

Chapter 1:

The Cochrane Library

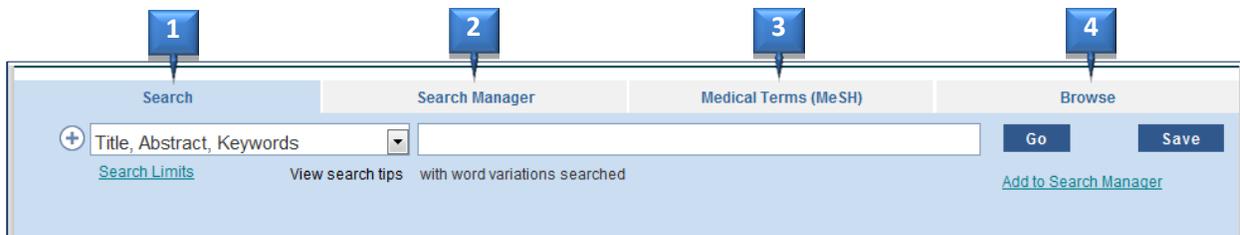
Search Tour

This chapter will provide an overview of *The Cochrane Library Search*:

- ✓ Learn how **The Cochrane Library** new search feature is structured
- ✓ Review each tab and its purpose
- ✓ For users of the previous version, mapping of former features to new pages

COCHRANE SEARCH OVERVIEW

The Cochrane Search Page contains four tabs allowing users three methods for searching and one tab for accessing all browse features of *The Cochrane Library*



FEATURE	Who Should Use It, What Does It Do and What's New
1 SEARCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For users interested in performing quick searches with a few terms. • For experienced users who prefer to use pull down menus to search fields. • Includes auto-suggest feature. NEW • Supports up to five search rows. NEW
2 SEARCH MANAGER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For searchers interested in creating complex strategies. • Supports Boolean and proximity operators, nesting, and field searching. • Combine search line. • Insert a line, add one search to another and orphan line detection. NEW
3 MEDICAL TERMS (MESH)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For users wanting comprehensive searching of medical concepts using MeSH. • Includes auto-suggest feature. NEW • All MeSH information, permuted index, tree(s) and results, on one page. NEW • Improved qualifier search and support for all thesaurus functions.
4 BROWSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Browse Cochrane Reviews by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topic, new reviews, updated reviews, A – Z or Review group. • Browse all other Cochrane Library Databases <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other Reviews, Trials, Methods Studies, HTA, Economic Evaluations

SEARCH TAB – THE BASICS

The Search Tab now features an updated display with search information, saved searches and search results all on the same page. A simple interface and auto-suggest feature make this a good starting point for new and occasional users of *The Cochrane Library* or for experienced users who want to do a quick search

FEATURE	Who Should Use It, What Does It Do and What's New
1 Limit Search By Field	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use this option to limit searches to specific fields (title, abstract, keywords, and authors). Default is set to title, abstract and keywords to ensure most relevant articles are found. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If search retrieves to few articles, try changing limit to "All text".
2 Search Term Box	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enter search term(s) in box. By default on Search Tab, common variants of the word are searched. For example, pay finds, pays, paid, and paying. If two or more terms are entered, search will "AND" terms and find articles or selected fields where both terms appear. To search a phrase, put terms in quotes, "lung cancer" searches for that specific phrase. Selecting phrases using auto-suggest will automatically add quotes and search as a phrase. NEW To view results of your search, click the "GO" button or hit ENTER. Search results will display at the bottom of the screen.
3 Run Search	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use this button to save your search so you can rerun it at a later time or set an automatic alert that will notify you when new articles matching your search are loaded on The Cochrane Library. User must be registered and logged in to use this feature.
4 Save Search	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use this feature to view any searches saved from the Search Tab. The number following the Saved Searches heading is the number of Saved Searches the user currently has. Use the ► to view a list of all your "Saved Searches". User must be registered and logged in to use this feature.
5 View Saved Searches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After hitting "GO" or "ENTER", search results are displayed at the bottom of the screen.
6 View Search Results	

SEARCH TAB – ADVANCED OPTIONS

For experienced users, who want the convenience of field tags in pull down menus, the Search Tab offers a number of options for users interested in developing more complex searches. The Search Tab supports logical operators, nesting, and wildcards.

