



## Finding information from low and middle income countries

1	Restricting a search by region.....	1
2	Africa-Wide Information .....	2
2.1	What is it? .....	2
2.2	How do I access it? .....	3
2.3	How do I search it? .....	3
2.4	Printing, saving, and downloading results .....	4
3	WHO Global Health Library.....	4
3.1	What is it? .....	4
3.2	How do I access it? .....	5
3.3	How do I search it? .....	5
3.4	Printing, saving, and downloading results .....	5
4	ELDIS .....	6
4.1	What is it? .....	6
4.2	How do I access it? .....	6
4.3	How do I search it? .....	6
4.4	Dealing with your results .....	7
5	British Library for Development Studies .....	7
5.1	What is it? .....	7
5.2	How do I access it? .....	7
5.3	How do I search it? .....	7
5.4	Dealing with your results .....	7

### 1 Restricting a search by region

If you want to restrict your search to a particular geographic or economic region you must include each relevant country or area in your search strategy. If I want to find papers concerned with South-East Asia, using this search term alone will not find papers that discuss Thailand or Vietnam or Cambodia specifically.

The income levels of a country are set by the World Bank. To find all the countries belonging to a specific economic group please see the listing on the World Bank webpage <http://data.worldbank.org/about/country-classifications/country-and-lending-groups>

When searching for information from a particular country or region, it is important that you search using both textwords (words in the title and abstract) and subject headings. This will ensure that you retrieve the maximum number of articles.

### **Example: searching for information from sub-Saharan Africa**

You can add 'sub sahara\* Africa' as a search term. This will find only limited articles. It will not find information which is specific to Southern Africa, or to Nigeria or to Addis Ababa.

To run a comprehensive search you should include synonyms for sub Saharan Africa, plus each country.

1. africa adj2 (east\$ or south\$ or west\$)
2. subsahara\$ adj2 africa
3. africa adj2 south adj2 sahara
4. exp "Africa South of the Sahara"/
5. Benin.mp. or Benin/
6. Burkina Faso.mp. or Burkina Faso/
- ...
52. Zimbabwe.mp. or Zimbabwe/
53. or/1-52

This country or region search can then be combined with your subject search to find articles on the subject relevant to the region of interest.

## **2 Africa-Wide Information**

### **2.1 What is it?**

Africa-Wide Information covers all aspects of African life, culture and development. It contains details of items listed in over 40 databases and 13 of these are health-specific. A broad range of material is included with items deriving from journal articles, research reports, grey literature, conference proceedings and theses. Many of these items are published in Africa.

More details of the content of Africa-Wide Information can be found at: [www.nisc.co.za/databases?id=1](http://www.nisc.co.za/databases?id=1) and the health portion of the database (African Healthline) at: [www.nisc.co.za/databases?id=62%27,%27COPYRIGHT%27](http://www.nisc.co.za/databases?id=62%27,%27COPYRIGHT%27).

## 2.2 How do I access it?

Click the link via the Library's databases pages. It can be accessed from any computer with Internet access but you will need your School username and password to login.

## 2.3 How do I search it?

Africa-Wide Information has subject headings. Click the 'Add additional thesaurus terms to query' box to include relevant subject headings in your search.

Searching: **Africa-Wide: NiPAD** | Choose Databases >

EBSCO  
HOST

malaria in Select a Field (optional) Search Clear ?

and in Select a Field (optional)

and in Select a Field (optional) Add Row

Basic Search | Advanced Search | Search History/Alerts | Preferences >

Search Options

Search modes ?

- Boolean/Phrase
- Find all my search terms
- Find any of my search terms
- SmartText Searching [Hint](#)

Add additional thesaurus terms to query

Also search within the full text of the articles

### Hints and tips

- Use the asterisk (\*) for **truncation**. So injur\* will find injury, injuries, etc.
- Use the hash (#) for **mandatory wildcard** – a character must be present. So organi#ation will find organization or organisation.
- Use the question mark (?) for to **replace a single character**. So organi?ation will find both organisation and organization.
- Use N# or W# for **proximity searching** – specify how close to one another words should appear. Use N# to find words within # words of each other, in any order, eg health N5 policy. Use W# to find words within # words of each other, in the order you have entered them, eg health W8 policy.

### Using the search history

You can use the Search History tab to combine your searches together. Tick the box next to the searches you wish to combine then choose to combine with AND, OR or NOT.

Search History/Alerts			
<a href="#">Print Search History</a>   <a href="#">Retrieve Searches</a>   <a href="#">Retrieve Alerts</a>   <a href="#">Save Searches / Alerts</a>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Select / deselect all <input type="button" value="Search with AND"/> <input type="button" value="Search with OR"/> <input type="button" value="Delete Searches"/> <input type="button" value="Refresh Search Results"/>			
Search ID#	Search Terms	Search Options	Actions
<input type="checkbox"/> S3	S1 and S2	Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	<a href="#">View Results (2127)</a> <a href="#">Revise Search</a> <a href="#">View Details</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> S2	bed net* or disease control	Expanders - Add additional thesaurus terms to query Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	<a href="#">View Results (17866)</a> <a href="#">Revise Search</a> <a href="#">View Details</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> S1	malaria	Expanders - Add additional thesaurus terms to query Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	<a href="#">View Results (53200)</a> <a href="#">Revise Search</a> <a href="#">View Details</a>

## Adding limits to your search

Click the Revise Search option, in the actions column to the left of the search results. This allows you to limit by date of publication, publication type, language etc.

