



**SEARCHING CINAHL**  
Cumulative Index to Nursing & Allied  
Health Literature



**CINAHL** *Plus with Full Text*  
Available via EBSCOhost®



**CINAHL - Basic Search**  
**Section Objectives**

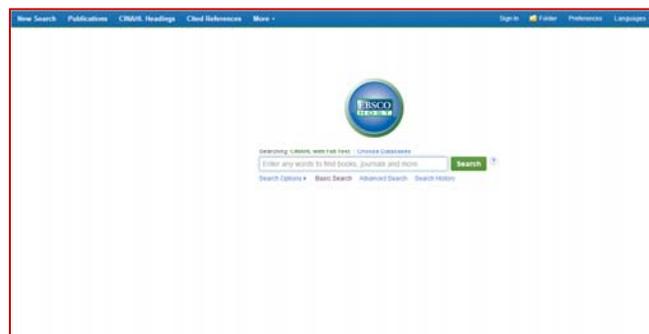
- Learn how to access CINAHL Basic Search
- Review how to construct a research question and use important words from the question in searches
- Identify when it is best to use CINAHL Basic versus Advanced Search

## 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.

## Basic Search Page





## 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

BASIC SEARCHING	EXAMPLES	OPERATOR	WHAT IT DOES & WHEN TO USE IT
Quotation marks "	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires words to searched as a phrase, in the exact order you type them.</li> </ul> <p>"working mothers" "affirmative action"</p>	<p><b>AND NOT</b></p>  <p>dogs AND NOT cats excludes pages that mention cats, even if they also mention dogs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Excludes documents containing whatever follows it.</li> <li>The AND NOT operator is generally used after you have performed a search, looked at the results, and determined that you do not want to see pages containing some word or phrase.</li> <li>USES: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The AND NOT operator should be used with extreme caution, because it eliminates the entire page, and some pages may be of value to you for other information they contain. I almost never use and not for this reason.</li> <li>"global warming" AND "sea level rise" AND NOT california - The first two terms must be somewhere and any page containing california will be thrown out.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Common Words Usually Ignored + or ~ or - to search them	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Search which versus that.</li> <li>Only versus is searched on. Which and that are ignored.</li> <li>To require common words to be searched:</li> </ul> <p>+which versus +that "which versus that"</p>	<p><b>NEAR</b></p> <p>dogs NEAR cats requires both terms, like AND, with the added requirement that they be within 16 words of each other Available in Exalead.com only</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires the term following it to occur within a certain proximity of the preceding word in the search. In Exalead.com, NEAR requires the terms to be within 16 words of each other in either direction.</li> <li>Joining words by NEAR gives you fewer documents than AND, because it requires the words to be closer together.</li> <li>USES: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NEAR operator is used when you want to require that certain terms appear in the same sentence or paragraph of the document.</li> <li>"global warming" NEAR "sea level rise" - Requires the two phrases to occur within 16 words of each other, in either direction.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Excluding ~word ~"phrase in quotes"	<p>"acute pancreatitis" diet -cat -dog -"pancreatic cancer"</p>	<p>( ) parentheses: "Nesting"</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Require the terms and operators that occur inside them to be searched first. This is called "nesting."</li> <li>Parentheses MUST BE USED to group terms joined by OR when there is any other Boolean operator in the search. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"global warming" AND "sea level rise" AND (california OR "pacific coast") - Requires first two terms somewhere in all documents, and either california or pacific coast.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Parentheses also MUST BE USED with NEAR: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>("global warming" NEAR "sea level rise") AND (california OR "pacific coast") - Requires sea level rise to be within 16 words of global warming; the rest can be anywhere in the pages. The parentheses guarantee that the effect of near stops with sea level rise.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
OR allows more than one term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OR requires at least one of the terms joined by it to appear somewhere in the document, in any order.</li> </ul> <p>"african americans" OR blacks ear OR nose OR throat</p>	<p>infopoeple training is logically the same as infopeople and training</p>	
dogs OR cats allows pages with at least one of the terms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The more words you enter connected by OR, the more documents you get. Broadens the search.</li> <li>USES: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The OR operator is generally used to join similar, equivalent, or synonymous concepts.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>"global warming" OR "greenhouse effect"</p>	<p>dogs AND cats is the small overlap where both terms occur</p>	
AND (default)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AND is the default and only needs to be typed if you are using other Boolean operators with ( ).</li> </ul> <p>infopoeple training is logically the same as infopeople and training</p>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The more words you enter connected by AND, the fewer documents you get. All your words will be searched on</li> <li>USES: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The AND operator is generally used to join different kinds of concepts, different aspects of the question.</li> <li>"global warming" AND "sea level rise" AND california</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

## 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

## 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?





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## **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**.



