

DEVELOPING EXPERT SEARCHES in CAMBRIDGE SCIENTIFIC ABSTRACTS

Use this handout for information on combining/editing searches and using the thesaurus in the Cambridge Scientific Abstracts (CSA) databases.

To start searching CSA Databases, see
"Using Cambridge Scientific Abstracts Databases" handout.

EDIT and COMBINE SEARCHES

Getting There: From any screen in CSA, click on the **Search History** link.

The screenshot displays the Search History interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs: Logout, Quick Search, Advanced Search, Search Tools, 0 Marked Records, Search History, and Alerts. Below these are sub-tabs: Search History, Return to Results, and Help & Support. Further down, there are more sub-tabs: Combine Searches, Alerts, History, Command Search, Thesaurus, and Indexes. The main content area is titled 'Search History' and lists two searches:

- Search #2 (170022 Results)**: DE=((elementary secondary education) or (elementary school students)). Date Range: Earliest to 2005. Limited to: English Only. Databases: ERIC.
- Search #1 (150 Results)**: DE=nutrition and (achievement or aptitude). Date Range: Earliest to 2005. Limited to: English Only. Databases: ERIC.

Below the search list, there is a 'Combine Searches' section with a text box containing '#1 and #2'. Below this, there are various filters and options, including 'Now Selected: ERIC', 'Change: Subject Area or Specific Databases', 'Date Range: Earliest to 2005', and 'Limited to: Latest Update, Journal Articles Only, English Only'. At the bottom, there is a 'Search' button and a 'Clear' button.

The **Search History** screen shows a listing of all the searches you have done in this session.

EDIT

- Click on **Edit** to change the search.
- Click on **Delete** to erase that search from your history.
- Click on **Return to Search** to display the results of that search, without searching the database again.
- Click on **Run Search** to search the database again with those same terms. (Use this if you have a previously saved search and want to update it.)

COMBINE

Each search has been assigned a number. To **combine searches**, use the search number (including the # sign) with AND, OR, or NOT between them.

Example: **#1 and #2**

You can also add **new terms** to previous searches.

Examples:

#1 and legislation

#1 and #2 and low income

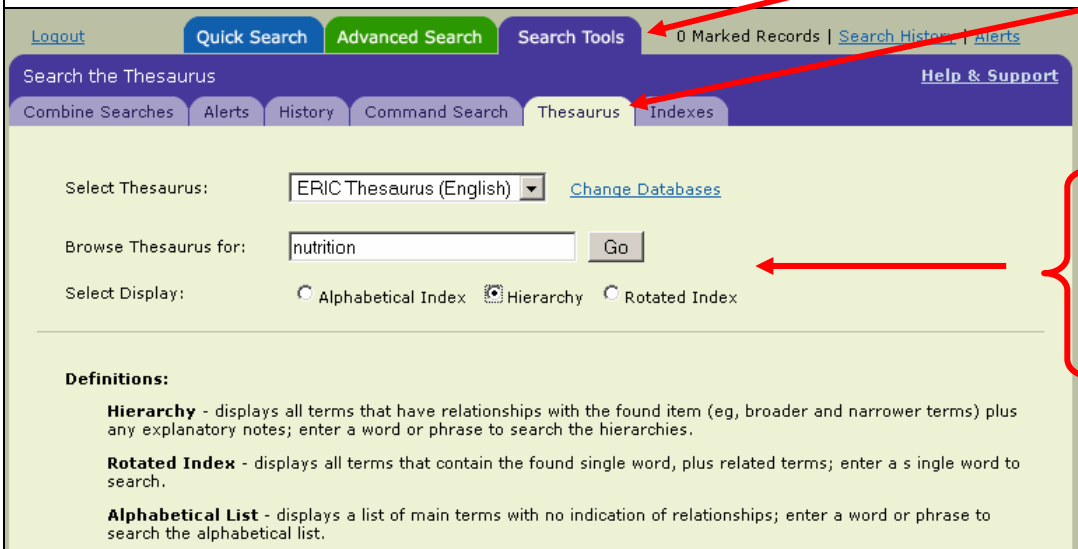
(#1 or #2) and child health

Also, consider possible **limits** for the combined/new searches.