The screenshot shows the Search Tab interface with the following callouts:

- 1**: Search Area (main search input)
- 2**: Search Limits (link)
- 3**: View search tips (link)
- 4**: Add to Search Manager (button)
- 5**: Alerts (checkbox)

The 'Search Limits' dialog box includes the following sub-callouts:

- 2a**: Product types (checkboxes for Cochrane Reviews, Review, Protocol, etc.)
- 2b**: Status (checkbox for New)
- 2c**: Dates (input fields for years)
- 2d**: Word variations will not be searched (checkbox)
- 2e**: Apply, Clear, Cancel buttons

FEATURE	Who Should Use It, What Does It Do and What's New
1 Add or Delete Search Lines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use this option to add or delete Search lines on the Search Tab. Add up to five search lines. Use "Add to Search Manager" to incorporate into this search complex searches.
2 Add Search Limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For searchers interested in adding limits by database, status and dates 2a. Limit by one or more databases of The Cochrane Library. 2b. Use to find "New" articles in all databases and other statuses in Systematic Reviews. 2c. Limit search by date. 2d. When selected, terms in quotes will search exact match only (and no term variants). For example, pay will not find, pays, paid, and paying. 2e. Use to apply limits. Once added, hit Go to see results of search with limits.
3 Search Tips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View online Search tips related to the search tab you are currently viewing. NEW Tool tips are also available for several functions. Hover over button or link for more information on the that feature. NEW
4 Add to Search Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For experienced users, who prefer using pull down menus to create searches using field limits; use this link to move the contents from the Search Tab to the Search Manager. In Search Manager users can create complex searches using MeSH and combined searches.
5 Turn on Search Alerts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When selected, alerts are turned on for this search and user will receive emails every time articles matching their search are loaded on The Cochrane Library.

SEARCH RESULTS PAGE

The Search Results page has been updated to include better display for browsing results from the different databases, improved legend and tool tips for statuses, continued support for citation export, and enhancements to CENTRAL article display to include journal citation.

Search Results

1: Database selection (Cochrane Reviews (1171), All, Review, Protocol, Other Reviews (1607), Trials (56301), Methods Studies (509), Technology Assessments (462), Economic Evaluations (1221), Cochrane Groups (1))

2: Search results summary (There are 56301 results from 674519 records for your search on 'child or children in title abstract keywords in Trials') and pagination (Pages 1 - 25 | 26 - 50 | 51 - 75 | 76 - 100 | 101 - 125 | Next)

3: Sort by (Relevance)

4: Citation export options (Select all | Export all | Export selected)

5: Issue limit (All, Current Issue)

6: Status Legend (Me Methodology, Dg Diagnostic, Ov Overview, Cc Conclusions changed, Ns New search, Mc Major change, Up Updated, Wd Withdrawn, Cm Comment)

Example article snippet: **Creating opportunities for parent empowerment: program effects on the mental health/coping outcomes of critically ill young children and their mothers.** Melnyk BM, Alpert-Gillis L, Feinstein NF, Crean HF, Johnson J, Fairbanks E, Small L, Rubenstein J, Slota M and Corbo-Richert B. Pediatrics, 2004, 113(6), e597

FEATURE	Who Should Use It, What Does It Do and What's New
1 View Results by Database	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View results by database using the radio button. By default, all Databases are searched unless restrictions have been made using the Search Limits option. When viewing results, only one database can be selected at a time. Number in parentheses is the number of articles retrieved for that database. Systematic Reviews includes an additional feature to limit by Reviews or Protocols.
2 Current Search Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies the search run and the database for the results being displayed. For Searches run from Search Manager, this information will include the line number of the search being run.
3 Sort Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows users to sort results by relevance, alphabetical by title or by date. Default sort is by relevancy.
4 Citation Export	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows for options to select all or a portion of results for export to a citation management software package. Supports export with or without abstracts.
5 Issue Limit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use to limit results to the most recent issue only or to all issues. When limiting by status field, default with be "Current Issue". For all other searches, default is "All issues".
6 Status Legend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a list of all statuses used in Cochrane Systematic Reviews. NEW Hover over any of the statuses to see the definition for that status. NEW

NAVIGATING RESULTS AND VIEWING ARTICLES

From the Search Results, view articles by clicking on the article title. Selecting a title opens that article in a new browser tab. Once you are done reading the article, close the browser tab to return to your search and results, retaining your previous location and database selections.

