Searching the Cochrane Library
The Basics
What is the Cochrane Collaboration (CC)?

- An independent, international, not-for-profit organization funded by a variety of sources including governments, universities, hospital trusts, charities, and personal donations, whose goal is to help healthcare providers, policy makers, patients, and their advocates, make well-informed decisions about health care by preparing, updating and promoting the accessibility of Cochrane Reviews and other systematic reviews.

- There is no one place or office that is ‘The Cochrane Collaboration’. The contributors are based all around the world, and the majority of the work is carried out online.

- They do not accept commercial or controversial funding so that they may create authoritative and reliable information, produced by people who can work without the influence of commercial and financial interests.

- The Cochrane Library is the work of the Cochrane Collaboration (CC).

(http://www.cochrane.org/about-us)
Cochrane Library
Tutorial Coverage

– How to run a basic keyword search in the *Cochrane Library*

– The following skills will be demonstrated:
  • Keyword searching
  • Using a wildcard or truncation mark
  • Using quotation marks to search for a phrase
  • Narrowing a search

– How to view the full-text of a *Cochrane Review*
Cochrane Library
Important Things to Know

• Because this is a paid subscription database, if you are searching from anywhere off-campus, you must have your NetID username and password available to log into the Cochrane Library through Halle Library’s main page.

• The records in the Cochrane Reviews (CR) are tagged as:
  – Review – this is a full Cochrane (systematic) Review
  – Protocol – this indicates that a CR is currently being written on this topic, and this temporary Protocol is a place-holder record

• To view the full-text of a CR, open up the record, look at the tabs, and select either the Full or Standard pdf.
Cochrane Library Main Screen

This is the main, basic search box from which you will run your search.
Searching with Keywords & Using Truncation/Wildcard Marks

Type your topic into the first search box.

The * is a truncation/wildcard mark placed after a word root to retrieve all forms of that word root.

In this case, the computer will retrieve acupuncture, acupunctures, acupuncturist, and acupuncturists.

This box is set to search the Title, Abstract, and Keywords. This means the computer will look for the occurrence of this word or phrase anywhere in those locations.
Using Quotation Marks to Search for a Phrase

Placing quotation marks around a string of words or a phrase, tells the computer to *find these words in exactly this order*, in other words, phrase searching.

In this case, the computer will retrieve the phrase “low back pain*”.

The * was also used to retrieve all forms of the word pain.
Narrowing a Search

Narrow the search by adding another term in the box.

Limit the search by databases within the Cochrane Library or by publication years.
To see the full review, click on the link for the title. Once the record is on the screen, click on Full or Standard off the left frame.

Viewing Results

The first results you see are from the Cochrane Reviews, if any are retrieved.

Results from the other databases within the Cochrane Library are available off the left frame. To see those results, either click on the title of that library, e.g., Other Reviews, or highlight the radio button for that library.
Viewing Cochrane Library Results

To see the full systematic review, click on the link for the title. Once you are on the actual review, click on either the Full or Standard tab.
Viewing Results from Other (Systematic) Reviews

- Follow this link to see how to use the *Find Text* button to get or request the full text of an article: https://guides.emich.edu/help/fulltext
Need More Help?

Click on this link to find ways to ask a librarian for further help.

http://www.emich.edu/library/help/ask.php