar, there are three rows of search criteria, each with a dropdown menu for 'AND' and a 'Select a Field (optional)' dropdown. A 'Clear' button with a question mark is also present. At the bottom of the search area, there are links for 'Basic Search', 'Advanced Search', and 'Search History'.



2. To enable full functionality (save searches and results) and allow access to your **Folder** (previous searches etc.), click the **Sign In** link on the top bar. Create an account if you need to.

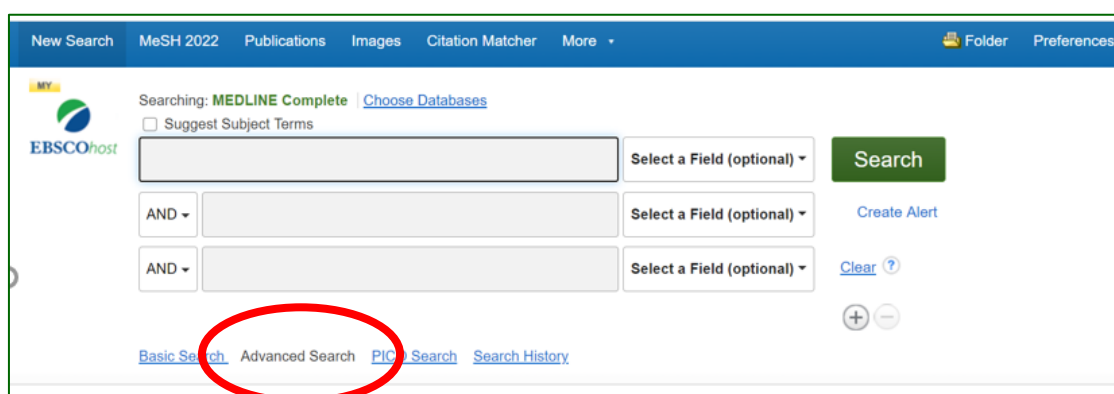


3. You can now begin searching. If the screen displayed is not shown, click the **New Search** button in the top left



## **B: Searching for Terms**

4. To start a search, ensure 'Advanced Search' is selected:



You can now start entering your search terms in the fields.



**5. To select which fields you would like to search, use the drop-down menus.** You can choose to search all text in an item's record, or narrow your search down to specific fields

The screenshot shows the EBSCOhost search interface. At the top, there are navigation links: New Search, MeSH 2022, Publications, Images, Citation Matcher, and More. On the right, there are links for Folder and Preferences. The main search area includes a search bar with the text "Searching: MEDLINE Complete" and a link to "Choose Databases". Below the search bar, there is a checkbox for "Suggest Subject Terms". To the right of the search bar, there is a dropdown menu labeled "Select a Field (optional)". The dropdown menu is open, showing options: TX All Text, AB Abstract, AF Author Address, and AU Author. A green "Search" button is located to the right of the dropdown menu.

**6. If you want to search more than one specific field, for example, Title and Abstract, you need to search for these on separate rows using 'OR'. Once you've entered your search term, select 'Search':**

The screenshot shows the EBSCOhost search interface. The search bar contains the text "passive smok\*". Below the search bar, there is a dropdown menu labeled "OR" and another search bar containing the text "passive smok\*". To the right of the second search bar, there is a dropdown menu labeled "Select a Field (optional)". The dropdown menu is open, showing options: TI Title and AB Abstract. A green "Search" button is located to the right of the dropdown menu. Red circles highlight the "OR" dropdown and the "TI Title" and "AB Abstract" options.

Note that EBSCO will suggest similar concepts which may be useful as you type. These can be selected by clicking on them:

The screenshot shows the EBSCOhost search interface. The search bar contains the text "passive smok\*". Below the search bar, there is a dropdown menu showing suggestions: passive smoking, passive smokers, and passive smoking or second hand smoke or environmental tobacco smoke. To the right of the search bar, there is a dropdown menu labeled "Select a Field (optional)". The dropdown menu is open, showing options: TI Title and AB Abstract. A green "Search" button is located to the right of the dropdown menu.