Search Browser Tab

Search Results

Search Browser Tab

Article Display

STEP 1: The Search Browser Tab indicates the page being viewed.

STEP 2: Select an article by clicking on the article title in the Search Results

Step 3: Your article opens in a new search browser tab. After reading the article, click the x to close this tab and return to your results.

QUICK SEARCH BOXES

Throughout *The Cochrane Library*, there are a number of Quick Search boxes used to perform a simple search of all the databases. These boxes will present results using the Search Tab.

SEARCH THE COCHRANE LIBRARY
Title, Abstract, Keywords
obesity
GO
or try an [Advanced Search](#)
From *The Cochrane Library* Homepage

SEARCH
Title, Abstract, Keywords
obesity
Search >
Medical Terms (MeSH) >
Search Manager >
From *The Cochrane Library* Article pages

Search Results
Search Manager Medical Terms (MeSH) Browse
Title, Abstract, Keywords obesity Go Save
Search Limits View search tips (Word variations have been searched) Add to Search Manager
Cochrane Reviews (61) There are 61 results from 7481 records for your search on 'obesity in title abstract keywords in Cochrane Reviews'
All Pages 1 - 25 | 26 - 50 | 51 - 61 Sort by Relevance
Review Protocol Other Reviews (272) Select all Export all Export selected
Trials (7593) Interventions for treating obesity in children
Methods Studies (58) Hilte Oude Lutikhuis, Louise Baur, Hanneke Jansen, Vanessa A Shrewsbury, Claire O'Malley, Ronald P Stolk and Carolyn D Summerbell
Technology Assessments (136) January 2009
Economic Evaluations (123)
Cochrane Groups (0)
All Long-term pharmacotherapy for obesity and overweight
Current Issue Raj S Padwal, Diana Rucker, Stephanie K Li, Cintia Curioni and David CW Lau
January 2009
Review

FOR USERS OF BASIC AND ADVANCED SEARCH IN THE PREVIOUS VERSION

Users of Basic and Advanced Search in the previous version on *The Cochrane Library* may benefit from the following tips.

- To run a search, hit either the GO button or the “Enter” key.
- Articles open in their own browser tab. After reading an article, close that browser tab and you will be taken back to your search results exactly where you left off.
- If you Saved Searches in the previous version and they do not appear on the Search Tab, check the Strategies Libraries on the Search Manager Tab and Saved Searches on the MeSH Tab.
- In the previous version, basic and advanced searches were automatically added to the Search History. In this version, you choose which searches from the Search Tab to keep by selecting the “Add to Search Manager” Link.
- Once you add a search from the Search Tab to the Search Manager, use the  button at the end of the line to edit it. This calls up the search tab with your search populated. Make your desired changes and complete the update by selecting the “Add to Search Manager” link.
- You must be logged in to save a search and to view saved searches. The Saved Searches link only appears if you are logged in and have at least one saved search.
- If you add limits to a search, select apply to add them and close the limit box. You must then hit the “Enter” key or the “Go” button for your search results to be updated.
- If entering two or more terms, search will “AND” the terms and find articles where all the terms appear. To search phrases, put terms in quotes.
- If you select a term from the auto-suggest list, it is automatically searched as a phrase.
- Default for search is set to title, abstract and keywords for best relevancy. If this gives too few results, try searching “All text”.
- If unsure about what a button or icon does on a search page or results, hover over it. Most icons and buttons include hover over tool tips with additional information.
- Each Search page has an expanded “Tool Tips” section available as a link on the page.
- Search Tab does not support directly typing in fields (you must use the pull downs) nor does it allow users to combine search lines. Use Search Manager for these functions.

