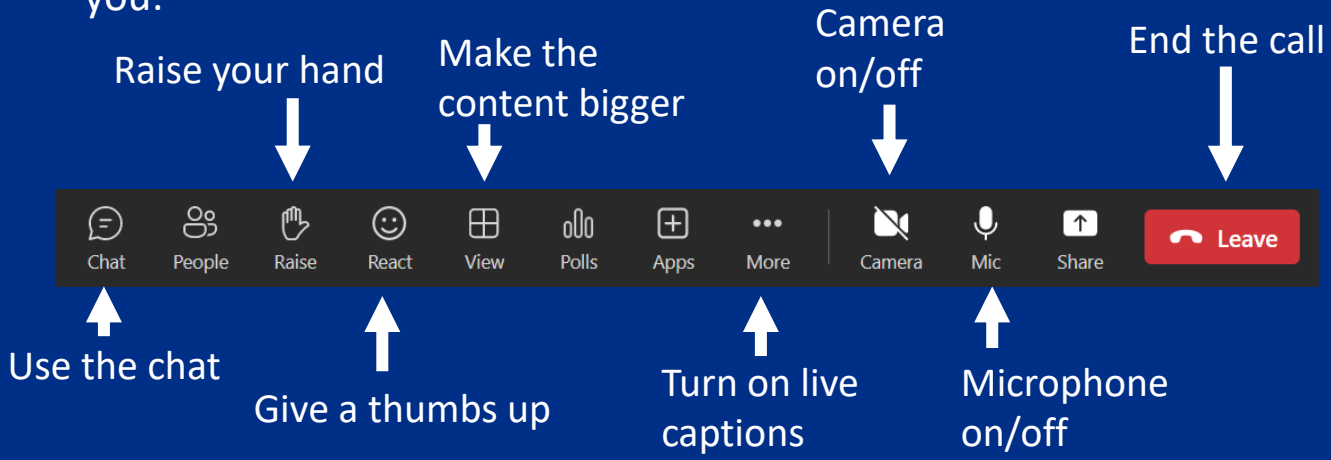
NHS
Berkshire Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

Expert searching

Library and
Knowledge Service

Tips for using MS Teams

Find the toolbar at the top or bottom of your screen. This will let you:



For more details on how to use accessibility features in Teams visit this helpful page from Microsoft.

What is expert searching?

Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

What we mean by expert searching is:

- Searching multiple sources for information
- Searching specific databases using freetext searching or their thesaurus

When will you need to expert search?

Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

This will depend on the type of question you are trying to answer. But…

- You are studying
- You are developing a clinical guideline
- You want to inform your research by knowing what has been published or what research is being undertaken
- You are doing a systematic review
- The NHS Knowledge and Library Hub finds too much or not enough information

Sources of mental health evidence?

Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

General resources:

- Medline
- Embase
- CINAHL
- Trip Pro

Specialist resources

- PsycInfo
- Psychology and Behavioral Sciences Collection (full text)
- PsycArticles (full text)
- SocINDEX with full text
- Social Policy and Practice
- Campbell Collaboration
- PTSDPubs

Sources of nursing evidence?

Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

General resources:

- Medline
- Embase
- CINAHL
- Trip Pro

Specialist resources

- British Nursing Index (BNI)
- Emcare

Sources of healthcare management evidence?

Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

General resources:

- Medline
- Embase
- CINAHL
- Trip Pro

Specialist resources

- Healthcare Management Information Consortium
- Health Research Premium Collection (full text)

Which interfaces do I need?

Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

EBSCO Host

- CINAHL
- Medline
- PsycTherapy
- SocIndex

ProQuest

- BNI
- Medline
- PsycInfo
- PTSDpubs

Ovid

- AMED
- Embase
- Emcare
- HMIC
- Medline
- Social Policy & Practice

Accessing the interfaces

Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

There are several ways to access the interfaces:

- Searching library resources page on Nexus
- Links from the Knowledge and Library Hub
- Links from the NICE OpenAthens Hub

Textwords, keywords and subject headings – what's the difference?

Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Textword, or free text

- A textword or free text search will find items which have exactly that combination of characters. For example, a search for "schizophrenia" will not find articles which refer to "psychosis" instead. In some databases you can say which field you want to search using a textword. For example in the title or abstract field.

Keywords

- Usually assigned by authors. A combination of keywords will give you an idea of the whole article. But different authors may use different keywords for the same concept.

Textwords, keywords and subject headings – what's the difference?

Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Subject headings

- They are from a controlled vocabulary. Subject headings can help with the variation between authors in their choice of keywords. For example, in PsycInfo searching for Psychosis as a subject heading will find items on schizophrenia, postpartum psychosis and so on

Using your search terms

Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

- Apply them one at a time and then combine
- Search for relevant subject headings
  - Use the hierarchy or tree of subject headings to find to the most suitable term.
- Don’t forget to search for textwords as well
  - Use wildcards eg to replace different word endings eg child* will retrieve child and children and childhood.
  - Using phrases eg “community care” will retrieve fewer results than community care

Search filters or hedges

Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Predefined search strings of textwords and/or subject headings to find items on a concept or a particular study design.

An example for palliative care:

"Terminal Care"[mh] OR caregiver*[tw] OR bereave* OR inpatient[tiab] OR "attitude to death"[tw] OR "end of life" OR hospice* OR "terminally ill"[tw] OR palliative*[tw] OR "Advance Care" OR palliat OR advanced OR (morphine AND cancer) OR "cancer pain"

Search filters can be specific to a database.

The InterTASC Information Specialists' Sub-Group Search Filter Resource is a good place to look for filters.

Refine your results

NHS
Berkshire Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

- Publication date
- Language of the article
- Population age range (infant, child, adult)
- Full text availability
- Publication type (RCT, review etc)

Refining by “country of publication” isn’t always helpful.

Reviewing and saving results, and saving search histories

Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Most systems allow you to mark your favourite items, adding them to a clipboard or folder as you go through results. You may need to create an account for the system to do this.

You will then be able to export or save your results by:

- Emailing them to yourself
- Opening or saving them (eg Word, Excel or PDF)
- Saving them to a reference manager

You will be able to save your search histories and use them to set up alerts to let you know when new items have been found.

Reference managers

Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

A reference manager is helpful especially if you use multiple databases, need to cite references in your own documents or manage several projects.

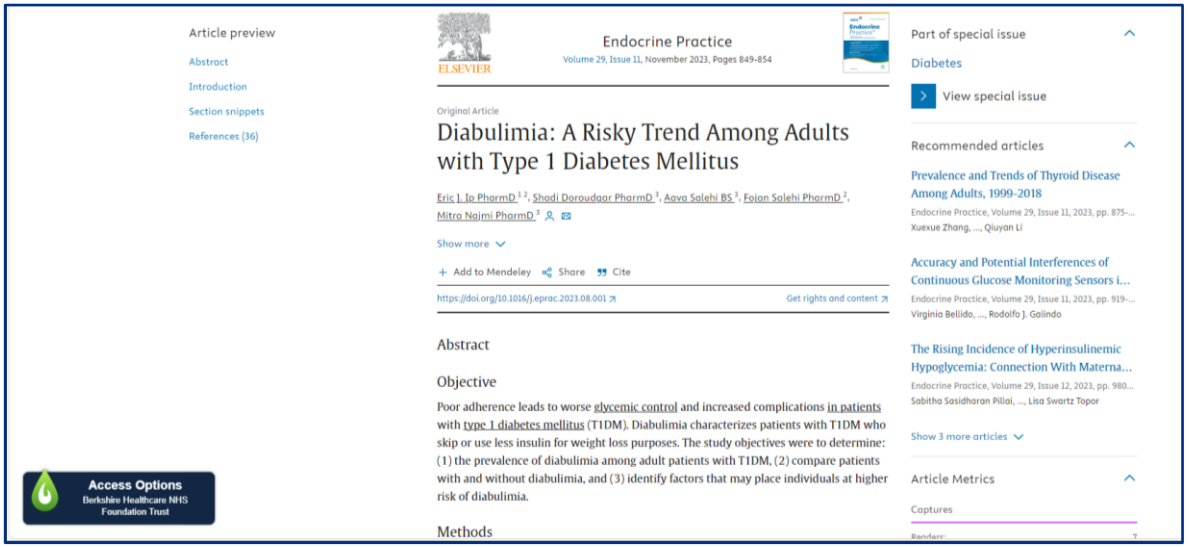
Free reference managers include:

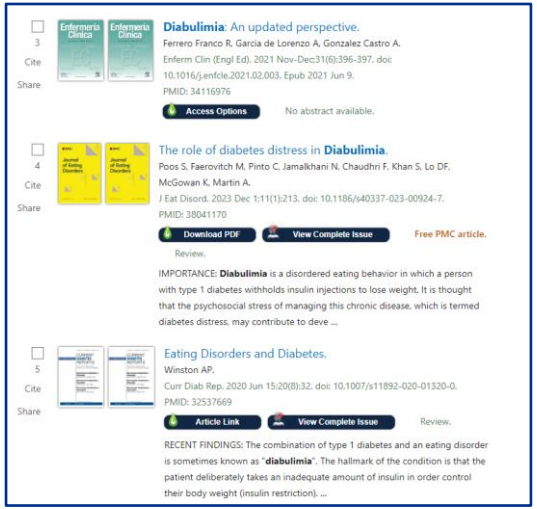
- Zotero: desktop app, up to 300MB free storage
- Endnote Basic: web-based, up to 50,000 references
- Mendeley: desktop app, up to 2GB free storage

One click access to articles

Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Install the Libkey Nomad browser plugin



