Accessing online journals, E-books and healthcare databases

www.athensams.net/myathens

All NHS staff and students on placement with NHS organisations should register for an Athens username and password. This provides access to key healthcare information resources including journals, e-books and databases. A separate fact sheet provides details of the registration process and gives more detail about the resources available. Although Athens passwords are unique and can be used from any computer, staff accessing content within the hospital may use the login nhsea069 and the password izwig68.

This fact sheet provides information on accessing full-text journals and databases via NHS Athens.

What are healthcare databases?

Databases differ from the results found produced from carrying out a general internet search. Because the content of databases is compiled from articles published in peer reviewed journals (that is to say they are quality assured and the content of each article is accurate and reliable) the search results are of a very high standard. As an article is published, its reference and certain keywords describing content and usually a brief abstract are added to the searchable database. For this reason, and if searched systematically, databases will deliver better focused, more comprehensive results than for example a simple Google search. They can be an extremely powerful tool for researchers, those carrying out audits, or developing policies and guidelines.

The coverage of each database varies depending upon its focus. Medline’s content for example, is principally medical, whilst PsycINFO is primarily psychiatry and psychology. Coverage varies but many will index as far back as articles published in the mid 20th century and will include items published in recent weeks.

The results of database searches are generally in the form of a brief citation plus in many cases, a short abstract of the article. Where free full-text access is available there will be a direct link from the search results to the journal’s web page.
Eight healthcare databases are available to the NHS in England

**Allied and Complementary Medicine (AMED) 1985 – date**
Covers occupational therapy, physiotherapy, rehabilitation, plus alternative medicine: acupuncture, chiropractic, homeopathy, yoga, hypnosis, etc. Indexes over 400 English and European journals.

**British Nursing Index (BNI) 1985 – date**
This UK-focused database covers both general nursing topics and the nursing specialties, e.g. A&E, neonatal, cancer, theatres, orthopaedics. Details of articles from over 250 key English language nursing and midwifery journals are included.

**Cumulative Index of Nursing & Allied Health (CINAHL) 1981 – date**
A US database covering all aspects of nursing and allied health. Subjects covered include optometry, radiologic technology, speech and language, pathology, nutrition. Contains materials from over 1,200 journals, theses and pamphlets.

**EMBASE 1980 – date**
With particular emphasis on European sources, this database covers the whole field of medicine. Drugs, pharmacology and substance abuse are particularly well covered using 5,000 journals, of which about 1,500 are not indexed in Medline.

**Health Business Elite**
Health Business Elite provides journal content on all aspects of health care administration and other non-clinical aspects of health care management. It contains full text content from 480+ journals.

**Health Management Information Consortium (HMIC)**
Comprises the DH Data and Kings Fund databases, both covering UK NHS health services management, policy and standards and social care. DH Data includes planning (financial and buildings); public health, and toxicity studies. DH Data records are mainly from 1983 onwards. The Kings Fund’s focus is on improvements in health and health care, covering health inequalities, partnership working and workforce development (1979 to date).

**Medline 1950 – date**
This is a large US database of medical information. Other subjects covered include dentistry, veterinary medicine, medical psychology, genetics and advanced nursing practice. The database covers over 5,000 journals from 70 countries.
PsycINFO 1806 – date
Subjects covered relate to clinical, social and biological areas of psychology. These include addiction, pharmacology, anthropology and law. Published by the American Psychological Association, material is included from 2,000 international periodicals.

Accessing the databases
To search the databases you must be logged in to NHS Athens via www.athensams.net/myathens
Once logged in, choose “Resources” and then “Healthcare databases” from the tabs at the top of the page. You will then be invited to choose a database and also be given the option to use either the simple or advanced search interfaces.
A detailed guide to best practice in database searching is available at (www.eel.nhs.uk/Home/Training/Trainingguides.aspx) which provides details of using controlled search terms, MESH headings, saving results, setting up alerts etc. Finally, there is a good online tutorial on searching healthcare databases, which can be found at http://www.eel.nhs.uk/Home/Training/Elearningtutorials.aspx.