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## **CINHAL Basic Search...Keep in Mind**

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-pl>



## CINAHL - Advanced Search Section Objectives

- Learn how to access CINAHL **Advanced Search**
- Review how add important words from a search question into the **Advanced Search** box
- Watch video tutorials on using CINAHL Advanced Search

## CINAHL Advanced Search Page

The screenshot displays the CINAHL Advanced Search interface. At the top, there is a search bar with a search button and a 'Clear' button. Below the search bar are several dropdown menus for selecting search fields. The main section is titled 'Search Options' and contains various filters and expanders. On the left, there are sections for 'Search Modes and Expanders' (with options like Boolean Phrase, Find all my search terms, Find any of my search terms, and SmartFull searching), 'Limit your results' (with options for Full Text, Abstract Available, Published Date, Peer Reviewed, Exclude Pro-CINAHL, Exclude MEDLINE records, and Meta-Synthesis), and 'References Available' (with options for Author, Publication, English Language, Research Article, Search Only Pro-CINAHL, Evidence-Based Practice, and Clinical Queries). On the right, there are options for 'Apply related words' and 'Also search within the full text of the articles'.

## 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)

The screenshot shows the CINAHL database search interface. The 'CINAHL Headings' tab is highlighted with a red box. The search form includes a search bar, a 'Search' button, and a 'Clear' button. Below the search bar are three rows of 'AND' dropdown menus and 'Select a Field (optional)' dropdown menus. At the bottom, there are links for 'Basic Search', 'Advanced Search', and 'Search History'.



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## 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.



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## 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](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](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).



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## 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)



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**CINAHL Special Searches  
Section Objectives**

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



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## 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).



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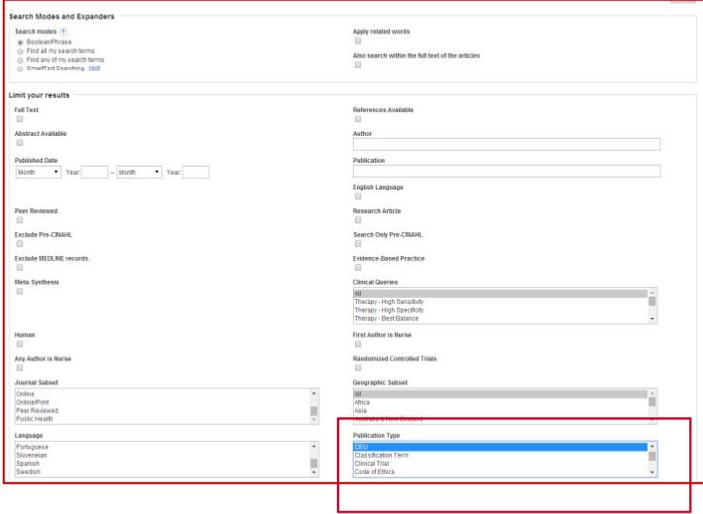
## CINAHL More Limits....More Problems?

- 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.