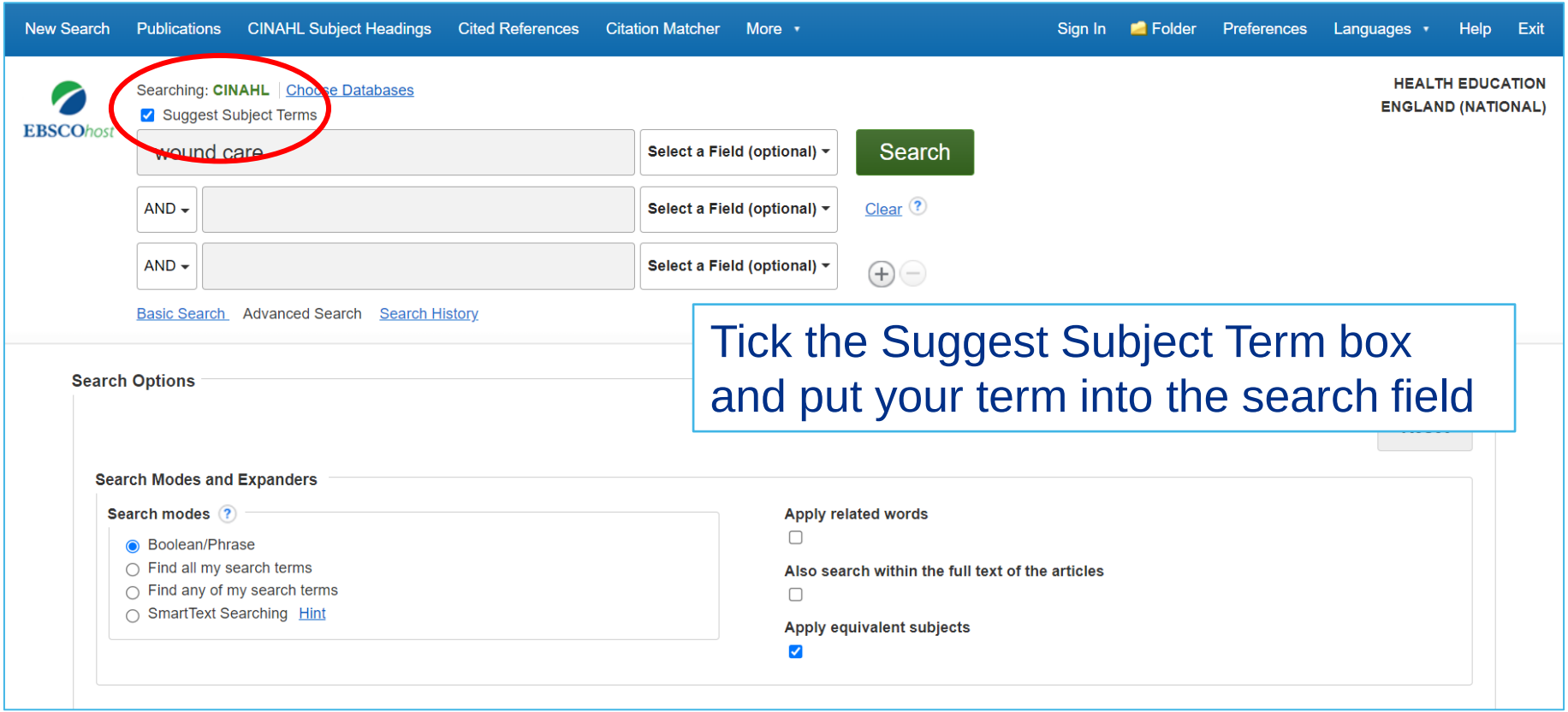


NHS
Berkshire Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

Making the most of
EbscoHost

Searching by subject heading

Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

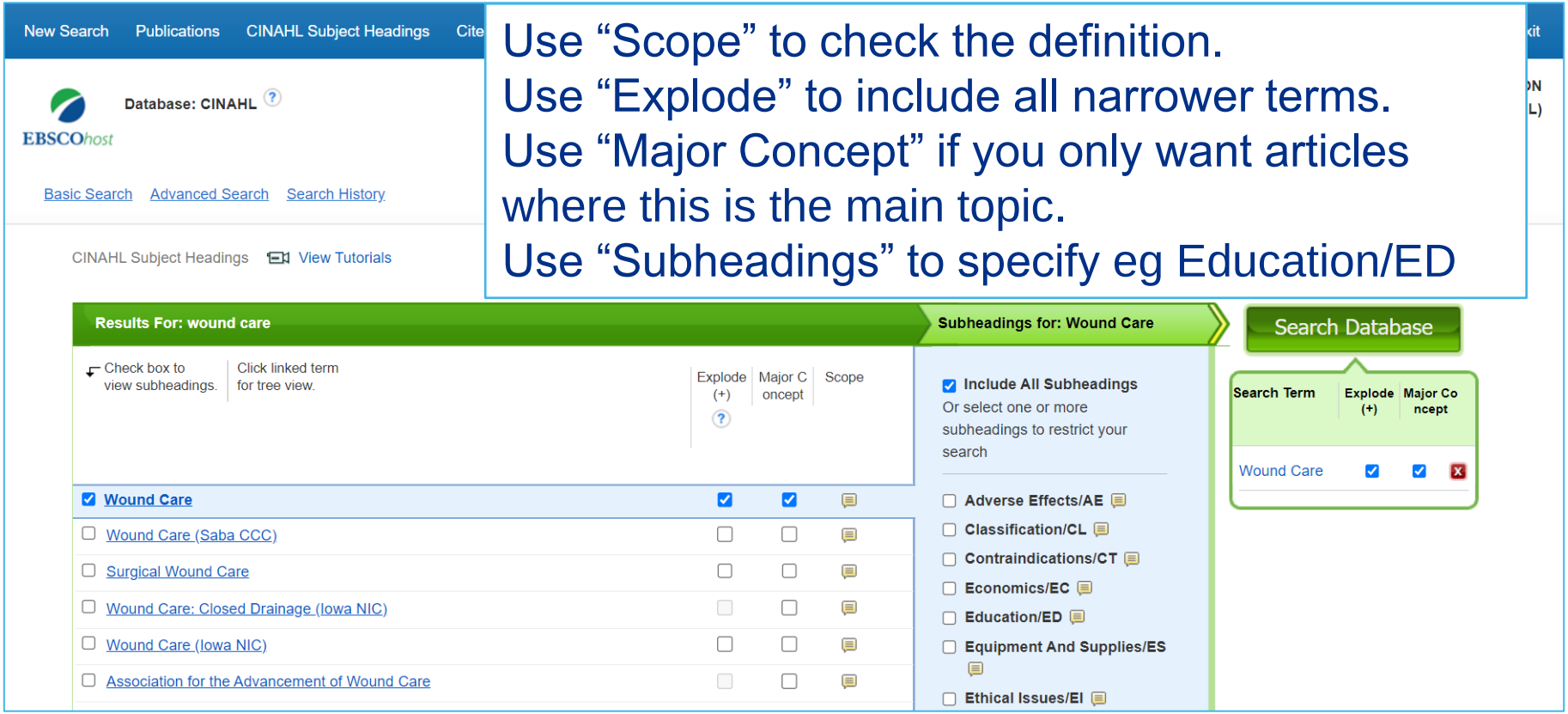


Tick the Suggest Subject Term box and put your term into the search field

Searching by subject heading

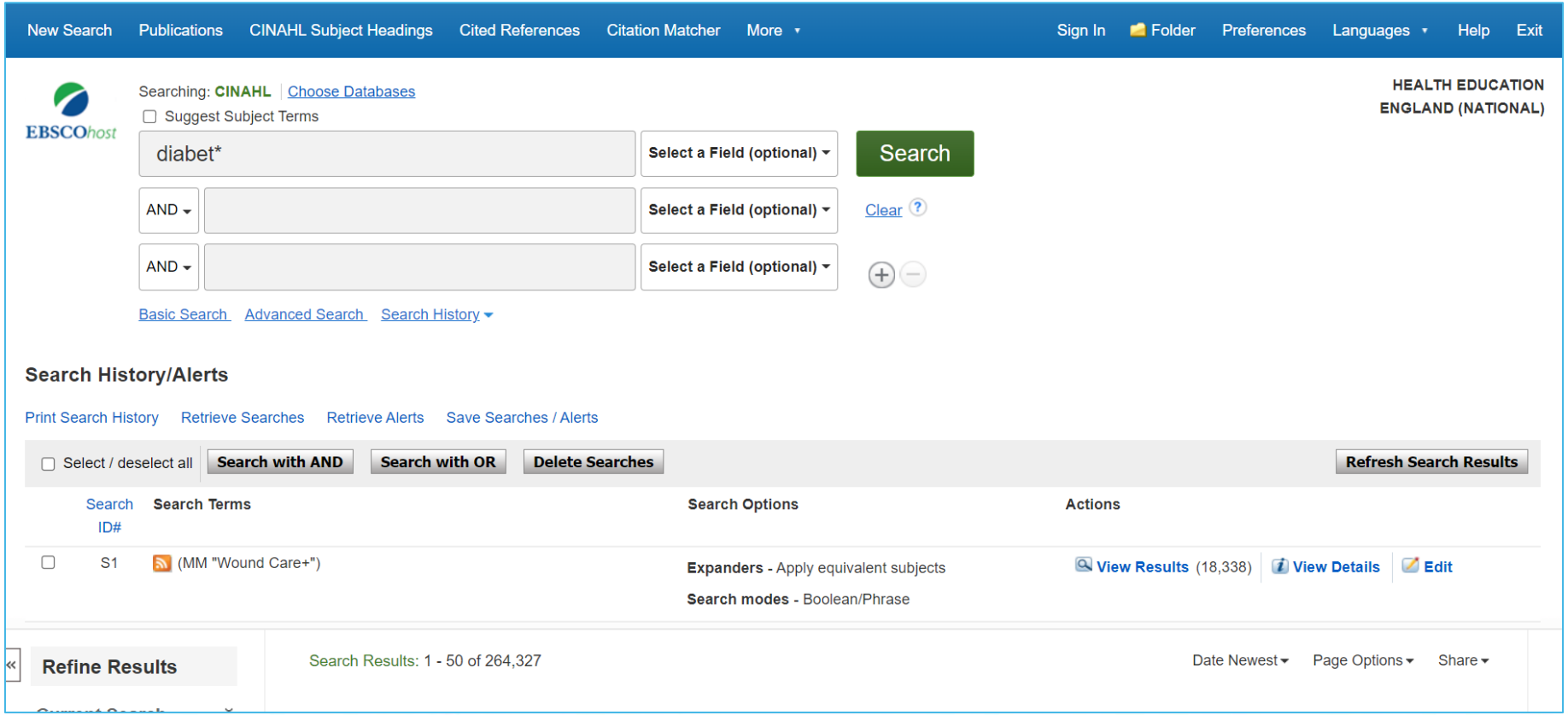
Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Use “Scope” to check the definition.
Use “Explode” to include all narrower terms.
Use “Major Concept” if you only want articles where this is the main topic.
Use “Subheadings” to specify eg Education/ED



