

This guide gives brief information on how to save searches and stay up to date with the literature. There is more help on the Library webpages at www.lshtm.ac.uk/library/help/help.html.

NOTE: Not all of the resources allow you to use all of these functions. Please check the 'About this database' link on the Library databases pages or the help pages supplied with the resource itself.

Saving your search to re-run at another time

Many databases allow you to save your search so that you can re-run it at another time. This usually involves either saving your search on the database itself or saving it as a file on your own computer which can be uploaded at another time. You will usually have to register with the database in order to save your search.

Once your search is saved, you can then re-run it at any time, edit your search or delete it.

Refer to the Advanced Guides for each database or the Help screens on the databases themselves for information on how to save your search.

Saving your search as an auto alert

Some databases allow you to save your search as an auto-alert. When the database is updated (or at a time to suit you) your search is re-run against any new articles which have been added to the database since the search was last run. Any new results are then automatically emailed to you.

The option to do this is usually situated in the save search screen. Most databases allow you to specify which information you would like and in which format and how often you wish to receive an email.

You can delete or edit an auto-alert search at any time.

Refer to the Advanced Guides for each database or the Help screens on the databases themselves for information on how to set up an auto alert.

Registering to receive journal contents via email


Most electronic journals will allow you to register for updates. At their most basic, this involves being sent an email whenever a new issue is published with links to each article. You will only be able to read the full-text of the article if you have a personal subscription or if the Library has subscribed.

Some journals allow you to specify which topic(s) you are interested in. You will then receive an email with details of any article on your area of research.



RSS feeds

If you are interested in information from particular organisations or published on specific websites, you can often subscribe to an RSS feed. This is a piece of web 2.0 technology which alerts to you any updates to your webpages of interest.

 You may have seen these small orange logos appearing on webpages. These show when an RSS feed is available on the website. You can subscribe to an RSS feed using an RSS reader. This can be downloaded and installed on your computer or you can subscribe to one over the Internet which can be accessed from any PC. You then enter the web address of the RSS feed you wish to subscribe to and the reader will allow you to quickly read any new items as they are added.

The advantage of RSS feeds is that you can quickly stay up to date with several websites, all within the same page.

More information is available on the BBC website at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/help/3223484.stm>.