7. This will generate a results line for your search concept:

The screenshot shows the EBSCOhost search interface. At the top, there's a search bar with a dropdown menu for 'Select a Field (optional)' and a 'Search' button. Below the search bar, there are three rows for 'AND' searches, each with a dropdown menu for 'Select a Field (optional)'. A 'Search History/Alerts' section is visible, containing a table with search results. The first row in the table is circled in red. The table has columns for 'Search ID#', 'Search Terms', 'Search Options', and 'Actions'. The first row shows 'S1' as the Search ID#, 'TI "passive smok\*" OR AB "passive smok\*"' as the Search Terms, and 'Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects' and 'Search modes - Boolean/Phrase' as the Search Options. The Actions column contains links for 'View Results (4,826)', 'View Details', and 'Edit'.

Repeat steps 5-7 for all keywords concepts.

## C: Searching for Subject Terms (MeSH Headings)

8. To search for Subject Headings, tick 'Suggest Subject Terms':

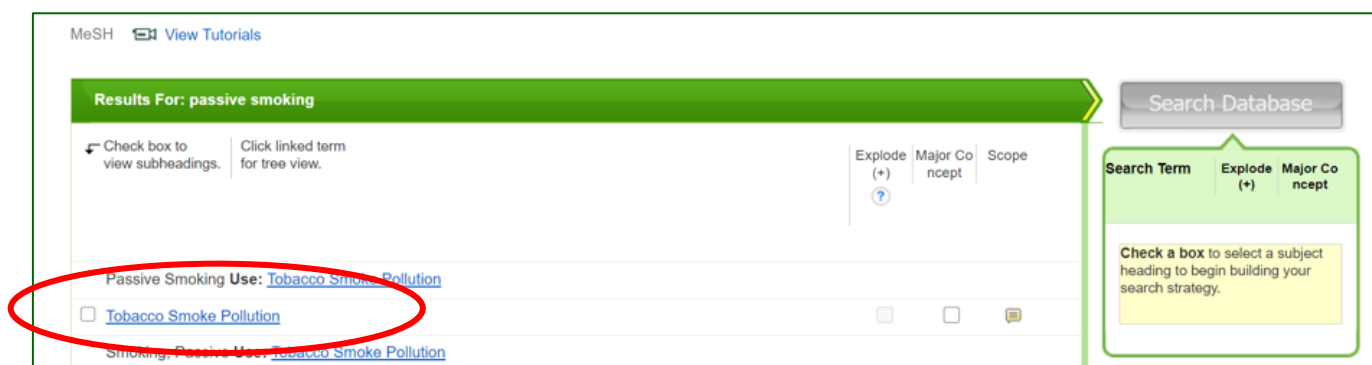
The screenshot shows the EBSCOhost search interface. The 'Suggest Subject Terms' checkbox is circled in red. The search bar is empty, and the 'Select a Field (optional)' dropdown menu is set to 'Search'. The 'Search' button is also visible. Below the search bar, there are three rows for 'AND' searches, each with a dropdown menu for 'Select a Field (optional)'. The 'Search History/Alerts' section is visible at the bottom.

9. Type in what subject headings you want to search for and click 'Search':

The screenshot shows the EBSCOhost search interface. The 'Suggest Subject Terms' checkbox is checked. The search bar contains the text 'passive smoking'. The 'Select a Field (optional)' dropdown menu is set to 'Search'. The 'Search' button is circled in red. Below the search bar, there are three rows for 'AND' searches, each with a dropdown menu for 'Select a Field (optional)'. The 'Search History/Alerts' section is visible at the bottom.

