



Royal College  
of Surgeons  
of England

ADVANCING SURGICAL CARE



## Getting started with Surgical Library



# Welcome to the Royal College of Surgeons of England's Surgical Library: Getting started

Looking for the best tools to support your research and learning?

Our extensive online library resources are available 24/7 to support your research, clinical practice and learning needs – wherever you are, at all stages of your career. Whether you are working on a research paper or preparing for your MRCS exams, as a member you can access thousands of eJournals, eBooks and medical images.

Use this guide to:

- Discover how your membership gives you access to knowledge and help  
Get answers to questions, have literature searches carried out for you, and receive tailored 1-2-1 training from library experts.
- Learn how to use the Library resources online.

## Who this guide is for

- For members needing a printed guide (e.g. due to intermittent internet access)
- To supplement a 1-2-1 training session or online tour.

## Contents

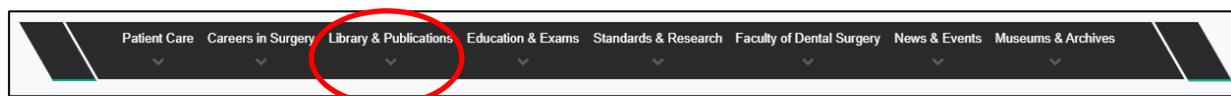
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# How to use Surgical Library

To get started, you can [book](#) an online introduction to Surgical Library, or use this guide to find out / remind you how to access the online resources yourself.

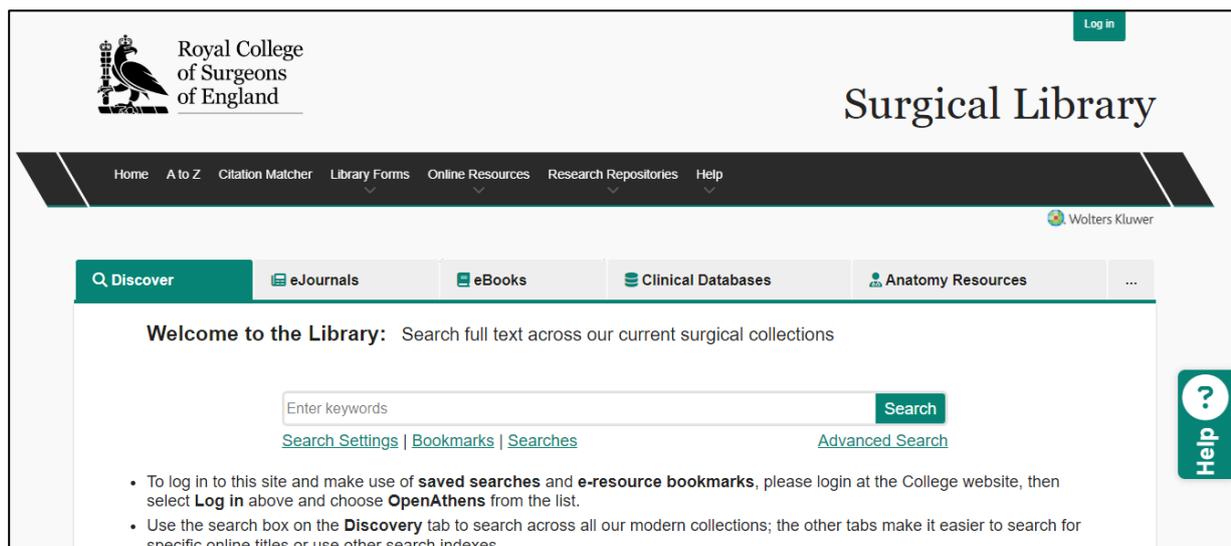
Before accessing the Library's online resources, you will need your log in details. Once you have these details, click the green **Log in** button at the top right of the [Royal College of Surgeons of England](#) website homepage.

From the homepage black menu bar, select **Library & Publications**, then choose Library options from the pull-down menu ([Library](#), [Library Catalogue](#), [Library Blog](#)).



## Surgical Library: the online Library Catalogue

Click the green **Log in** button at the top right of the Surgical Library page to log in.



Use the **Discover** search box like a search engine to look up the full text of online journals, ebooks, collections of clinical guides, and anatomy resources. If you need more help, select the green **Help?** button on the right of the page.