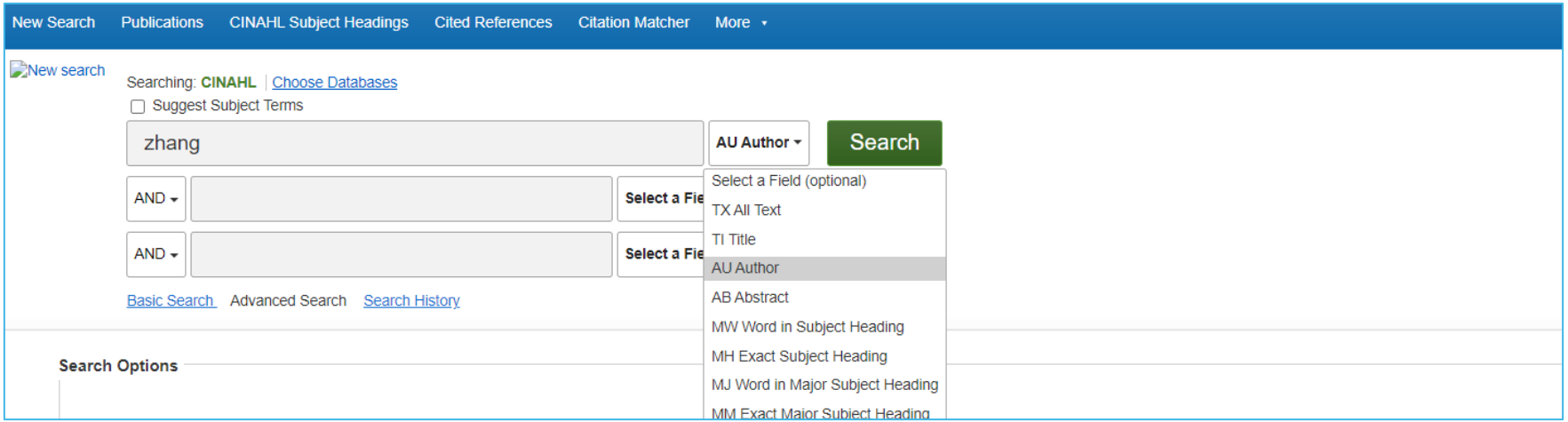
Searching by textword

Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust



Searching by field (eg author)

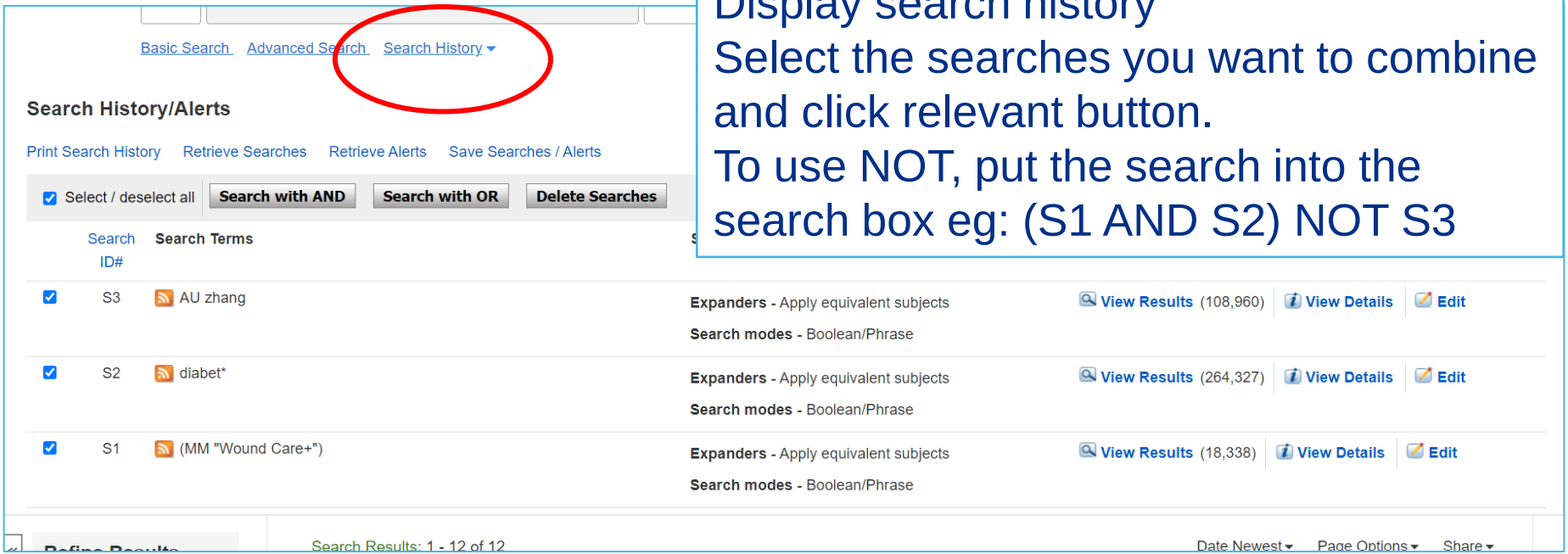
Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust



Combining searches

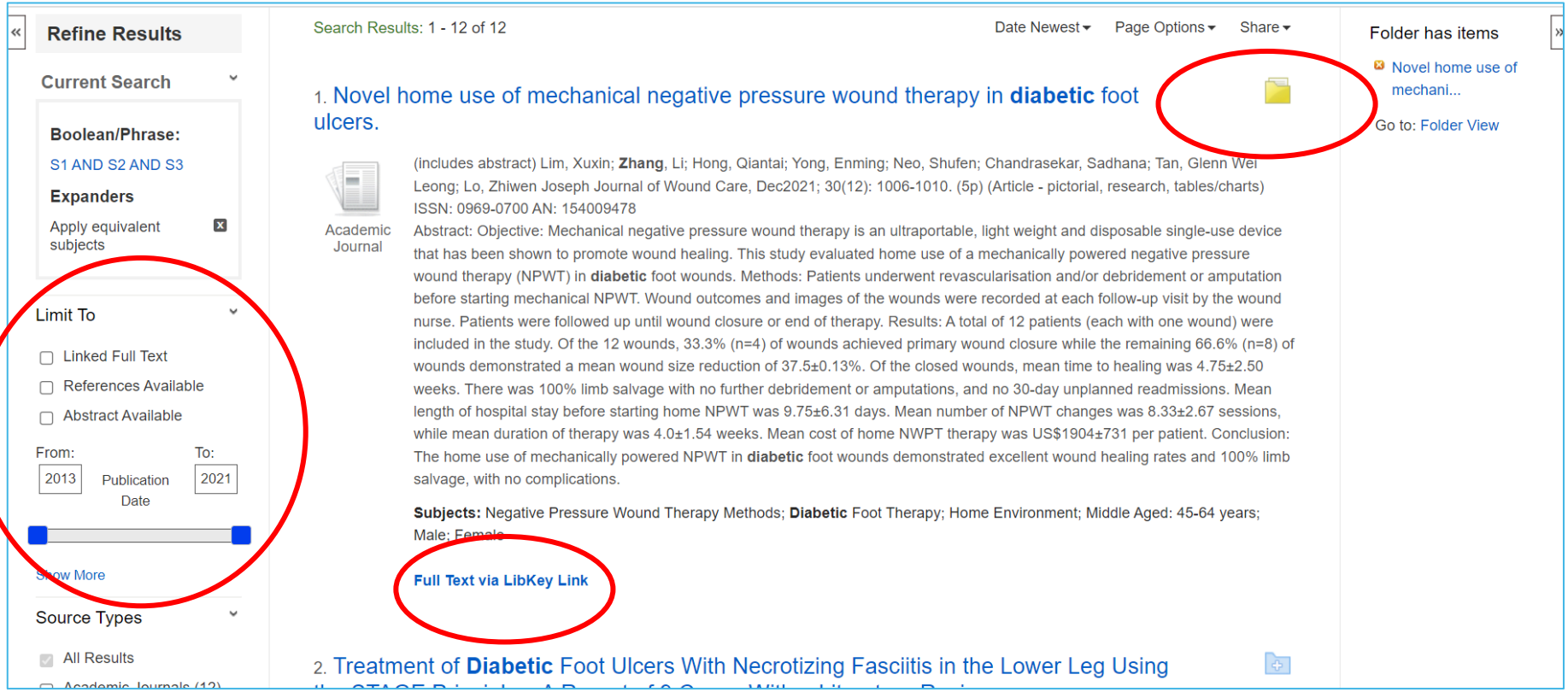
Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Display search history
Select the searches you want to combine and click relevant button.
To use NOT, put the search into the search box eg: (S1 AND S2) NOT S3



