LEEDS
LIBRARIES
for HEALTH

Google

& beyond…   ™

"Knowing how to search for information from these sites was an eye-opener."

"Finding out new Google search criteria is very useful."

Leeds & York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

Details available from www.leedslibraries.nhs.uk

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Introduction

This guide accompanies the "Google and Beyond! An Introduction to Finding Evidence" course. It summarises techniques you can use to help you effectively use Google. It also looks beyond Google to websites where you can find free, quality evidence to support your work. It explores resources such as the Cochrane Library, The Kings Fund and more.

It is important to remember that no one search engine or website will find everything about a particular topic. If you are carrying out a very comprehensive search, you should try searching a number of different online sources.

Remember:

- Information you find on the Internet is not always high quality. Before you use it you should think about issues like accuracy, currency, authority and any potential bias.

- Health professionals should be aware that these resources can also be freely accessed by patients and patient groups.

- Library staff can help you to plan a search and identify which resources to use.

Google

Google has the largest coverage of current search engines. It is the most popular search engine often giving results with least amount of effort. However, sometimes you might want to search for something specific. By using some of the advance search options you can make your search more relevant and specific to your information needs.
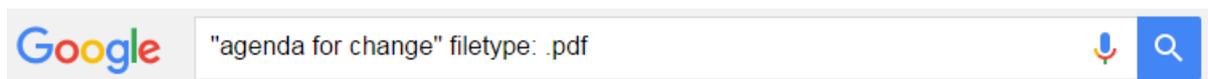
- **Phrase searching**

Google automatically looks for search results containing plurals and variants of search terms. For example, a search for *splint* could also retrieve results containing *splints* or *splinting*. This is often helpful, but sometimes you might want to search for a very specific phrase as a search term. To find results using an exact phrase, enter the following in the search box:

- **File type searching**

You can also limit your search results by specific file type e.g. Excel spreadsheets, Powerpoint presentations, Word documents, etc.

Enter your search term(s) followed by the command **filetype:**

Examples of file types:
.doc / .docx Word documents
.xls / .xlsx Excel spreadsheets
.ppt / .pptx Powerpoint presentations
.pdf E-documents
.rtf Text files

- **Date searching**

To search for information within a specific date range you include the dates after your search term(s):

Research Information

These online resources can be used to find scholarly reviews, theses and journal articles. Be careful when reviewing search results as many have not been peer reviewed. Full-text access to results may also be limited; depending on the journals your Trust subscribes to. If you are having trouble accessing full-text articles, please contact library staff for advice and support.

Google Scholar   **http://scholar.google.co.uk**

Google Scholar displays useful statistics on the most popular journals that researchers use to publish their research; organised by either specialty or publication.

You can search using search term(s), or a specific author or title.

Microsoft Academic   **http://academic.research.microsoft.com**

Microsoft Academic is not limited to just searching for papers. It provides useful information to relevant authors, institutions, publication outlets, and research areas.

You can search using search term(s), or a specific author or title.

Beyond Google

Most Internet users automatically use Google because they are used to it. However, there are other websites that provide good quality evidence and are freely available to use.

These sites often contain **grey literature**.

Grey literature is material created by a wide range of organisations including government departments, charities, trade unions, professional bodies, special interest groups, etc.

Material includes government publications or reports, conference papers or proceedings, newsletters, factsheets, leaflets and pamphlets, supplements, reviews, correspondence, policy documents, etc. It can sometimes be difficult to find and cite due to missing publication data or limited print run.

Cochrane Library   **http://www.cochranelibrary.com/**

The Cochrane Library (produced by the Cochrane Collaboration) is a collection of databases that contain high-quality, independent evidence to inform healthcare decision-making. It is considered the "gold-standard" as a resource providing information for healthcare professionals worldwide.

It provides full text of systematic reviews completed for the Cochrane Collaboration, as well as containing a register for clinical trials and technological assessments.

You can search using specific term(s). Alternatively you can browse by topic.

The King's Fund   **https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/**

The King's Fund is an independent charity working to improve health and care in England. They undertake research and analysis in many areas of health, and produce publications such as reports and articles. These are freely available on the website.

You can search by topic or publication. Topics include: health care services, leadership and systems, patients and people, and policy, finance and performance.

They also have their own searchable library database and produce reading lists for key topics.

NHS Evidence Search   http://www.evidence.nhs.uk

NHS Evidence is a free to access NICE accredited online resource. It holds grey literature that has been reviewed by an editorial steering group consisting of professional clinical organisations.

You can search by using specific search term(s). To refine your search results you can use a number of filters including guidance, area of interest, source, or drug. There is also a helpful search option which identifies NICE accredited results.

NHS Evidence also includes Clinical Knowledge Summaries which provide safe, practical and quick clinical recommendations to assist healthcare professionals in making point-of-care decisions about common conditions.

National Institute for Health Research (NIRH)   https://www.nihr.ac.uk/

The National Institute for Health Research are funded by the Department of Health to improve the health and wealth of the nation through research. They provide research from the "bench-to-the-bedside".

You can conduct a simple keyword search of the whole site. Alternatively, you can use Signals to look at the latest research summaries, Highlights to explore conditions and treatments, or Themed Reviews for more in depth evidence on a topic.

NHS Improvement and NHS Confederation   https://improvement.nhs.uk/

http://www.nhsconfed.org/

NHS Improvement and NHS Confederation are useful resources that look at the business side of healthcare.

NHS Improvement supports NHS trusts to give patients consistently safe, high quality, and compassionate care. They provide strategic leadership and practical help to the sector. Currently, you can access 531 resources on topics such as management, leadership, quality and patient safety.

Resources include frameworks and guidance, improvement tools and shared learning.

NHS Confederation is a membership body that brings together and speaks on behalf of all organisations that plan, commission and provide NHS services. You can search the resource page and find case studies, analysis and parliamentary briefings on various topics.

Local Health tool   http://www.localhealth.org.uk/

The Local Health tool is a new public health website where you can find live health statistics and neighbourhoods for anywhere in the country. The tool allows you to access interactive maps and reports, create your own geographies, compare any selected area to the England average and produce maps/reports for these bespoke areas.

Further Free Resources

Leeds Libraries for Health Resources   http://www.leedslibraries.nhs.uk/resources/

The Leeds Libraries Resources page contains a wealth of resources from clinical guidance to revalidation.

- **Statistics**   http://www.leedslibraries.nhs.uk/resources/statistics/

It can be often difficult to locate impartial statistics with helpful analysis reports, or to find data presentation such as graphs, tables and charts on the internet. The Leeds Libraries for Health website collates a number of local/national/international statistic resources on one page.

- **Images**   http://www.leedslibraries.nhs.uk/resources/images/

The websites listed are useful sources for images. When you use online images, it is good practice to seek permission from the copyright owners and to cite the owner or source for an image. Please note some sites require payment and/or accreditation when using images.

Duck Duck Go   http://duckduckgo.com

This is a straight forward search engine which is user friendly with no personalisation features or filter limits. You can use some of the advanced searching techniques such as phrase searching. This website is often used by schools and by people with dementia due to the clean and simple interface.

Want to know more?

If you would like to learn more about searching for information, additional courses are available:

- Using healthcare databases to effectively support your work

- Using the Cochrane Library to find high quality evidence

- Accessing electronic journals and books with your Athens Account

- An introduction to critical appraisal

- Return to study day

To book a place on a course or a one-to-one session, please contact your local Library Services Team.

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