### What's in Surgical Library?

Surgical Library contains tabs for different types of search or publications: **eJournals, eBooks, Clinical Databases, Anatomy Resources.**

There are also tabs for archived versions of Specialty Updates (current awareness bulletins), and Heritage Collections (historical material).

## eJournals and eBooks

- Use the simple search box to search for topics, or the titles of journals, books or articles.

**Welcome to the Library:** Search full text across our current surgical collections

Enter keywords

[Search Settings](#) | [Bookmarks](#) | [Searches](#) [Advanced Search](#)

Alternatively,

- In the **eJournals** and **eBooks** tabs, you can **search for specific publication titles**.

Discover | **eJournals** | eBooks | Clinical Databases | Anatomy Resources | ...

**Library eJournals:** Search our ejournal collection

Search:

[Back to the classic search](#) | [Advanced Search](#)

Browse by subject:

Browse by letter:

?	0-9	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y
Z	All							

Browse by Surgical Specialty:



- **eJournals:** Use this tab to find the Library's collection of eJournals. Either search, or click on the Surgical Specialty buttons lower down the page to browse selected journals from that specialty. See [Help with Online journals](#) for more information.
- **eBooks:** Use this tab to find the Library's collection of eBooks. Either search, or browse by Surgical Specialty buttons lower down the page (for selected e-books on the topic).

## Clinical Databases

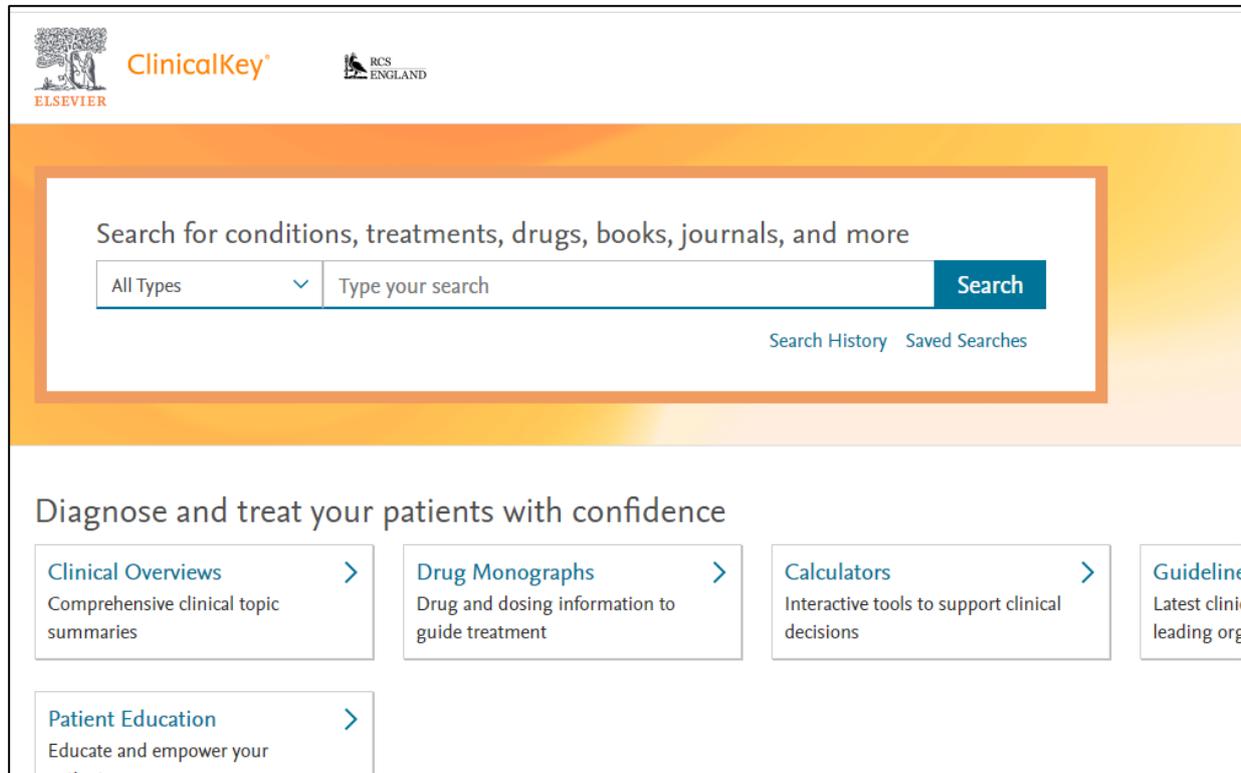
The **Clinical Databases** tab gives you access to **ClinicalKey; TripPro; MEDLINE, Embase, HMIC; and PubMed®**.

