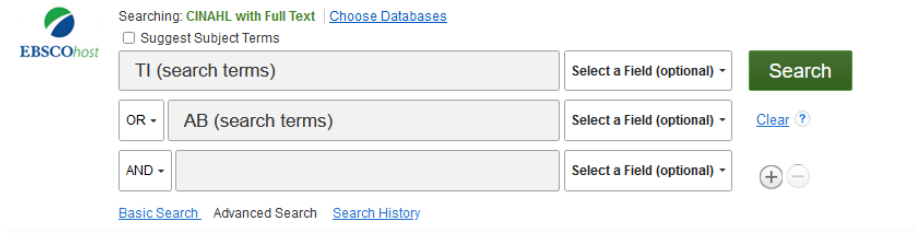


# Tip Sheet: EBSCOhost Databases

## Suggested Field Tags:

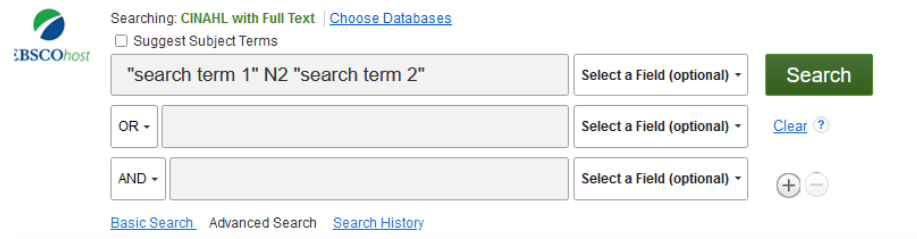
One of the ways that key word searches can be narrowed in databases when running a comprehensive and systematic search is through the use of field tags – most commonly those associated with title, abstract, and key words. The specific field tags that can/should be used differ by database. **In EBSCOhost databases, we recommend TI or AB**, which searches the title and abstract. Due to limitations of the EBSCO platform, title and abstract searches cannot be done in a single search string and must be separated into different search lines.



The screenshot shows the EBSCOhost search interface. At the top left is the EBSCOhost logo. The search bar contains the text "TI (search terms)". To the right of the search bar is a dropdown menu labeled "Select a Field (optional)". Below the search bar is a green "Search" button. Below the search bar are two more search lines. The first line has a dropdown menu labeled "OR" and the text "AB (search terms)". The second line has a dropdown menu labeled "AND" and is empty. To the right of the second search line is a "Clear ?" button. At the bottom of the search bar are two buttons: a plus sign and a minus sign. At the bottom of the page are three links: "Basic Search", "Advanced Search", and "Search History".

## Proximity Operators:

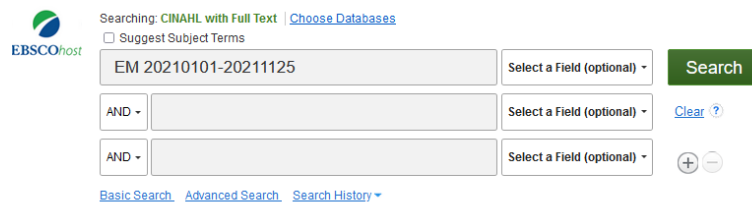
Proximity operators in databases allow you to search for one word/phrase within a certain proximity to another word. For example, you could use a proximity operator to find the word *systematic* *within two words of* the word *protocol*. Proximity operators are best used to create relationships or associations between words that cannot be accomplished through phrase searching and other search functions. **In EBSCOhost databases, the proximity operator is N#.**



The screenshot shows the EBSCOhost search interface. At the top left is the EBSCOhost logo. The search bar contains the text "\"search term 1\" N2 \"search term 2\"". To the right of the search bar is a dropdown menu labeled "Select a Field (optional)". Below the search bar is a green "Search" button. Below the search bar are two more search lines. The first line has a dropdown menu labeled "OR" and is empty. The second line has a dropdown menu labeled "AND" and is empty. To the right of the second search line is a "Clear ?" button. At the bottom of the search bar are two buttons: a plus sign and a minus sign. At the bottom of the page are three links: "Basic Search", "Advanced Search", and "Search History".

## Updating a Search:

When you need to update a search that you have previously performed, best practice is to use database commands that *capture the records entered into the database* after the date of the last search run where such commands are available. Due to a lag between an items publication and its inclusion in the database, entry date is not always the same as publication date, making it a less precise search option that should only be used in cases where the database is not able to distinguish between the two. **In EBSCOhost databases, the command for updating a search differs by the specific database on the platform. In CINAHL, the command is EM YYYYMMDD-EMYYYYMMDD. In PsycINFO, the command is RD YYYYMMDD-YYYYMMDD.**



The screenshot shows the EBSCOhost search interface. At the top left is the EBSCOhost logo. The search bar contains the text "EM 20210101-20211125". To the right of the search bar is a dropdown menu labeled "Select a Field (optional)". Below the search bar is a green "Search" button. Below the search bar are two more search lines. The first line has a dropdown menu labeled "AND" and is empty. The second line has a dropdown menu labeled "AND" and is empty. To the right of the second search line is a "Clear ?" button. At the bottom of the search bar are two buttons: a plus sign and a minus sign. At the bottom of the page are three links: "Basic Search", "Advanced Search", and "Search History".