## Finding related articles

Each article has a Find Similar Results link available when you view all information about the item. Clicking this will attempt to find other articles which are related to the item you are interested in. This is a useful technique if you are having difficulty finding information or if you need to ensure that you have found all relevant articles.

## 2.4 Printing, saving, and downloading results

Africa Wide Information gives you the options to print out your results, save them as a file on your computer, email them to an email address or download your results to EndNote.

First add the results you want to export to the saved folder by clicking the add icon next to each item. Once you have added all the results you want, click the folder icon at the very top of the screen to view the added items. Choose the export option you need.

# 3 WHO Global Health Library

## 3.1 What is it?

The Global Health Library is funded by the World Health Organization and is a collection of databases which contain information produced and published in the WHO regions. Coverage includes journal articles, reports, conference proceedings and theses. A significant proportion of the material is locally produced, in local languages.

It is possible to conduct very simple searches across all of the databases at once. However, to undertake more complex or targeted searches you should search the resources individually.

### 3.2 How do I access it?

The Global Health Library is freely available at [www.globalhealthlibrary.net](http://www.globalhealthlibrary.net). The regional databases are listed on the Library's databases pages, together with links. They are:

- IMEMR (Eastern Mediterranean)
- IMSEAR (South-East Asia)
- LILACS (South America)
- MedCarib (Caribbean)
- WPRIM (Western Pacific)

The African regional database (AFRO) is included in Africa-Wide Information (see section 2). I recommend you search this resource via Africa-Wide to benefit from the advanced search functionality.

### 3.3 How do I search it?

Most of the individual databases have an Advanced Form option; this allows you to enter details of three search topics at once using Boolean operators (AND & OR).

#### Hints and Tips

- The truncation symbol is the dollar sign (\$)
- Much of the information in these databases is written in the local language. Therefore it will make your search more comprehensive if you include non-English search terms if possible.
- There is no search history screen. You must include all relevant search terms on the one search screen.

### 3.4 Printing, saving, and downloading results

You can print out your results, save them as a file on your computer, email them to an email address or download your results to EndNote.

First mark the results you want to keep by ticking the box next to each result on the left. Click the 'Send Result' button at the top of the page to see the various options.

Choose the option you require from those presented. To import your results to EndNote you should save your results in the RIS format then import the file into EndNote using the RIS filter.

## 4 ELDIS

### 4.1 What is it?

ELDIS provides access to freely available full-text documents on a variety of development issues and therefore most of the content is relevant to low and middle income settings. The type of material indexed includes case studies, policy briefings, statistics, research reports, working papers and conference papers. These are sourced from a variety of organisations including NGOs, international, national or governmental organisations, academic bodies and private companies. ELDIS provided by the Institute of Development Studies in Sussex.

### 4.2 How do I access it?

ELDIS is freely available from any computer with access to the Internet at [www.eldis.org](http://www.eldis.org).

### 4.3 How do I search it?

Although there is a search option within ELDIS it is very basic and unreliable. I suggest that you browse the database to find the material that you need.

You can browse the information in ELDIS by topic or by geographical area. The main topics are listed in the green bar in the middle of the page whilst the geographical areas are listed in the white box on the right of the screen.

#### **Topic areas**

The main topic areas covered by ELDIS are:

Ageing populations	Environment	ICT for development
Agriculture	Finance Policy	Influencing policy
Aid	Food security	Migration
Children and young people	Gender	Participation
Climate change adaptation	Governance	Poverty
Conflict and security	HIV and AIDS	Trade and gender
Corporate responsibility	Health	Trade policy
Education	Health systems	Trafficking
	Human resources for health	

When you click on a topic area, you will be able to see links to the most recently added items on this topic in the middle of the page. On the left are links to sub-topics, which can also link to further sub-topics.

#### **Geographical areas**

Choose which region or country you are interested in. Links to general topics are shown on the left, together with a list of subject areas you may be interested in.

Click a link to view all of the items relating to the chosen topic in the area. On the right of the page is a link to selected websites of interest to people working in the area, these include links to local organisations, local newspapers etc.

#### 4.4 Dealing with your results

All of the information in ELDIS is available in full text. ELDIS does not have any options to export citation information to EndNote or to send items to email. Instead, it is expected that individual items will be downloaded and saved or printed.

## 5 British Library for Development Studies

### 5.1 What is it?

The BLDS are based at the University of Sussex. They selectively index details over 150 journals on social and economic development topics relevant to the developing world. Over 60% of the included journal titles are from Sub-Saharan Africa and South-East Asia.

### 5.2 How do I access it?

Freely available on any computer connected to the Internet at <http://blds.ids.ac.uk/>

### 5.3 How do I search it?

You can browse the indexed articles using the subject guides, available at <http://blds.ids.ac.uk/guides/index.html>. These will take you to all the indexed articles in key topic areas. Subjects include health, HIV/AIDS, and rural development.

It is also possible to undertake very basic searching using the Library catalogue <http://blds.ids.ac.uk/search/srchadv.html>. Use Boolean operators (AND & OR) to combine terms and the asterisk (\*) for truncation.

### 5.4 Dealing with your results

Links are provided for items freely available in full text. You will need to check other items against the LSHTM Library catalogue yourself.

It is possible to download results to EndNote. BLDS provide instructions at <http://blds.ids.ac.uk/z3950.html>.