**ClinicalKey:** a large collection of clinical overviews, guides, journal articles and clinical calculators from a major medical publisher, Elsevier.

ClinicalKey has a simple search box for conditions, treatments, drugs, books, journals,

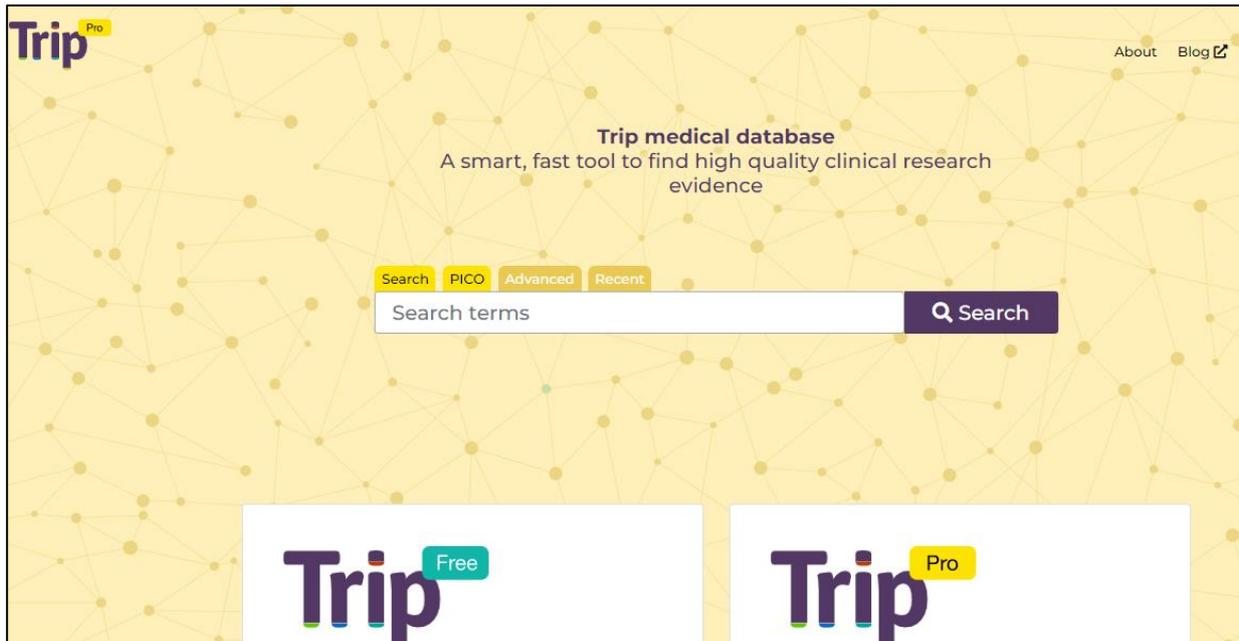
and more. It gives access to over 600 eJournals, 1,000 eBooks, 17,000 videos and 2 million images.

To access ClinicalKey, from the Clinical Databases tab click on 'Access to the latest advances in clinical knowledge', then 'Go to ClinicalKey'.



**TripPro:** a clinical search engine of selected high-quality research publications. TripPro is designed to allow users to quickly and easily find and use high-quality research evidence to support their practice. It is particularly useful for seeing the levels of evidence on a topic.