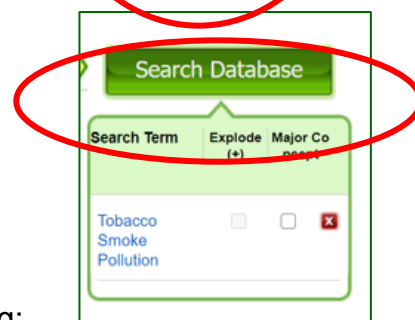
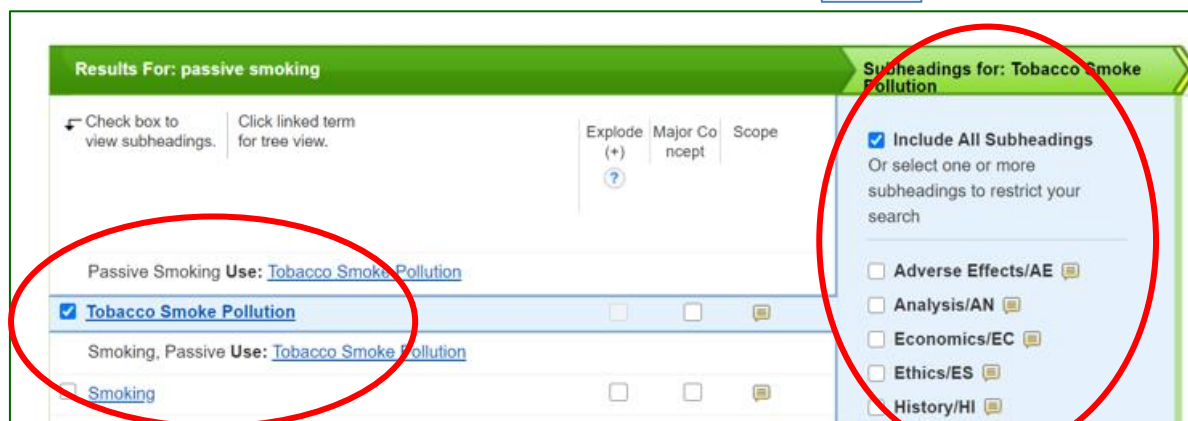


**10.** The Thesaurus may have exactly what you're looking for, or offer suggestions to other subjects – have a go at searching for alternative terms too. **Click on the relevant heading if there is one:**



**11.** Tick the term(s) you want to use, and it will appear on the righthand side.

The database will also give you options to apply **Explode** or **Major concept** to the term selected, or to apply **subheadings** to the term; these options can widen or narrow the search. To find out more about each term, **click on the Scope icon:**



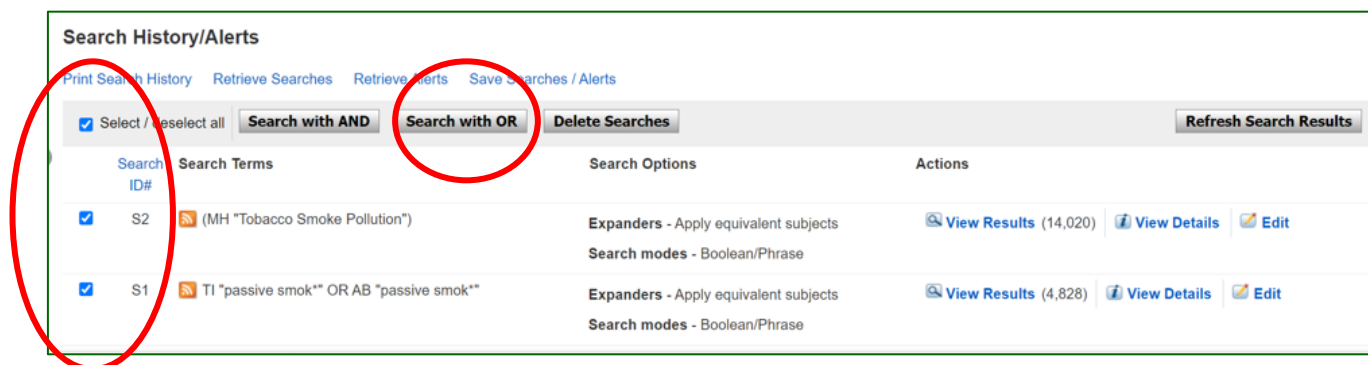
**12.** Click '**Search Database**' to search for the subject heading:

**Repeat steps 8-12 for all subject headings.**



## D: Combining Search Terms and Subject Headings

**13. Combine your search terms and subject headings by selecting the line numbers you want to combine Then click 'Search with OR':**