MESH TAB – THE BASICS

Use the Medical Terms (MeSH) Tab to search for medical concepts using the Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) thesaurus. This feature allows users to search complex medical concepts using a single term without the need to type long lists of synonyms.

The screenshot shows the MeSH search interface. On the left, there are three main sections: 'Search Area', 'MeSH Browser', and 'Saved MeSH Searches'. The 'Search Area' contains a search box with 'Diabetic retin' and a dropdown menu showing suggestions like 'Diabetic Retinopathies' and 'Diabetic Retinopathy'. The 'MeSH Browser' section is divided into 'Thesaurus matches' and 'MeSH trees'. The 'Thesaurus matches' section has four categories: 'Exact Term Match', 'Phrase Matches', 'Any Word Match', and 'MeSH term - Diabetic Retinopathy'. The 'MeSH trees' section shows a tree structure for 'Diabetic Retinopathy' with options to 'Explose all trees', 'Single MeSH term (unexploded)', and 'Explose selected trees'. The 'Search results' box on the right shows 'There are 801 results for your search on' and lists various result types like 'Cochrane Reviews', 'Other Reviews', 'Trials', etc.

FEATURE	Who Should Use It, What Does It Do and What's New
<p>1 Search Box</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enter your term in the search box. As term is typed, suggested terms are presented. NEW If using the auto-suggest feature, term automatically maps to the best MeSH term. NEW If an exact or close match is not found for the term entered, review the terms under the left column, Thesaurus Match, and select the most suitable term from this list. If no MeSH terms are found, check spelling or try using other synonyms for the concept.
<p>2 Lookup MeSH Term</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hit "Enter" or the Lookup button to see MeSH terms for your concept. If using the auto-suggest feature, the term is automatically mapped to the best MeSH term for this concept. This may result in a different term being displayed in the search box then the one entered.
<p>3 Definition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides information on the definition of a MeSH term.
<p>4 Thesaurus Matches</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lists MeSH terms that contain one or more of the term(s) searched. Use this area to review MeSH terms of interest. Selecting a term from the list, will lookup that term. Exact matches are given at the top of the list. For searches with multiple terms, phrase match section, will return terms where 2 or more of the words were matched to a Mesh Heading or one of its synonyms. The third section, Any Word Match, will bring back results where any of the terms matched an existing MeSH term or synonym.
<p>5 Results Box</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides information on the search being run and any limits applied. Shows the number of articles in from each database that are indexed using the specific term. Hit "View Results" to display results at the bottom of the page. Allows users to view results, add the Mesh Search to Search Manager to build complex searches or save this MeSH search.

MeSH TAB – ADVANCED OPTIONS

For experienced users, the MeSH browser offers various features to allow users to customize their search and to add MeSH searches to Search Manager to create complex searches

The screenshot shows the MeSH browser interface with the following features highlighted by numbered callouts:

- 1**: Search qualifiers (Drug therapy - DT, Diet therapy - DH)
- 2**: MeSH tree limits (Explode all trees, Single MeSH term, Explode selected trees)
- 3**: Save search button
- 4**: Add to Search Manager link
- 5**: Saved Searches list (MeSH descriptor: [Oncology Service, Hospital] explode all trees)
- 6**: Alerts checkbox

FEATURE	Who Should Use It, What Does It Do and What's New
1 Limit by Qualifier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Select qualifiers from the pull down menu or type the two letter qualifier abbreviation in the box. If entered along with a MeSH term, that qualifier will be applied to that MeSH term. Qualifiers can also be searched on their own. For best results, lookup your MeSH term first and then only valid qualifiers are presented in the list
2 MeSH Tree Limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use to browse through trees to look for other terms that might be of interest. Default is to explode the term being searched. To search for only a specific MeSH term without any of its more specific terms (unexploded), select the "Single Mesh Term" radio button. To search a term only in specific trees, select the option "Explode in Selected trees" and check the tick box next to the trees you wish to use. You must always hit the "Select" button for these limits to be applied to your search.
3 Save MeSH Search	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use this button to save your search so you can rerun it at a later time or set an automatic alert that will notify you when new articles matching your search are loaded on <i>The Cochrane Library</i>. User must be registered and logged in to use this feature.
4 Add to Search Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use this link, to add MeSH terms within complex searches in Search Manager. Select the MeSH term you want and apply all desired limits or qualifiers. Once all limits are selected, use this link to add this MeSH search to Search Manager.
5 View Saved Searches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use this feature to view saved MeSH searches. The number following the Saved Searches heading is the number of Saved Searches the user currently has. Use the ► to view a list of all your "Saved Searches". User must be registered and logged in to use this feature.
6 Set Alerts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When selected, alerts are turned on for this search and user will receive emails every time articles matching their search are loaded on <i>The Cochrane Library</i>. Uncheck box to turn off alerts.