THESAURUS

A thesaurus provides a standard language or set of terms with which to describe a topic. Use thesaurus terms to help retrieve the maximum number of relevant documents.

Getting There: From any screen in CSA, click on the **Search Tools** tab and then on the **Thesaurus** tab.



BROWSE FOR TERMS

- Enter a **term**.
- Select the desired **display option**. (Hierarchy is recommended.)
- Click **Go**.

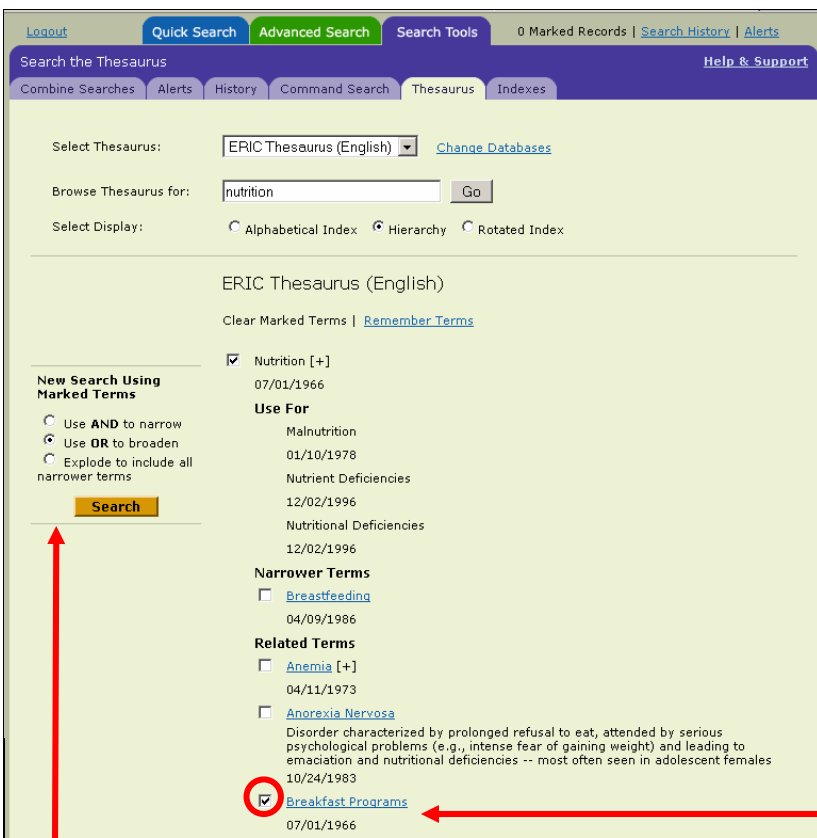
Definitions:

Hierarchy - displays all terms that have relationships with the found item (eg, broader and narrower terms) plus any explanatory notes; enter a word or phrase to search the hierarchies.

Rotated Index - displays all terms that contain the found single word, plus related terms; enter a single word to search.

Alphabetical List - displays a list of main terms with no indication of relationships; enter a word or phrase to search the alphabetical list.

<p>Each database has its own thesaurus. You can search only one thesaurus at a time, which then searches that database.</p>	<p>If you want to search multiple databases, do them one at a time if using thesaurus terms.</p>	<p><i>Note: Conference Papers Index and NTIS database do not have thesauri.</i></p>
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Use For shows synonyms and similar words, for which the descriptor (**nutrition** in this example) is the preferred search term.

Broader Terms are more general. (Not shown in this example.)

Narrower Terms are more specific and focused.

Related Terms are terms that might also be of interest.

Any term underlined in blue is **hyperlinked**. Clicking on it will take you to that term's hierarchy.

A **+ sign** next to a term means it has narrower terms in its hierarchy. Click on it to see them.

Some terms list the **dates** they were added to the thesaurus.

Some terms have a **description** of what they mean.

Check the box in front of any term you want to use.

Once you have selected the terms you want, choose a **connector word** (AND or OR) and click on **Search**. This searches the database for your term as a **descriptor** (subject heading). (The **explode** option searches for the selected term and all its more specific terms. This is for terms with a + sign.)