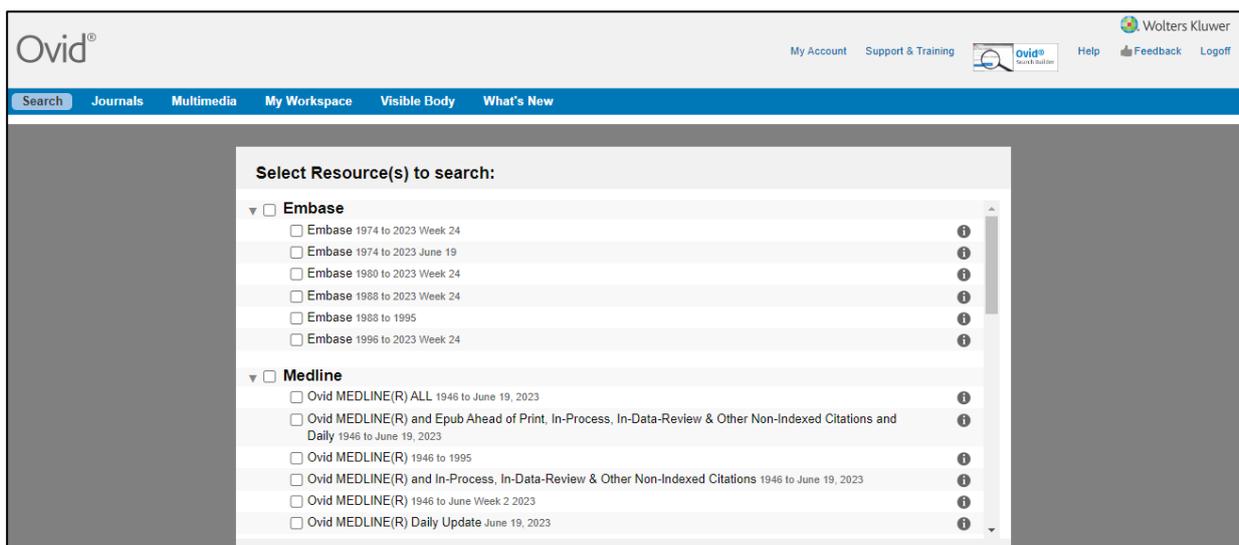
To access TripPro, from the Clinical Databases tab click on 'Find high quality clinical research evidence' then 'Go to TripPro'.



**MEDLINE, Embase, HMIC:** MEDLINE and Embase are two of the largest, most up-to-date databases of medical journal articles and conference abstracts. HMIC is a smaller database of health and social care management and policy.

The Ovid database platform allows you to build up simple or complex searches in MEDLINE, Embase and HMIC, with direct links to RCS England Library subscriptions where available.

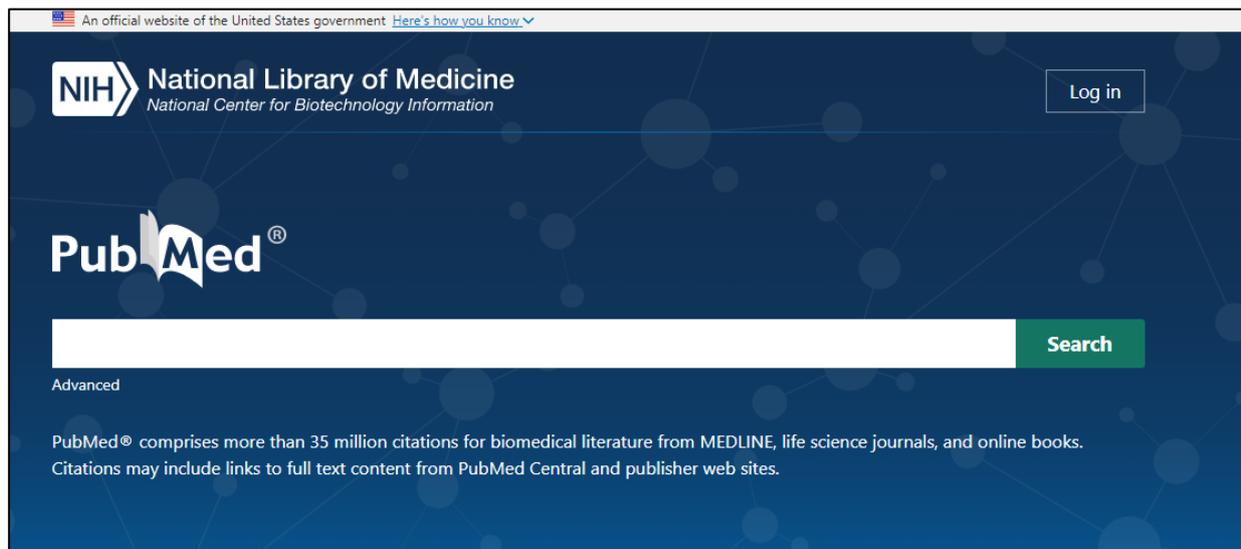
To access Ovid, from the Clinical Databases tab click on 'The world's most trusted medical research platform' then 'Go to Ovid'. Select individual databases Embase, MEDLINE, or HMIC.



