What is current awareness?

During your studies, research and professional working life you will be expected to keep abreast of the latest developments within your study/work area. This may be at various levels:

- Current news – such as issues affecting healthcare, the NHS and its services
- Professional news – latest developments and guidance affecting your profession
- Research news – in-depth awareness of research in your study/work area

How can I keep up-to-date?

You can keep up-to-date in a range of ways, depending on your information needs, for example:

- Reading a good quality newspaper or news website; following news TV programmes or radio shows
- Receiving regular updates from your professional body such as via newsletters or bulletins
- Sign-up to get updates from key journals in your study or work area
- Set up search alerts to ensure that you are informed when new material is published on your topic
- Read professional blogs or follow relevant Twitter feeds

How can the Health Library help?

The Health Library has gathered together a number of useful resources to help you to keep up-to-date. You can find these on our website at:

[www.keele.ac.uk/healthlibrary/find/currentawareness](http://www.keele.ac.uk/healthlibrary/find/currentawareness)

Health Library Current Awareness Service

The Health Library Current Awareness Service allows you to:

- Browse the latest headlines from subject specific journals and websites
- Sign-up to email alerts to keep you informed of the latest headlines and published research
- Link to our subscribed resources

We use third-party tools (Netvibes, Feedburner and Yahoo Pipes) to deliver this service but you don’t need to join anything in order to access the pages or sign-up for updates.
Here we have pages which list all the latest headlines and research published in a range of different journals for specific topic areas, as well as more general health-related news and professional updates.

Example of a current awareness page:

Resources include Keele and NHS subscriptions as well as freely available Internet resources. You may not get immediate access to all the full-text – check our journals lists for access details.

If you would like to see other topics added here then get in touch with our eResources Librarian via http://www.keele.ac.uk/healthlibrary/aboutus/contactus/

Signing-Up for Journal Updates

Many journals, organisations and news services allow you to register for their alerts, newsletters and bulletins. Generally you will then receive an email on a regular basis containing news and recently published material.

You can start by searching for the relevant home page and looking for sign-up options.

You can also use a database service for news of journal table of contents (TOCs), such as Zetoc (subscribed service available to Keele users) or JournalTOCs (freely available, requires registration). These services often allow you to set up an alert based on specific search criteria. However, be aware that these services may have a limited selection of journal titles available.

Creating Search Alerts.

Database alerts (NHS Evidence HDAS)
When running a literature search through NHS Evidence HDAS healthcare databases, there is the option to save a search or create alerts to notify you of any new material relating to your specific topic.

See our guide “Setting Up Alerts on NHS Databases” on the Online Tutorials & Support section of our website.
**Database alerts (Keele)**

When running a literature search through the Keele Ebsco healthcare databases (such as Cinahl or Medline), you can create alerts based on your search criteria. You need to create a personal login for My EBSCHost. You can then use the “Save Searches / Alerts” option to create an alert. Alternately use the RSS icon on your results list to create an update feed.

**RSS Feeds**

Some resources publish RSS feeds. These are feeds of their latest news and published research. You can often identify these by this image: 📛
You will need to sign-up to a Feed Reader in order to view the latest entries in an RSS feed. This allows you to view all your RSS feeds in one place at your own convenience, instead of checking a number of different websites looking for updates.

**Social Networking**

Social networking tools can be used to keep in touch with organisations, colleagues and influential people in your study/work area as well as to promote your own academic, research or professional interests.
You can:
- Join networks – professional, academic or research-based
- Follow health-related and research-based people and organisations on Twitter
- Follow research blogs

See our website for more details.

**Where should I Start?**

Why not start by keeping up-to-date with the latest news from the Health Library?
You can:
- Sign-up to follow our blog to get the latest information from the Health Library: [http://hlnews.blogspot.co.uk/](http://hlnews.blogspot.co.uk/)
- Find us on Facebook: [http://www.facebook.com/ceclibrary](http://www.facebook.com/ceclibrary)
- Follow us on Twitter: [http://www.twitter.com/ceclibrary](http://www.twitter.com/ceclibrary)

Why not take a look at our Current Awareness Service; here you can:
- Sign-up for health-related news from a number of news outlets and the department of health
- Sign-up to our professional updates, either medical, midwifery or nursing
- Sign-up to our specific topic pages [http://www.netvibes.com/healthlibrary_northstaffs#Welcome](http://www.netvibes.com/healthlibrary_northstaffs#Welcome)

**Need More Help**

For more help: See guides on the Online Tutorials & Support section of our website: [http://www.keele.ac.uk/healthlibrary/training/online/](http://www.keele.ac.uk/healthlibrary/training/online/)