Reviewing and refining results

Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

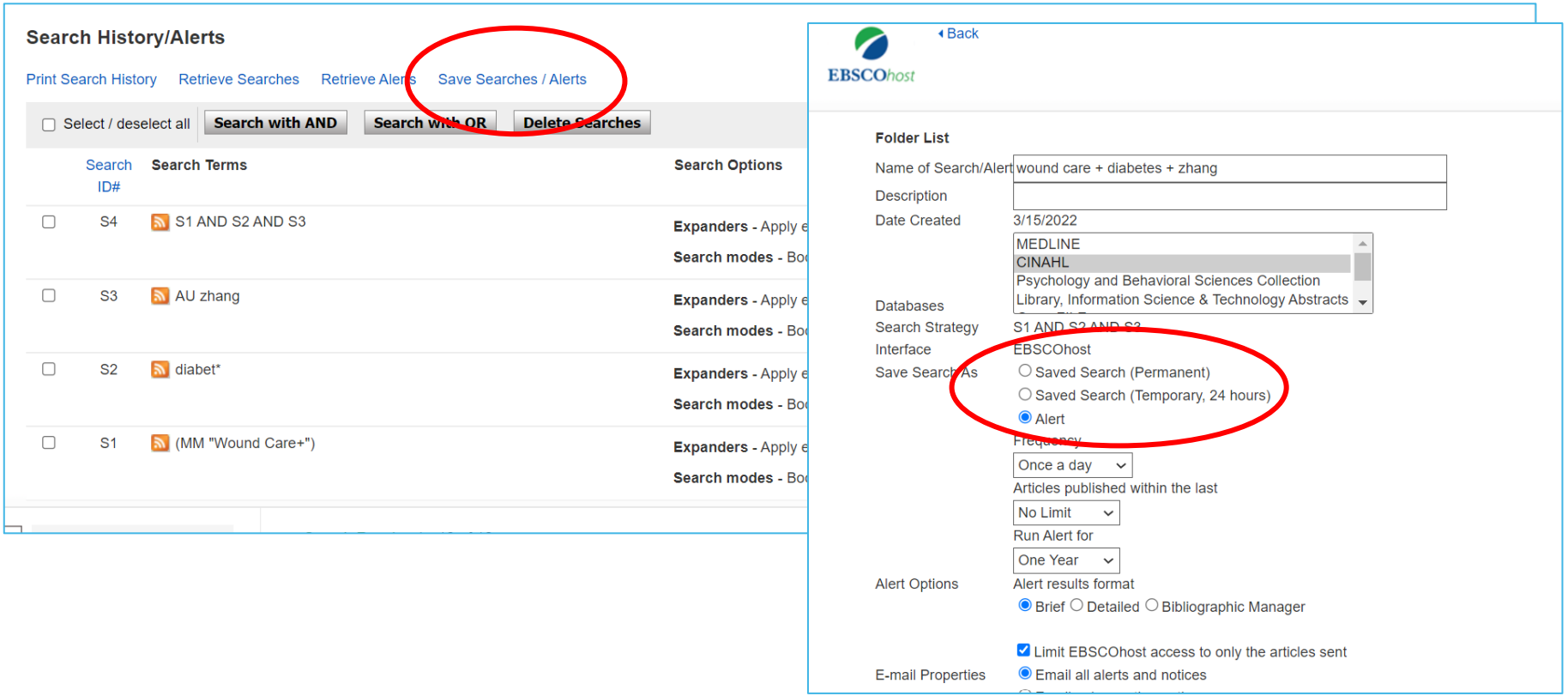


Saving items

NHS
Berkshire Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

Saving your search history

Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust



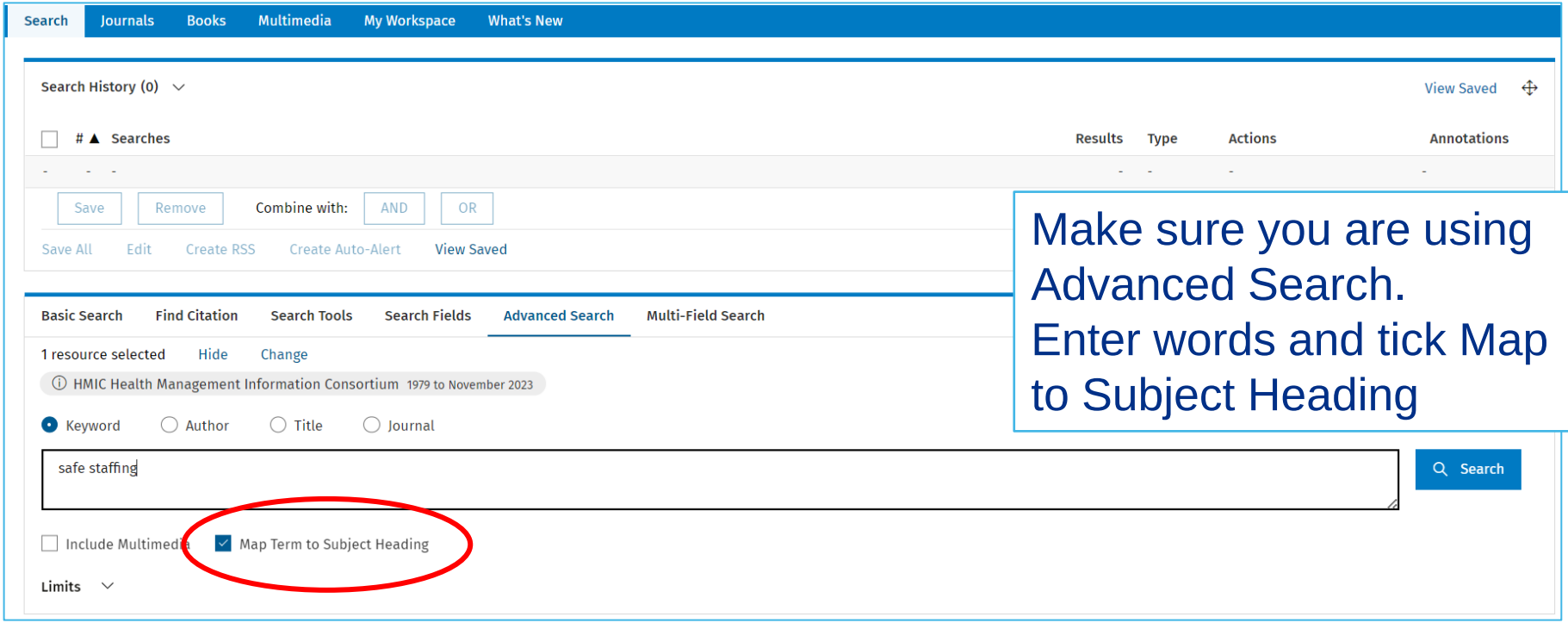
NHS
Berkshire Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

Making the most of

OVID

Searching by subject heading

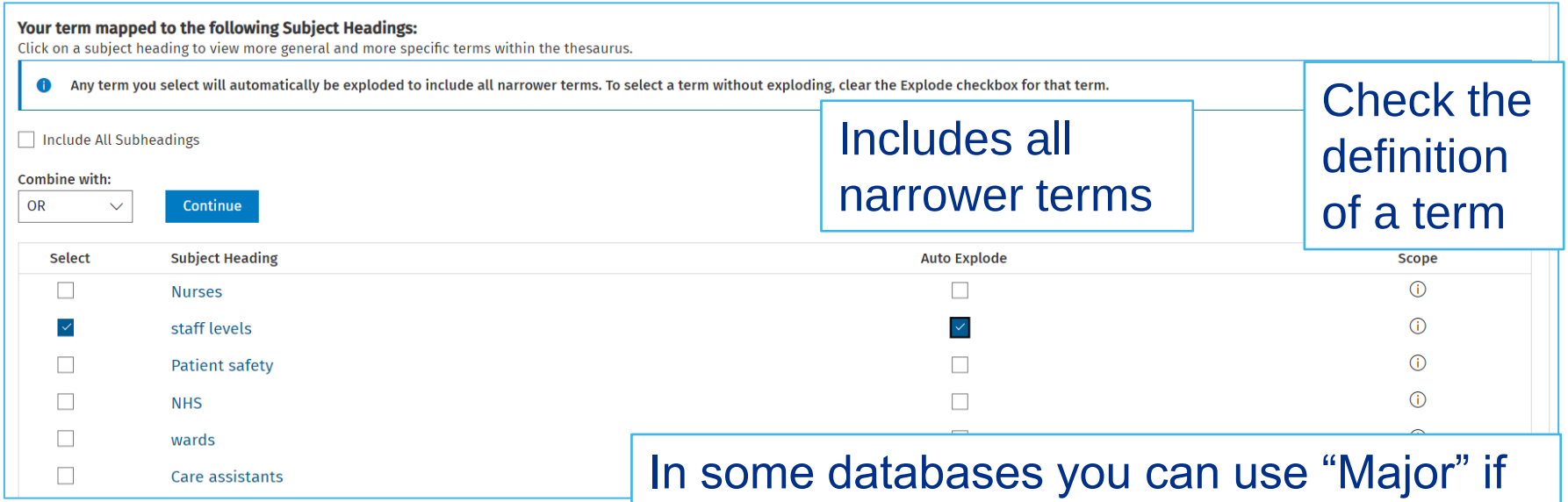
Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust



Make sure you are using Advanced Search.
Enter words and tick Map to Subject Heading