**Search History/Alerts**

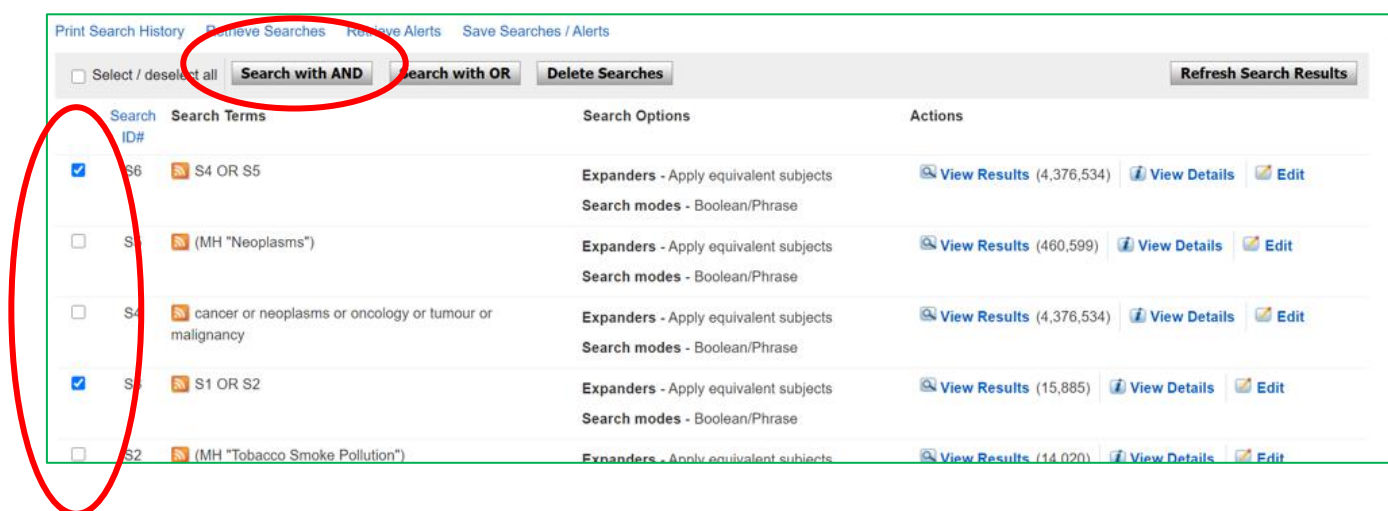
Print Search History Retrieve Searches Retrieve Alerts Save Searches / Alerts

☒ Select / deselect all **Search with AND** **Search with OR** Delete Searches Refresh Search Results

Search ID#	Search Terms	Search Options	Actions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S2	(MH "Tobacco Smoke Pollution")	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	<a href="#">View Results</a> (14,020) <a href="#">View Details</a> <a href="#">Edit</a>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S1	TI "passive smok*" OR AB "passive smok"	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	<a href="#">View Results</a> (4,828) <a href="#">View Details</a> <a href="#">Edit</a>

**Repeat steps 5 - 13 to search for the rest of your concepts.**

**14. In the below example, line S3 combines the results for one concept (passive smoking) and line S6 for the second concept (cancer). Once you have searched all your concepts, **combine** them using "Search with AND":**



**Search History/Alerts**

Print Search History Retrieve Searches Retrieve Alerts Save Searches / Alerts

☐ Select / deselect all **Search with AND** **Search with OR** Delete Searches Refresh Search Results

Search ID#	Search Terms	Search Options	Actions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S6	S4 OR S5	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	<a href="#">View Results</a> (4,376,534) <a href="#">View Details</a> <a href="#">Edit</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> S3	(MH "Neoplasms")	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	<a href="#">View Results</a> (460,599) <a href="#">View Details</a> <a href="#">Edit</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> S4	cancer or neoplasms or oncology or tumour or malignancy	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	<a href="#">View Results</a> (4,376,534) <a href="#">View Details</a> <a href="#">Edit</a>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S1	S1 OR S2	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	<a href="#">View Results</a> (15,885) <a href="#">View Details</a> <a href="#">Edit</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> S2	(MH "Tobacco Smoke Pollution")	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects	<a href="#">View Results</a> (14,020) <a href="#">View Details</a> <a href="#">Edit</a>