## PubMed®:

PubMed contains more than 34 million citations for biomedical literature. Use this route of access to search PubMed and display links in the results to RCS England Library subscriptions, where available.

To access Ovid, from the Clinical Databases tab click on 'From the US National Library of Medicine' then 'Go to PubMed'.



Library staff can show you how to get the best out of searching these databases. Please [contact us](#) to book training.

## Anatomy resources

Click the **Anatomy** tab to visit detailed anatomy resources, including videos/3D visualisations:

- Acland's video atlas of human anatomy
- Visible Body: Human anatomy atlas

## How to find or request the full-text of an article or book

### Log in and search

- **Logging in.**  
To log in to the [Surgical Library](#), please login at [Royal College of Surgeons of England](#) website, then select Log in and choose OpenAthens from the list.
- **Searching Surgical Library.**  
Use the search box at the Discovery tab as a simple search, or search for specific publication titles in the eJournals and eBooks tabs.  
Searches are saved under 'My searches' and you can click the yellow star under each citation to bookmark items (click 'Bookmarks' to view them later).

- Many of our resources are **available online in full-text**: please note that you will need to log in at the College website before accessing these.

### How do I know whether I have access to full text?

If you are logged in to Surgical Library, you will see your initials at the top right of the webpage. If you see a green **Log in** button - please click on it to log in.

After carrying out a search, look at the individual record you want to see in full text. At the bottom left is a pdf icon next to 'View full text'



**Inflammatory bowel disease position statement of the Ita...** Article

Pellino G., Keller D.S., Sampietro... - Techniques in Coloproctology , 2020

The Italian Society of Colorectal Surgery (SICCR) promoted the project reported here, which consists of a Position Statement of Italian colorectal

Read more ▾

  [View full text](#) | [Cited By \(9\)](#) | [View complete issue](#)

Click on 'View full text'.

NB further login may be needed at this point, as some providers don't recognise that you are already logged in. See [Help with Online journals](#) for help with individual publishers' pages.

If full text is not available, see Document delivery.

### Document delivery

- If full text is not available when you search Surgical Library and click on 'View full text', you will see **Request Document from the Library**. **Fill out this form** so library staff can contact you if they can find a copy of the article. There may be a small charge (which you will be informed about) as the full text may need purchasing from another library.
- Alternatively, send the list of articles you are interested in to: [Library@rcseng.ac.uk](mailto:Library@rcseng.ac.uk).

The **Document Delivery** page gives more information about [How to request](#), including costs.

For other options for accessing full text – see below.

# Library services

[Library services](#) can help you get more out of Surgical Library:

## Literature search help

- Ask one of our experienced Information Specialists to [search the literature](#) on your behalf. Choose from a quick search, comprehensive search, or search to support systematic review.
- Have your search strategy reviewed by an Information Specialist, with helpful feedback.
- Book 1-2-1 online sessions on literature searching tailored to your experience and needs. We can train you on searching databases, including MEDLINE, Embase, and the Cochrane Library.

For literature search or training enquiries, email [evidencesupport@rcseng.ac.uk](mailto:evidencesupport@rcseng.ac.uk)

## Other search training guides

- Basics of literature searching for surgery
- Searching MEDLINE and Embase for surgery
- Searching Cochrane Library for surgery
- Reporting surgical search results

## Online journal access / Athens help

Email [library.athens@rcseng.ac.uk](mailto:library.athens@rcseng.ac.uk) or phone 020 7869 6556 (9am - 5pm).

## Document supply help

Please click on <https://www.rcseng.ac.uk/library-and-publications/library/guide-to-services/document-delivery/>

## Contact details

### Library and Archives Team

The Royal College of Surgeons of England  
38-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields  
London WC2A 3PE

General library enquiries: [Library@rcseng.ac.uk](mailto:Library@rcseng.ac.uk) or 020 7869 6555 (9am - 5pm)  
Or [Contact us](#) via a web form.

This training guide has been produced by the Evidence Support Team, Library & Archives, Royal College of Surgeons of England, January 2025.