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# CINAHL

## Limit to Continuing Education Units CEU's

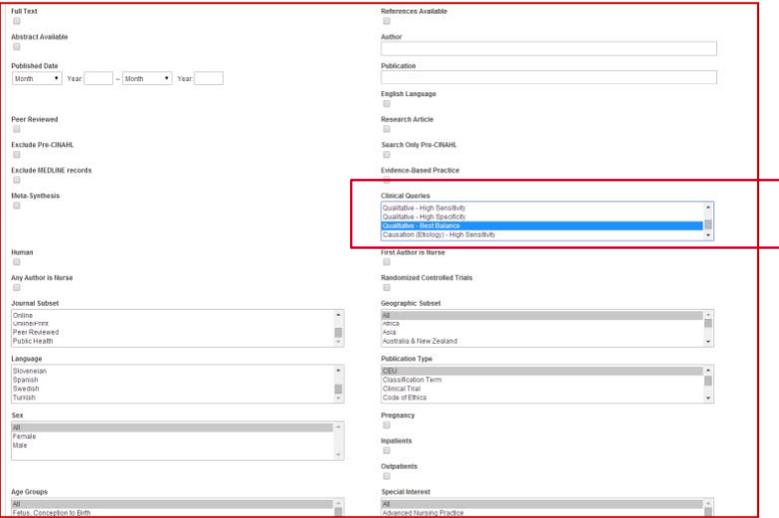


The screenshot shows the CINAHL search interface with various filters. A red box highlights the 'Publication Type' dropdown menu, which is expanded to show 'Continuing Education Unit' as the selected option. Other filters include 'Search Modes and Expanders', 'Limit your results', 'References Available', 'Peer Reviewed', 'Exclude Pre-CINAHL', 'Exclude MEDLINE records', 'Meta-Synthesis', 'Human', 'Any Author is Nurse', 'Journal Subset', 'Language', 'Sex', 'Age Groups', 'English Language', 'Research Article', 'Search Only Pre-CINAHL', 'Evidence-Based Practice', 'Clinical Queries', 'First Author is Nurse', 'Randomized Controlled Trials', 'Geographic Subset', and 'Special Interest'.

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# CINAHL

## Limit Citations by a Clinical Queries



The screenshot shows the CINAHL search interface with various filters. A red box highlights the 'Clinical Queries' dropdown menu, which is expanded to show 'Qualitative - High Sensitivity' as the selected option. Other filters include 'Full Text', 'Abstract Available', 'Published Date', 'Peer Reviewed', 'Exclude Pre-CINAHL', 'Exclude MEDLINE records', 'Meta-Synthesis', 'Human', 'Any Author is Nurse', 'Journal Subset', 'Language', 'Sex', 'Age Groups', 'References Available', 'Author', 'Publication', 'English Language', 'Research Article', 'Search Only Pre-CINAHL', 'Evidence-Based Practice', 'First Author is Nurse', 'Randomized Controlled Trials', 'Geographic Subset', 'Publication Type', 'Frequency', 'Inpatients', 'Outpatients', and 'Special Interest'.

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## CINAHL Limit to Evidence Based Practice (EBP) Citations

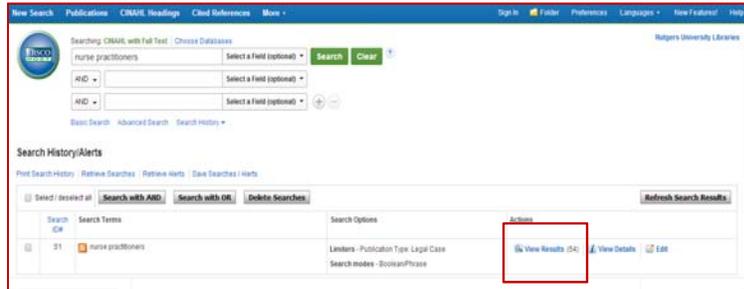
The screenshot shows the CINAHL search interface with various filters. A red box highlights the 'Evidence-Based Practice' section, which includes 'Clinical Queries' (Therapy - High Sensitivity, Therapy - High Specificity, Therapy - Best Balance), 'First Author is Nurse', 'Randomized Controlled Trials', 'Geographic Subset' (Africa, Asia, Australia & New Zealand), 'Publication Type' (Abstract, Academic Journal, Algorithm), 'Frequency', 'Inpatients', 'Outpatients', and 'Special Interest' (Emergency Care, Gerontological Care, Home Health Care). The 'Special Interest' dropdown is open, showing 'Gerontological Care' selected. Other filters include 'Exclude Pre-CINAHL', 'Exclude MEDLINE records', 'Meta-Synthesis', 'Human', 'Any Author is Nurse', 'Journal Subset', 'Language', 'Sex', 'Age Groups', 'Number of Pages', and 'Image Quick View Types'.