## E: Filtering and Saving Results

15. To filter or limit your results you will need to click **view results**:

<input type="checkbox"/> Select / deselect all <b>Search with AND</b> <b>Search with OR</b> <b>Delete Searches</b> <b>Refresh Search Results</b>			
Search ID#	Search Terms	Search Options	Actions
<input type="checkbox"/> S7	S3 AND S6	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	<a href="#">View Results (3,001)</a> View Details     Edit
<input type="checkbox"/> S6	S4 OR S5	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (4,376,534)     View Details     Edit
<input type="checkbox"/> S5	(MH "Neoplasms")	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (460,599)     View Details     Edit
<input type="checkbox"/> S4	cancer or neoplasms or oncology or tumour or	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects	View Results (4,376,534)     View Details     Edit

16. On the results page, **you can filter down or limit your results** by publication date, language, gender etc. on the left-hand side options bar:

**Refine Results**

Current Search

Boolean/Phrase:  
S3 AND S6

Expanders  
Apply equivalent subjects

Limit To

☐ Full Text  
☐ Abstract Available  
☐ English Language

From: 1970 To: 2022  
Publication Date

Source Types

Search Results: 1 - 50 of 3,001

Date Newest    Page Options    Share

**EBSCO CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) HEALTHCARE RESOURCES**

DynaMed COVID-19 Topic    EBSCO COVID-19 Healthcare Resource Center

COVID-19 Portal

1. High-resolution metabolomics of exposure to tobacco **smoke** during pregnancy and adverse birth outcomes in the Atlanta African American maternal-child cohort.

(English) : Abstract available. By: Tan Y; Barr DB; Ryan PB; Fedirko V; Sarnat JA; Gaskins AJ; Chang CJ; Tang Z; Marsit CJ; Corwin EJ; Jones DP; Dunlop AL; Liang D. Environmental pollution (Barking, Essex : 1987) [Environ Pollut]. ISSN: 1873-6424, 2022 Jan 01; Vol. 292 (Pt A), pp. 118361; Publisher: Elsevier Applied Science Publishers; PMID: 34655695

**Subjects:** Premature Birth; Tobacco **Smoke** Pollution analysis; African Americans; Cotinine analysis; Humans; Infant, Newborn; Maternal Exposure; Metabolomics; Placenta chemistry; Pregnancy; Tobacco

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17. You can save individual results by **clicking the folder icon**. The database will display folders to which you can save the result; **My Folder** is the default option. **Click this link** and the item(s) selected will be saved:



Should you wish to keep the results long term or do multiple search queries we would suggest that you set up individual folders.

## 18. To export results, click on Folder:

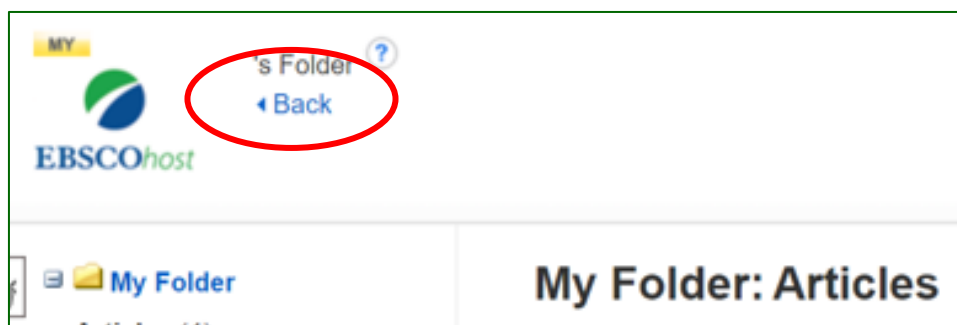
## 19. Select the results you would like to export and click on the output format / action

From here you can print or save your results as a file, send them via email, export to reference management software:

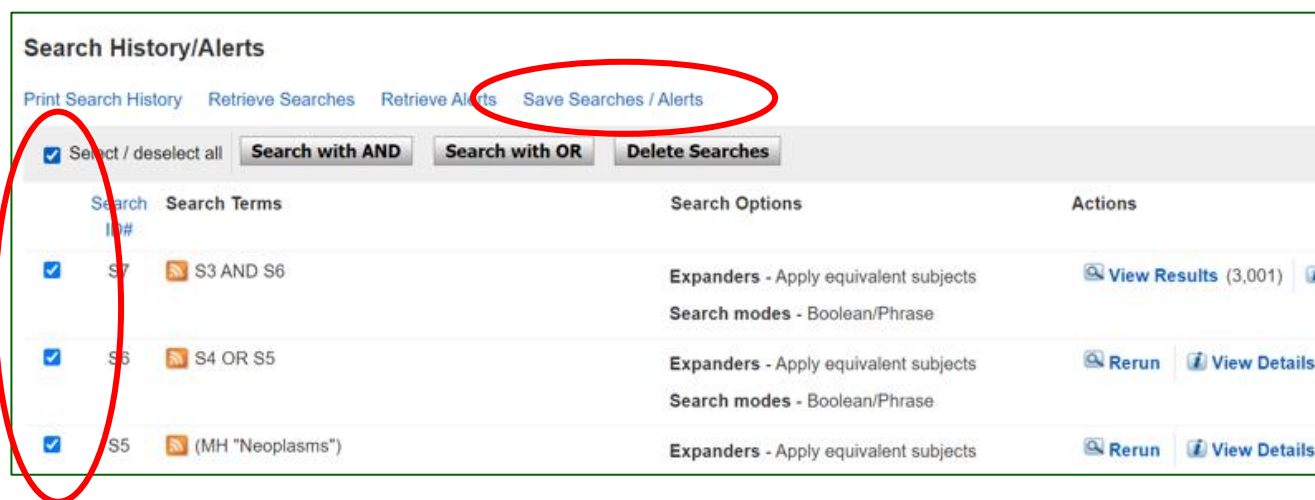
## 20. As well as saving the results, **we highly recommend saving your search**. To view your search, head back to your Recent Search by clicking the 'Back' option:







**21. Select the search lines and click 'Save Searches / Alerts':**

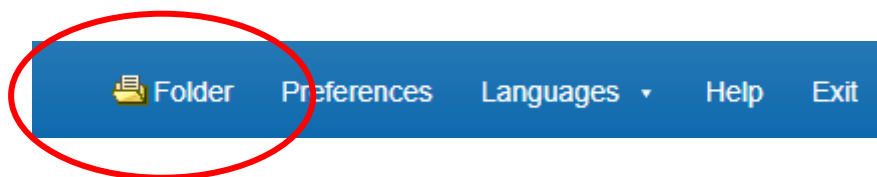


**22. Give your search strategy a name and add a description if you wish.  
Click 'Save':**

A screenshot of the 'Folder List' dialog box. It has fields for 'Name of Search/Alert', 'Description', and 'Date Created' (1/11/2022). Below these fields is a list of databases: 'MEDLINE Complete', 'CINAHL Plus with Full Text', 'Psychology and Behavioral Sciences Collection', and 'eBook Collection (EBSCOhost)'. Below the list are fields for 'Search Strategy' (S3 AND S6), 'Interface' (EBSCOhost), and 'Save Search As'. The 'Save Search As' section has three radio buttons: 'Saved Search (Permanent)' (selected), 'Saved Search (Temporary, 24 hours)', and 'Alert'. At the bottom, there are 'Save' and 'Cancel' buttons, with the 'Save' button circled in red. A red arrow points to the 'Name of Search/Alert' field.



**23. You can access your saved searches and saved results from your Folder:**



**Select your articles of saved searches from the bar on the left:**



**Any questions? Get in touch and we can help:**

[whl@nhs.net](mailto:whl@nhs.net)

**020 7288 3580**

**[www.whittington.nhs.uk/whl](http://www.whittington.nhs.uk/whl)**

 **[@WhitHealthLib](https://twitter.com/WhitHealthLib)**

This guide was adapted from one created by [Ramona Naicker](#), Library and Information Specialist at Salford Royal Hospital, part of [Northern Care Alliance NHS Group](#).