SEARCH MANAGER - THE BASICS

Use the Search Manger Tab to create and save complex multi-line searches. Supports the use of logical operators, field labels, nesting, and wildcards.

The screenshot shows the Search Manager interface for a search titled "Diabetes Mellitus". It features a list of search components: #1 (MeSH descriptor: [Diabetes Mellitus] explode all trees), #2 ("diabetes mellitus":ti,kw,ab), #3 (insulin next dependent), and #4 (#1 or #2 or #3). Below the search list are options to "Clear Strategy", "Save existing strategy", and "Save as new strategy". A "Strategy Library (80)" link is at the bottom. Numbered callouts 1-6 identify key features: 1 (Search Box), 2 (View Results), 3 (Add MeSH Term), 4 (Add Search Limits), 5 (Name Search), and 6 (Strategy Library).

FEATURE	Who Should Use It, What Does It Do and What's New
1 Search Box	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enter search term(s) in box and hit "Enter" or the "Go" button to search. By default on Search Manager Tab, common variants of the word are not searched. If two or more terms are entered, search will "AND" terms and find articles or selected fields where both terms appear. To search a phrase, put terms in quotes, "lung cancer" searches for that specific phrase.
2 View Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Click on the result count to view results. Results will appear at the bottom of the page.
3 Add MeSH Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the "M" button to add a MeSH term to a search. This will take you to the MeSH tab where you can select your term. Once you have selected your term and made all necessary limits, use the "Update Search Manager" button to add the MeSH term to Search Manager.
4 Add Search Limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use to add limits by database, status and dates. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit by one or more databases of <i>The Cochrane Library</i>. Search based on article status. Limit search by publication date. Enable search on term variants.
5 Name Search	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use this area to name or rename an existing saved search. When search is saved, the search name will appear at the top of the search. User must be logged in to use this feature.
6 Strategy Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use this feature to view any complex searches saved from the Search Manager Tab. The number proceeding the heading indicates the number of Saved Searches. Use the ► to view a list of all your "Saved Strategies". User must be registered and logged in to use this feature.

SEARCH MANAGER – NEW FEATURES

Insert and Delete a New Line: Insert a new line anywhere in your search. All combined search lines are automatically updated

The screenshot shows the 'Search Manager' interface with an 'Untitled Strategy'. It contains five search lines:

- #1: MeSH descriptor: [Diabetes Mellitus] explode all trees (14137 results)
- #2: MeSH descriptor: [Diabetes Complications] explode all trees (4011 results)
- #3: (Empty line, highlighted in yellow, '+' icon circled in red)
- #4: (insulin near dependen*) ti kw ab (3225 results)
- #5: #1 or #2 or #4 (15549 results)

Buttons at the bottom include 'Clear Strategy', 'View tips for Search Manager', and a checkbox for 'Highlight Orphan Lines'.

Orphan Line Detection: Use Highlight Orphan line to identify Search Lines not used in your final search line.

This screenshot shows the same 'Untitled Strategy' but with line #3 updated to: (IDDM or NIDDM or MDDY or t1DM or t2DM) ti kw ab (1822 results). The '+' icon for line #3 is circled in red. A red box highlights the text 'Row 3 is orphaned' and the 'Highlight Orphan Lines' checkbox, which is now checked.

Append a Search: Use  to append a saved search onto the end of your existing search. With this feature, a searcher can create reusable search modules.