Searching by subject heading

Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust



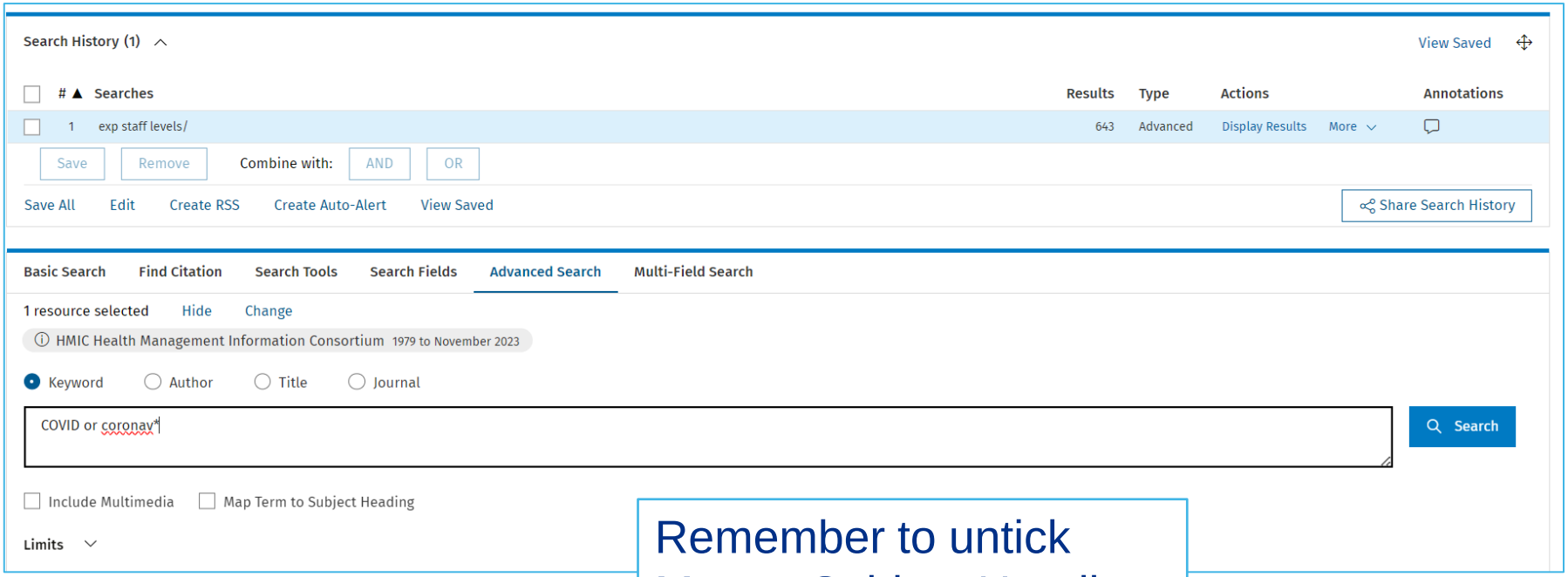
Includes all narrower terms

Check the definition of a term

In some databases you can use “Major” if you only want articles where this is the main topic of the paper.

Searching by textword

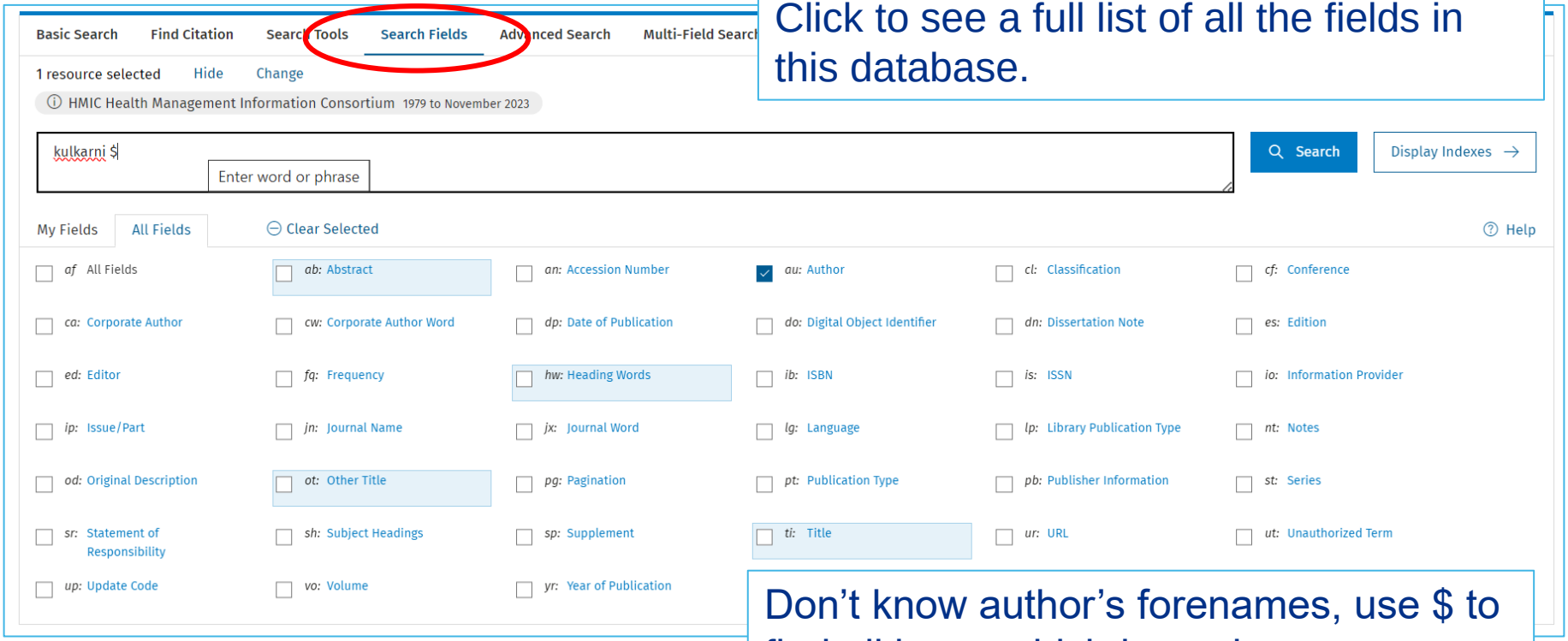
Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust



Remember to untick
Map to Subject Heading

Searching by field (eg author)

Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust



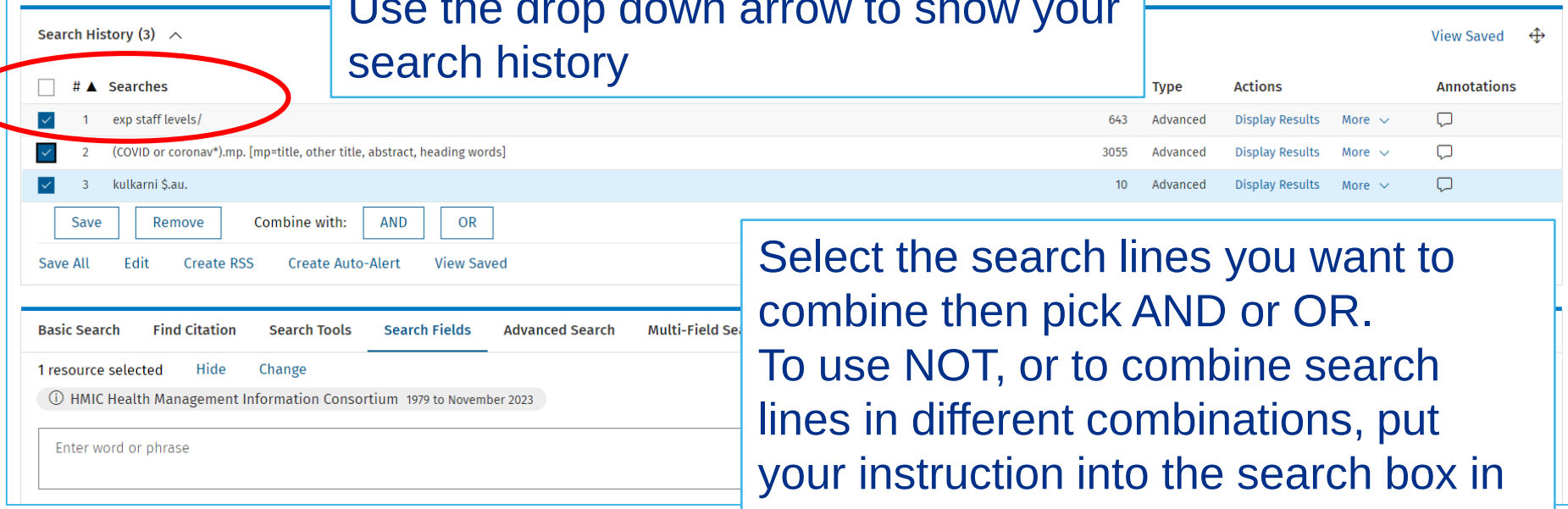
Click to see a full list of all the fields in this database.

