



Library and Knowledge Services for Public Health staff

Welcome to the January 2026 edition of Information Spotlight. This newsletter highlights the services provided by the Library and Knowledge Services team based at King's Mill Hospital. The Library and Knowledge Service (LKS) offers support to staff working in Nottingham & Nottinghamshire ICB and the Public Health teams in Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County. The team works collaboratively with the ICB Research and Evidence team.

This edition includes information on the NHS Knowledge and Library Hub, critical appraisal training, online training sessions, evidence search service and registering for an OpenAthens account.

If you have any questions or require further information on any of the items, please contact us.

NHS Knowledge and Library Hub

The [NHS Knowledge and Library Hub](#) connects you to high quality, NHS funded, knowledge and evidence resources in one place using a single search. Sign in with your OpenAthens account for full access.

The Hub interface has been updated with a new style homepage and additional features:

New features

- **Images** with quick links to key evidence sources, services and resources.
- **Natural language search function** where you can enter your search as a question into the search box by clicking on the natural language button. Your question will be translated into a search string with keywords and related terms. Click on 'Show refined query' to see how this was done.

You can still choose:

- **Basic search** – type in keywords related to your topic.
- **Advanced search** – combine different search terms using the Boolean operators AND/OR/NOT.

New homepage

- **Further resources** include links to:
 - **Healthcare databases** such as CINAHL and Medline.
 - **E-learning for healthcare** with modules on how to search the literature effectively and critically appraising the evidence base.
 - **Cochrane Library** including the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews and the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials.
 - **Grey Literature Resources** in terms of what they are and where to find them.
- **Essential Links** include access to:
 - OpenAthens registration, Browse Journals and the Library website.
 - A [Help](#) page with a series of short videos about how to use and search the Hub.

For more information or if you would like to book a training session, then please contact us.



Knowledge and
Library Hub

NHS England National
Discovery Service

My dashboard



NHS Knowledge and Library Hub

Advanced search PICOT

Searching health and care evidence



Full Text

☒ Peer Reviewed

All time



Natural language search

Coming soon! Critical appraisal...made easy

To know what good research evidence looks like, you need to understand the basics of critical appraisal. We are planning to deliver an online training presentation to help you through the process of appraising research literature.

This will include:

- Why critical appraisal is important and how to do it.
- What the different types of research designs/studies are.
- What type of questions to ask about quality and relevance.
- What common statistics to look out for in research papers and what they mean.

We hope to roll out the training presentation in the Spring of 2026. Look out for more details in the next edition of Information Spotlight.

Registering for an OpenAthens account

What is OpenAthens?

OpenAthens is not an actual resource, but a route to accessing a range of trusted evidence-based information for health and social care staff.

An OpenAthens account will give you free access to quality digital resources from a wide-ranging NHS collection.

What types of resources are available?

- BMJ Best Practice
- Healthcare databases such as Medline and CINAHL
- E-journals
- E-books

How do I register for an account?

Go to <https://openathens.nice.org.uk/>

Where can I access all these resources?

Once you have signed up for OpenAthens, a good place to start searching is on the [NHS Knowledge and Library Hub](#)

The Hub includes all nationally funded digital resources and additional resources that your local library service has made available.



Online training sessions

We offer the following one-to-one training sessions on Teams:

- **Finding the Evidence** - aims to provide you with an understanding of what evidence is and to support you in developing your skills and knowledge to find and use evidence in your role. *45 minutes.*
- **Introduction to the NHS Knowledge and Library Hub** - how to access quality information on the Hub all in one place, including natural language and advanced searching. Limiting your search results, saving and exporting results and accessing additional resources are covered. *45 minutes.*
- **Advanced searching via the NHS Knowledge and Library Hub** - how to find research literature using Medline, develop a search strategy, combine search terms using Boolean logic, use thesaurus subject headings and filters, access full-text journal articles, and save and export results. *One hour.*

Save time by requesting an evidence search

If you need to find high-quality evidence to support you in your local clinical and commissioning decisions, we can undertake a literature search on your behalf. This saves you time, whilst making sure a wide range of appropriate resources are searched. Depending on your request, evidence searches can include one or more of the following:

- Clinical guidelines e.g. NICE
- Academic research e.g. systematic reviews, RCTs, and peer-reviewed journal articles
- Grey literature e.g. reports, policy documents
- Local and national case studies of services and/or interventions, including their impact and challenges

To request a search, you can download a [request form](#) from our website or contact us. Once we receive your form, we will have a brief meeting via Teams to discuss the search.

Contact Us

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