▼ Strategy Library (7)					
	Name				Last saved ▼
1	Child filter - Finds children and teenagers				24/05/2012 19:17
2	Diabetes mellitus revised - with additional synonyms				20/05/2012 13:32
3	Diabetes Mellitus				14/05/2012 14:47
4	Diabetes treatments				14/05/2012 14:35
5	Diabetic complications				14/05/2012 14:28
6	Handwashing Strategy (Draft) - This is a strategy about XY and Z.				09/05/2012 12:00

TIPS FOR USING SEARCH MANAGER AND MeSH SEARCH

Users of Search History, Saved Search, and those who used Advanced Search to create complex searches in the previous version of *The Cochrane Library* may benefit from the following tips.

- Search Manager, replaces the previous Search History, and should be used as the primary page for building complex searches.
- When using Search Manager, we recommend saving your searches periodically. As an extra precaution to losing any work in progress, a cookie is saved to your computer that will recall your last Search Manager session when you return to your computer even if you are logged out. This prevents loss of any searches you are actively working on. Two actions will clear this cookie: selecting the clear search button or deleting cookies through your browser.
- To add a MeSH term to Search Manager, start on the Search Manager Tab, and hit the  button.
- Once you add a search from the MeSH Tab, use the  button at the end of the line to edit it. This calls up the MeSH tab with your search populated. Make your desired changes and complete the update by selecting the "Add to Search Manager" link. Changes from Search Tab can be updated in the same way using the  button.
- If you cannot find all of your saved searches in the Strategy Library, look in Saved Searches on the Search Tab and the MeSH Tab.
- Articles open in their own browser tab. After reading an article, close that browser tab and you will be taken back to your search results exactly where you left off.
- To view results for a search in Search Manager, click on the results number for that line.
- Users can now insert lines within their search and all subsequent lines will be automatically renumbered.
- Use the append  button in Strategy Library to add one search to the end of another
- The Load  button continues to clear your previous search before running the next.
- In the previous version, basic, advanced and MeSH searches were automatically added to the Search History. In this version, you choose which searches from both the Search Tab and the MeSH Tab to keep by selecting the "Add to Search Manager" Link.
- The Strategy Library link only appears if you are logged in and have at least one saved strategy.
- If you add limits to a search, select apply to add them and close the limit box. You must then hit the "Enter" key or the "Go" button for your search results to be updated.
- All former search commands are still supported in Search Manager
- If changing the MeSH tree options to search selected trees or term only, you must hit the "Select" button to add these limits
- If unsure about what a button or icon does on a search page or results, hover over it. Most icons and buttons include hover over tool tips with additional information.
- Each Search page has an expanded "Tool Tips" section available as a link on the page.

WHERE IS

For users of the previous version of The Cochrane Library, the following is a quick list of where certain features can now be found

Previously	Now Use
Basic Search	Use Search Tab Includes "NEW" auto-suggest feature.
Advanced Search	Use Search Tab Allows user to add up to 5 search lines and use pull down menus for field searching.
Search History	Use Search Manager Tab Allows users to create complex multi-line search strategies. Supports the use of logical operators, field labels, nesting, and wildcards. Use "Add to Search Manager" link to move searches from other two tabs into the Search Manager. Includes new Features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insert a Line • Highlight Orphan Lines – Lines not used in final search line • Append a Search – Add one search to the end of another with automatic adjustment for search numbering. Allows users to create reusable search modules
MeSH	Use Medical Terms (MeSH) Use to select Mesh terms and add to the Search Manager. Includes "NEW" auto-suggest feature to allow easier identification of preferred MeSH terms and synonyms. When using auto-suggest, term will be automatically mapped to the preferred MeSH term.
Saved Searches	Saved Searches now are distributed over the three search tabs depending on where they were originally created. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Search Manager – Strategy Library <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Complex, multi-line searches can be found on the Strategy Manager Tab under the Strategy Library. • Search Tab – Saved Searches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Single line searches for which alerts could be saved will appear in the Search Tab under Saved Searches. Any searches saved on this tab can have alerts assigned to them. • Medical Terms (MeSH) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Single Line MeSH saved searches appear on the Medical Terms (MeSH) Tab under Saved Mesh Searches. Any searches saved on this tab can have alerts assigned to them.