Don’t know author’s forenames, use $ to find all items which have that surname

Combining searches

Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

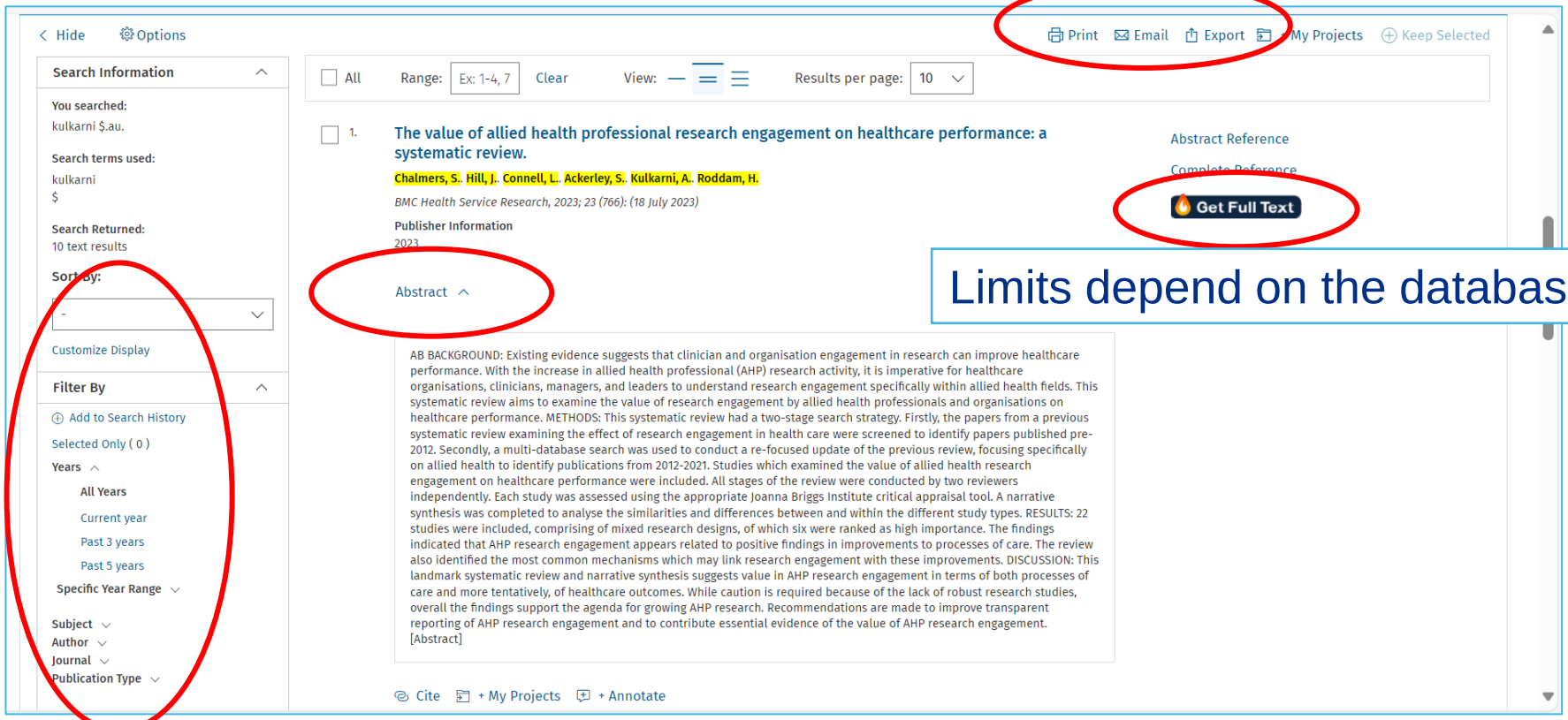
Use the drop down arrow to show your search history



Select the search lines you want to combine then pick AND or OR.
To use NOT, or to combine search lines in different combinations, put your instruction into the search box in this format eg (1 and 2) not 3.

Reviewing and refining results

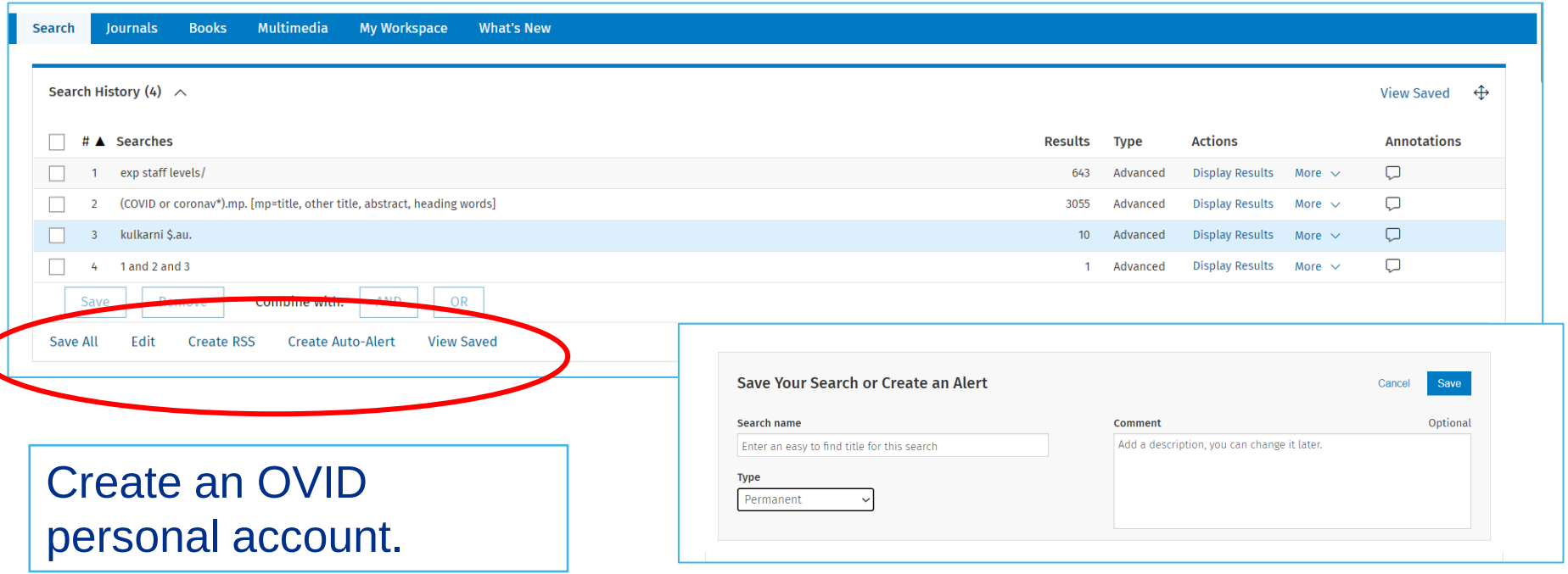
Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust



Limits depend on the database.

Saving your search history

Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust



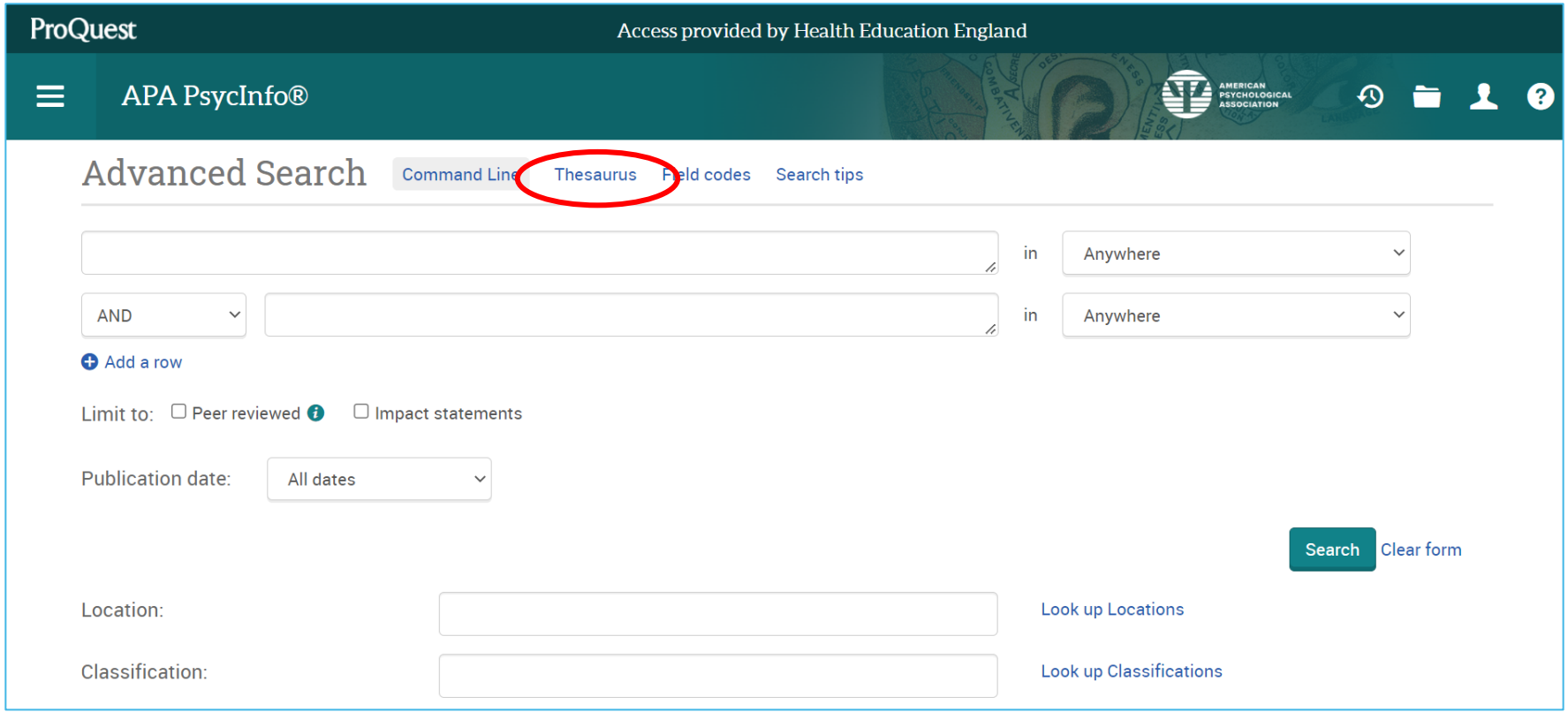
Create an OVID personal account.

