SEARCHING CINAHL
Cumulative Index to Nursing & Allied Health Literature

CINAHL - Basic Search
Section Objectives

• Learn how to access CINAHL Basic Search
• Review how to construct a research question and use important words from the question in searches
• Identify when it is best to use CINAHL Basic versus Advanced Search
Getting to the Basic Search Screen

The default search option for our CINAHL database is “Advanced Search”

To perform a quick, yet effective search in CINAHL, click on the words “Basic Search” under the search box.
CINAHL Basic Search

What is your research topic? Write at least two sentences about it on paper.

Underline the important words in your sentences.

Example:

Research Topic: People who are poor may have trouble locating health care. The places where they live may also offer less and little variety of healthcare services.

CINAHL Basic Search

Using the Basic Search box, type at least two of the important words you want to use in the search, leaving a space between each word or phrase.

Example:

Poor ______ locating _______ healthcare services
CINAHL Basic Search

Spaces were left between the important words so you can decide which “Boolean Logic Operator” should be typed between each word.

Boolean Operators are simple words (AND, OR, NOT or AND NOT) used as conjunctions to combine or exclude keywords in a search, resulting in more focused and productive results.

Refer to the following slide for information on “Boolean Logic Operators”.

Boolean Logic Operators
CINAHL Basic Search

Below are the words that are to be typed in the Basic Search box.

Poor _________ locating _________ healthcare services

Now, that you know about Boolean logic or connector words, use the right ones for your search statement.

**Example:**

Poor AND locating AND healthcare services

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CINAHL Basic Search

With your search statement complete, run it by clicking on the button Search next to the CINAHL search box.

How many results did you get?
CINAHL Basic Search…Keep in Mind

CINAHL Basic Search is useful for exploring what is in the literature on your topic.

Consider making a short list of more important text words to use in future Basic and Advanced Searches.

Visit the video tutorial on the Internet to learn how to search this version of CINAHL Basic Search.

EBSCOhost – CINAHL Basic Searching Tutorial http://youtu.be/2x1cbX2v-pI
CINAHL - Advanced Search
Section Objectives

• Learn how to access CINAHL Advanced Search

• Review how to add important words from a search question into the Advanced Search box

• Watch video tutorials on using CINAHL Advanced Search

CINAHL Advanced Search Page
Getting to Advanced Search

- The default search option for our CINAHL database is **Advanced Search**.

- Search using **CINAHL Subject Headings / MeSH Subject Heading** (also called Subject Terms).

CINAHL Advanced Search

- Search with CINAHL Headings

- CINAHL Headings versus MEDLINE’s Medical Subject Headings (also called MeSH)
CINAHL Subject Headings / MeSH Headings

Subject terms are assigned based on article content, allowing you to create a targeted search.

When you click the Suggest Subject Terms box above the Find field prior to conducting a search, your terms are searched against the CINAHL Headings or MeSH Headings authority, depending on the database being searched.

From there, you can select headings and subheadings to refine your search.

CINAHL Advanced Search

Make some decisions about a CINAHL Heading

• Should I “Explode” a Heading Term?
  http://support.ebsco.com/knowledge_base/detail.php?id=1097

• Should I Search a Heading Term as a “Major Concept”?
  http://support.ebsco.com/knowledge_base/detail.php?id=1099
CINAHL Advanced Search

• Click the link below for a video titled “Creating an Advanced Search – Guided Style Find Fields” from EBSCOhost.

  • http://youtu.be/JT-yMu6gvVM

CINAHL Advanced Search…Keep in Mind

• Advanced Search is ideal to locate all the citations on your topic for a literature review or systematic review.

• A powerful way to use Advanced Search is through searching using CINAHL Subject Headings (also called Subject Terms).
CINAHL & EndNote

- Consider taking the Introduction to EndNote Workshop at a George F. Smith Library.

- [http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/smith/library_workshops](http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/smith/library_workshops)

- Bookmark this web page and visit often for tutorials on using EndNote with databases such as CINAHL.

  [http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/health_sciences/endnote_help](http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/health_sciences/endnote_help)

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For more information

Contact a Rutgers reference librarian to learn more features that can help you maximize using CINAHL Advanced Search at

(973) 972 - 4358

[http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/smith/library_departments](http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/smith/library_departments)
CINAHL Special Searches

Section Objectives

- List some special searches you can perform in CINAHL
- Learn how to refine or apply limits to search results
CINAHL
About Special Searches

• Examples of special searches in CINAHL include using the Limits or Search Options features to find articles including, continuing education, evidence-based medicine, peer-reviewed citations and legal cases.

• You may even want to Limit to articles for a date range (e.g., 2007-2014).

CINAHL
More Limits….More Problems?

• As a rule, apply no more than three (3) Limits to a search at a time.

• You can always click the Refine Search button and check off more Limits to help the computer hone in on specific search results.
CINAHL
Limit to Continuing Education Units CEU’s

CINAHL
Limit Citations by a Clinical Queries
CINAHL
Limit to Evidence Based Practice (EBP) Citations

CINAHL
Limit Results to Legal Cases
CINAHL
Example Results – Legal Cases

CINAHL
Limit by Publication Date
CINAHL
Limit to Articles by Research Instrument

CINAHL
Limit to Articles that are Scholarly (Peer-Reviewed or Refereed)
Scholarly vs Peer Reviewed Articles

- All scholarly journals are **NOT** peer-reviewed. While not all scholarly journals go through the peer review process, it is usually safe to assume that a peer reviewed journal is also scholarly.

- Remember, just because a journal is peer reviewed does not guarantee that all articles in it are included in the peer review process. Some article types, such as news items, editorials and book and article reviews, may not be peer reviewed.

- Verify if a journal accepts peer-reviewed submissions by using Google.com to go to the journal’s home page; see the section on “instructions for authors”.

CINAHL

Conclusion

The Library schedule for workshops on CINAHL and EndNote in the Smith Library is located at

http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/smith/library_workshops

For more help call the reference desk at 973-972-4358

Use the Smith Library’s Ask-a-Librarian form at

http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/smith/forms/ask_a_librarian