

## DEVELOPING EXPERT SEARCHES in



Use this handout for information on combining/editing searches and using the thesaurus in the CSA Illumina databases.

To start searching CSA Illumina databases, see "Using CSA Illumina Databases" handout.

### EDIT and COMBINE SEARCHES

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

The **Search History** screen shows a list 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 **View Results** to display the results of that search, without searching the database again.
- Click on **Save OR Alert** to open "My Research" login to save this search and/or set up an alert when new results for this search are available. (Requires creating a profile for yourself in the database).

#### COMBINE

Each search has been assigned a number. To **combine searches**, either check the boxes next to desired search numbers (at left side) and select AND or OR, or type 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**

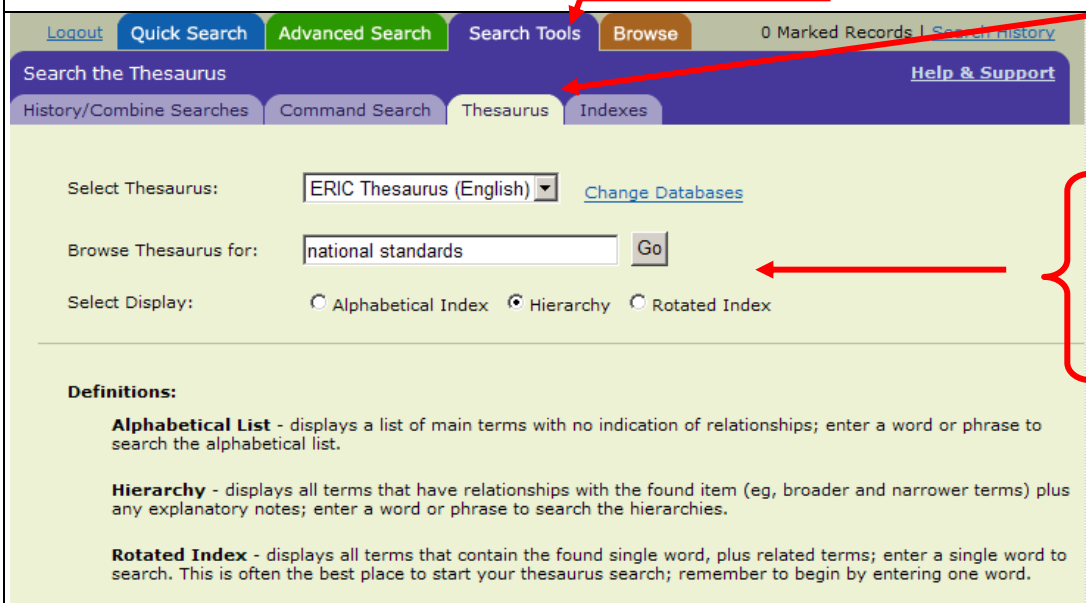
Consider possible **limits** for the combined/new searches.

Some databases may have further indexes and limits available.

**Use a 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 Illumina, click on the **Search Tools** tab and then on the **Thesaurus** tab.



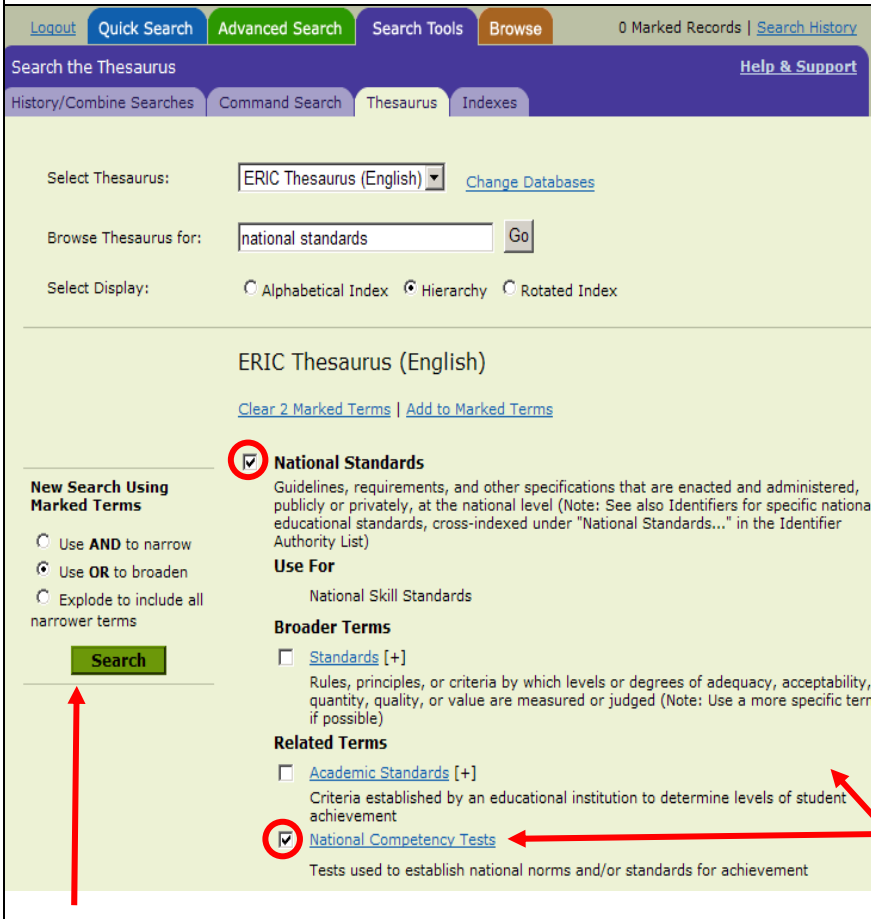
**BROWSE FOR TERMS**

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

*Note: Not every database has a thesaurus.*

Each database has its own thesaurus (when available). You can search only **one thesaurus at a time**, which then searches that database.

If you want to search **multiple databases**, do them one at a time if using thesaurus terms.



**Use For** shows synonyms and similar words, for which the descriptor (**national standards** 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(s) you want to use.

Once you have selected the terms you want, choose a **connector word** (AND or OR) at left 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.)