NHS
Berkshire Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

Making the most of
ProQuest

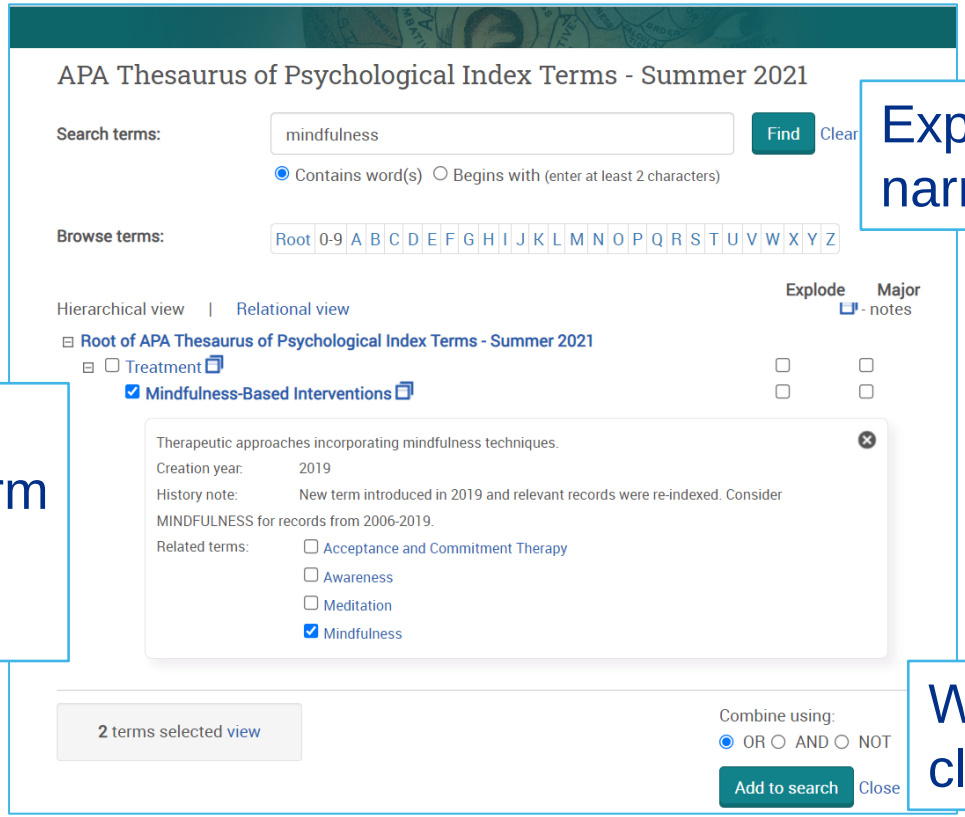
Searching by subject heading

Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust



Searching by subject heading

Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust



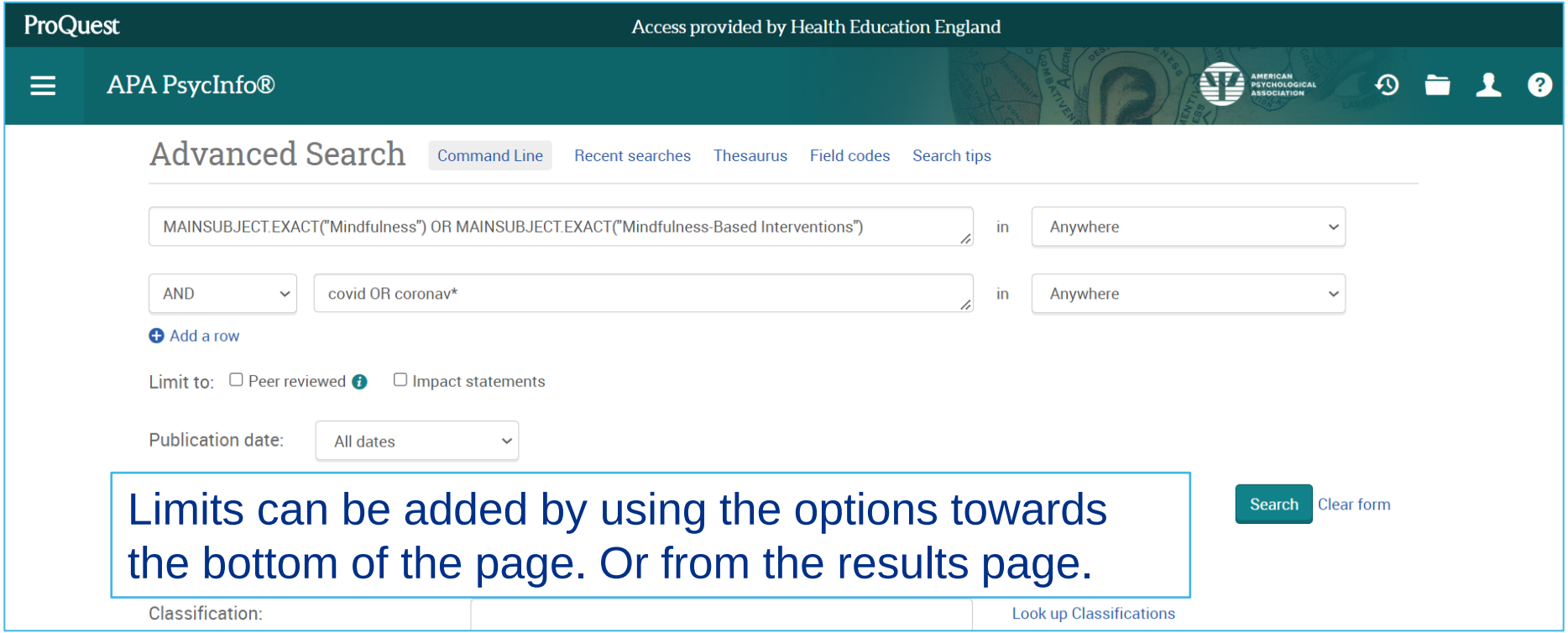
Explode includes all narrower terms

Check the definition of a term using the scope note

When you're done, click Add to search

Searching by textword

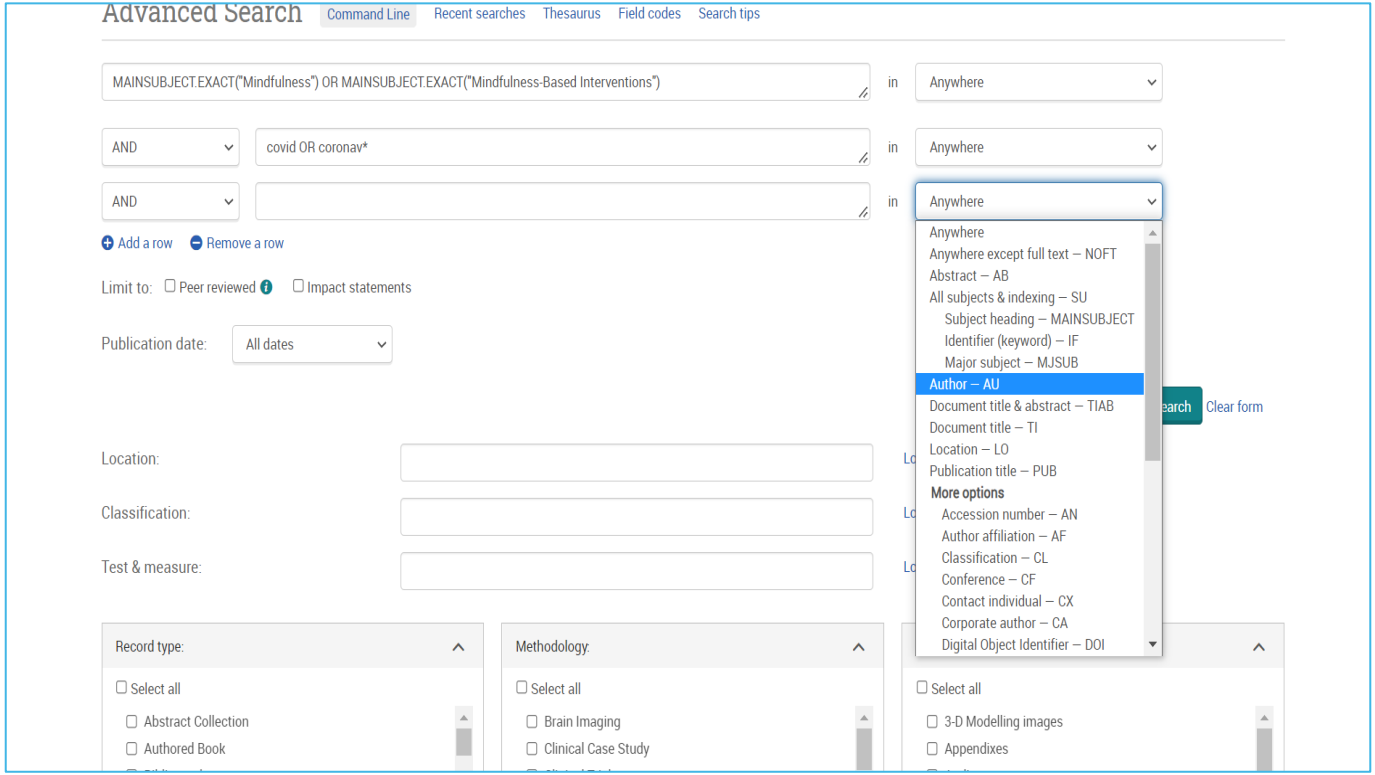
Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust



Limits can be added by using the options towards the bottom of the page. Or from the results page.