Online Journals
Almost all journal content (2000+ titles) for NHS staff and students is now delivered online-only and can accessed using an NHS Athens password from any computer. The titles are provided by a wide range of providers, including OVID, Science Direct and Wiley-Blackwell. This means that although there is no consistent look and feel to the websites visited, to access nearly all journal articles, a single login and password is usually all that is required. You will also find that some titles are closed runs (i.e. full text available 2000-2005) or are embargoed (i.e. full text is not available until 90 days or 1 year after publication).
Current collections include;

- All 25 titles from BMJ Publishing (including the BMJ)
- The 10 American Medical Association titles (including JAMA)
- CINAHL with full text – more than 600 titles in nursing, midwifery and allied health
- Health Business Fulltext Elite - around 500 titles in health management
- Proquest databases - articles covering over 1,700 journals in medicine, nursing, allied health and psychology. About 900 of these are available full-text.
- An additional 70 individual titles are available to all NHS staff and students in the East of England. A list of these is available at http://www.eel.nhs.uk/Home/Yourlocallibrary/EastofEnglandJournals.aspx.

Checking the availability of journals online

The content to which NHS staff have access to changes frequently. The easiest and most reliable way of checking access to online or print journals is to use the My Journals service http://www.library.nhs.uk/booksandjournals/journals/ which provides an A-Z listing of all of the online content plus the print and archive holdings of Ipswich Hospital Library. You will need to log in using an Athens password to use this service. A quick guide to the most frequently used titles can also be found on the library website http://www.ipswichhospital.nhs.uk/library/access-to-online-journals.htm.

How to check access to an individual title
Enter the title, or key words from the title, of the journal you wish to locate (e.g. Archives of Neurology or simply neurology).

If the library holds it in print form, or has online access, you will be given the available date range of the title. In the case of online access you will be provided with a direct link to the issue list for that journal. The issue list will be on the journal provider’s website, e.g. Science Direct, Proquest, Ovid. Although all these sites look slightly different, each allows browsing of the tables of contents of a journal and also searching for articles within a particular journal. For an example of the layout in My Journals, please see below.

Searching individual publications or journal collections

When searching for articles on a particular topic, best practice is to search one or more bibliographic database, such as Medline, CINAHL or Embase. However, as already mentioned, you may wish to look for an article within a particular journal which you know is strong on that topic. Thus, for example, it is possible to search only within the BMJ publications. It is also possible to search across journal collections such as the Nursing and Allied Health database on Proquest. This may be helpful if you are interested in a specific topic which is well covered by one publisher. Be aware that some of the collections
do not exclusively provide references to full-text content, although it is usually possible to restrict your search to full-text articles only.

Printing and copyright

Most articles will be available as PDFs. If only an HTML version is available you may need to print any tables or other graphics separately.
You are able to print one copy of an article for your personal use. It may be illegal to make multiple copies of an online article or to save an article onto your computer or other device and email it to colleagues. Please ask library staff if you are unsure of your entitlement.

Training and support

Systematic searching of databases is a skill that can deliver excellent results. If you need help with searching databases the library runs regular training sessions and can offer one-to-one support by appointment. For more information please contact the library or visit our website – http://www.ipswichhospital.nhs.uk/library/training.htm or email us at hospital.library@ipswichhospital.nhs.uk.

E-books

There are a growing number of e-books available to NHS staff that can be accessed using an Athens password. Some of the titles can be accessed directly from the library catalogue (http://ipswichhospitals.nhslibraries.com) whilst the full range of 700+ e-books can be browsed via NHS Athens.

Content
Currently collections are grouped as follows:

- Dermatology
- Gynecology and obstetrics
- Internal medicine
- Medicine (General)
- Nursing
- Ophthalmology
Pathology  Pharmacy
Dentistry  Public aspects of medicine
Pediatrics  Surgery

The coverage is now fairly broad and extends to e-books include a selection of Oxford Handbooks, teaching and learning, law, ethics, general mental health and psychiatry.

Accessing/searching within e-books

Login via Athens at www.athensams.net/myathens and choose the “Resources” tab, then the “Local Resources” tab at the centre/left of the page. From the menu select “MyiLibrary”.
You may then browse all books or browse by subject: simply click on the title of any book to view the search facility and contents. Navigation between pages and keyword searching is possible and it is possible to print and download a percentage of total content.

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