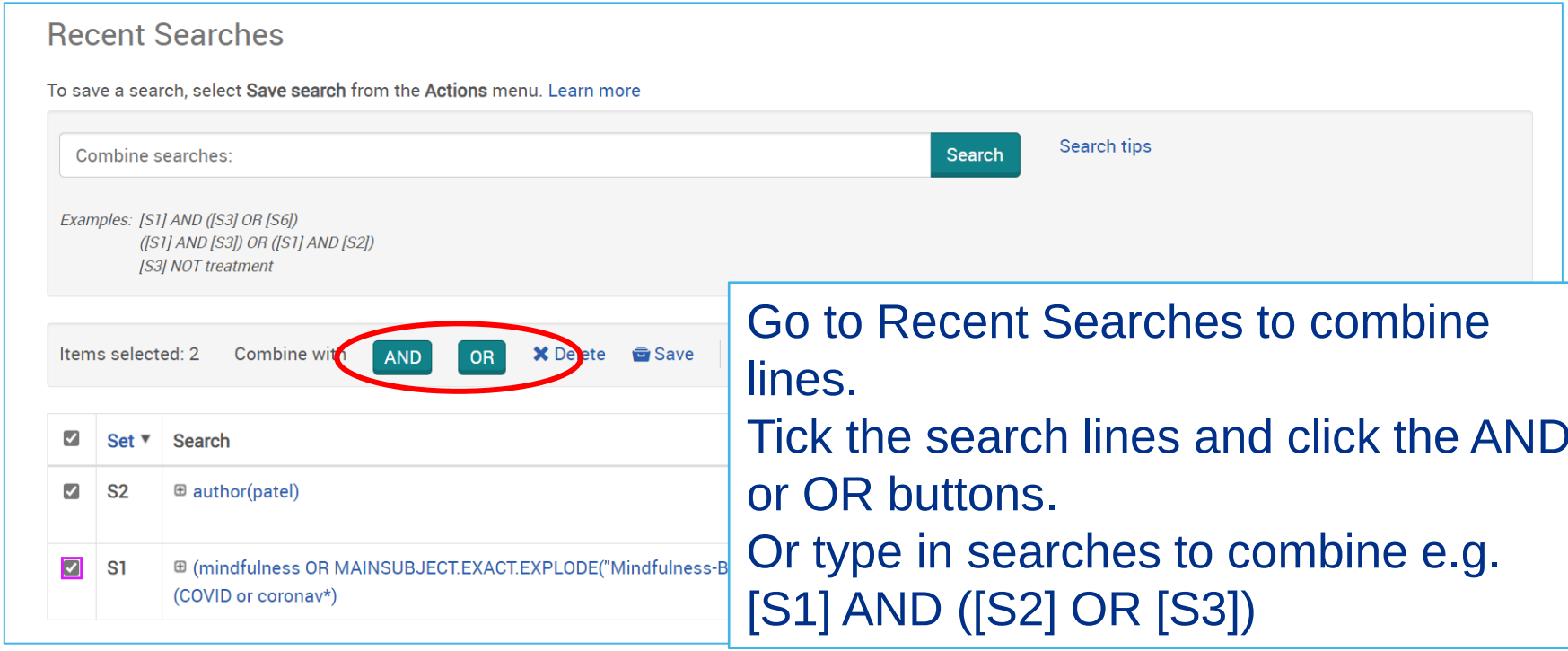
Searching by field (eg author)

Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust



Combining searches

Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust



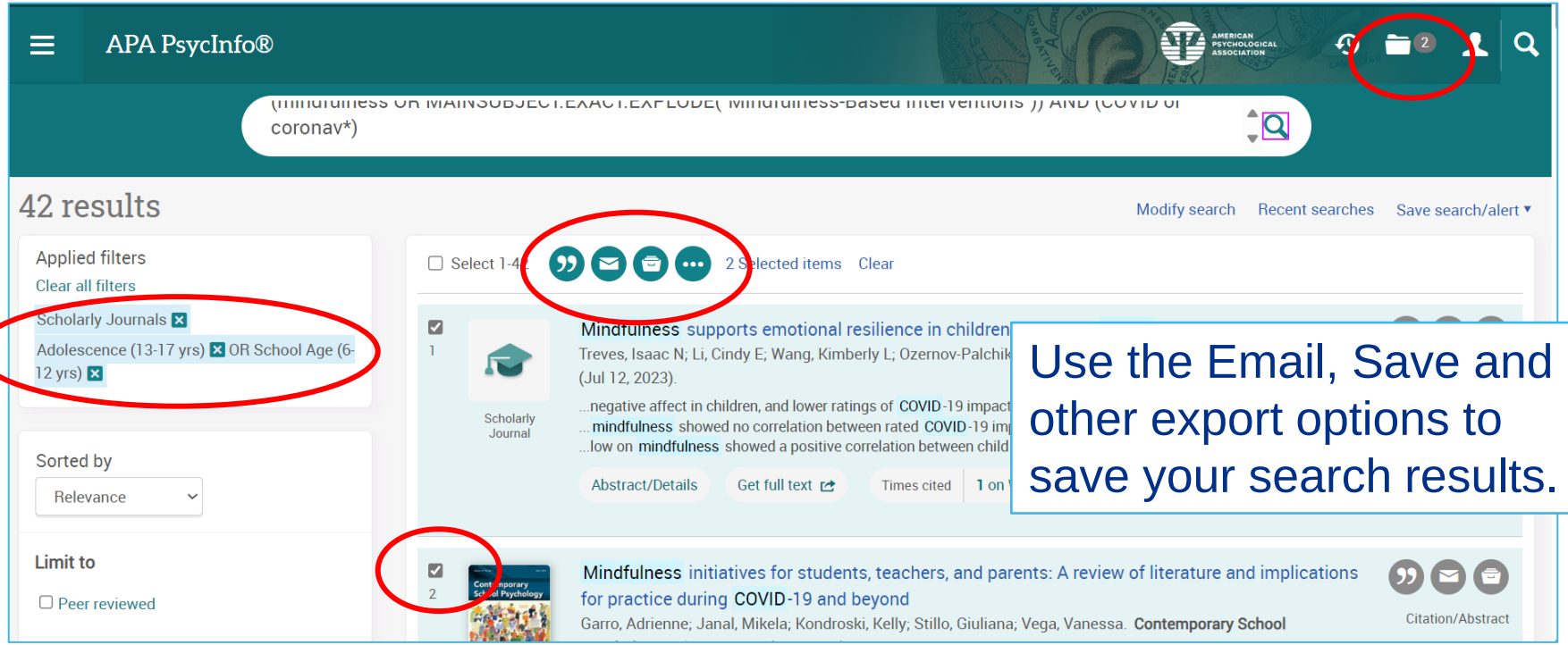
Go to Recent Searches to combine lines.

Tick the search lines and click the AND or OR buttons.

Or type in searches to combine e.g. [S1] AND ([S2] OR [S3])

Reviewing and refining results

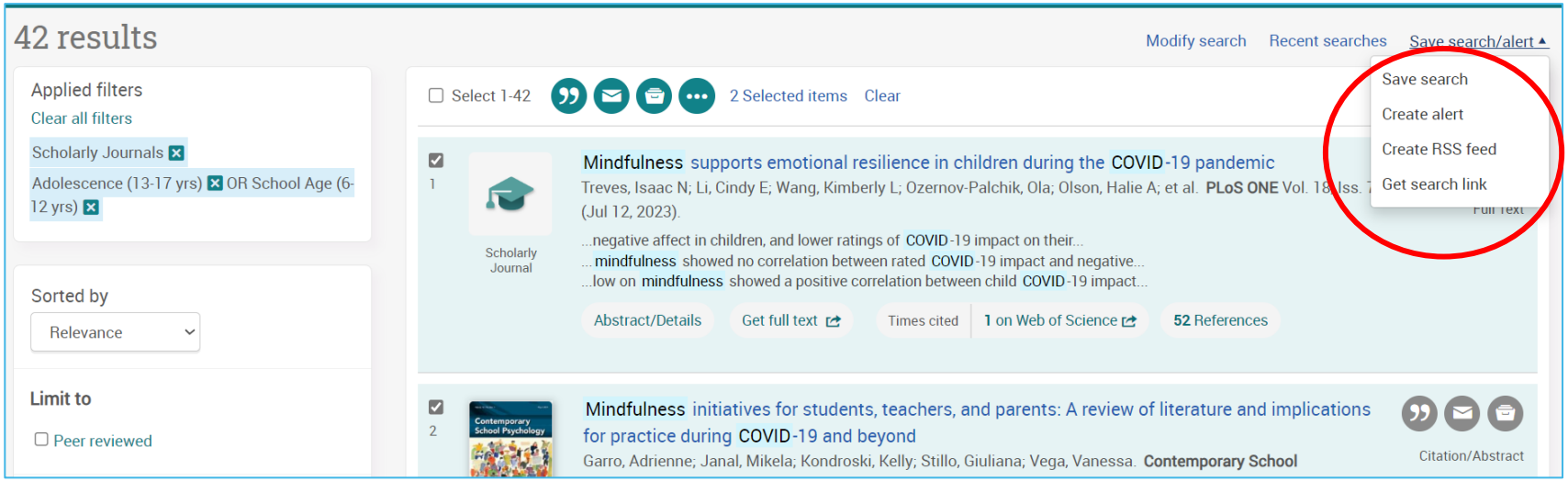
Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust



Use the Email, Save and other export options to save your search results.

Saving your search history

Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust



Resources

Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

- ISSG Search Filters Resource
- Books on literature review process
- The Literature search process: guidance for NHS researchers v7 2019 (pdf on Nexus)

Supplier tutorials and search tips

- Ebsco Advanced searching
- Ovid Advanced Search
- ProQuest Advanced search tips