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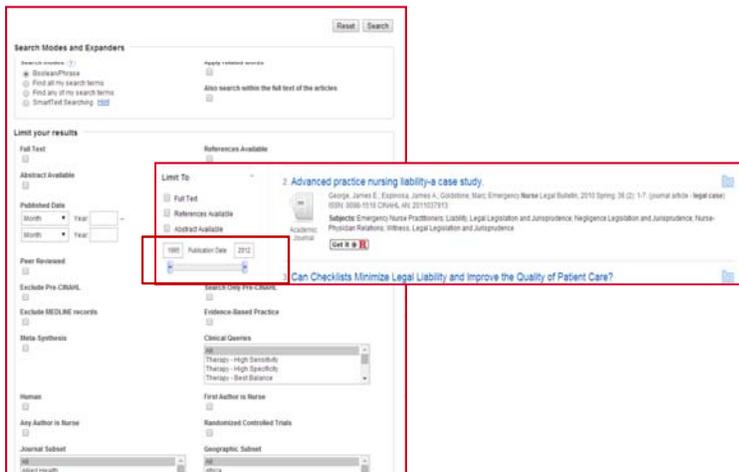
## CINAHL Limit Results to Legal Cases

The screenshot shows the CINAHL search interface with various filters. A red box highlights the 'Publication Type' dropdown menu, which is open and shows 'Legal Case' selected. Other filters include 'Exclude Pre-CINAHL', 'Exclude MEDLINE records', 'Meta-Synthesis', 'Human', 'Any Author is Nurse', 'Journal Subset', 'Language', 'Sex', 'Age Groups', 'Number of Pages', 'Image Quick View Types', 'Search Only Pre-CINAHL', 'Evidence-Based Practice', 'Clinical Queries', 'First Author is Nurse', 'Randomized Controlled Trials', 'Geographic Subset', 'Frequency', 'Inpatients', 'Outpatients', 'Special Interest', and 'PDF Full Text'.

# CINAHL Example Results – Legal Cases

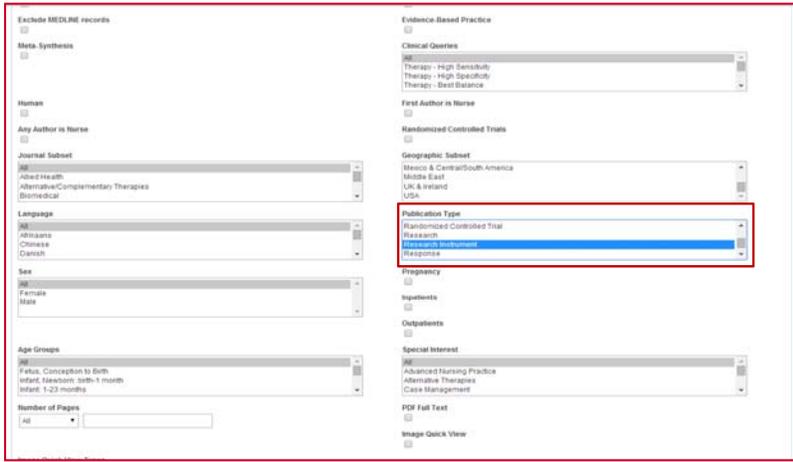


# CINAHL Limit by Publication Date



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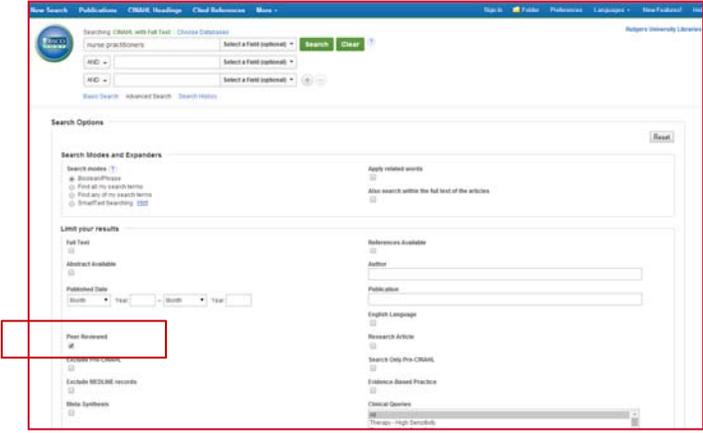
## CINAHL Limit to Articles by Research Instrument



The screenshot shows the CINAHL search interface with various filters. The 'Publication Type' dropdown menu is highlighted with a red box, and 'Randomized Controlled Trial' is selected. Other visible filters include 'Exclude MEDLINE records', 'Meta Synthesis', 'Human', 'Any Author is Nurse', 'Journal Subset', 'Language', 'Sex', 'Age Groups', 'Evidence-Based Practice', 'Clinical Queries', 'Randomized Controlled Trials', 'Geographic Subset', 'Frequency', 'Inpatients', 'Outpatients', 'Special Interest', 'PDF Full Text', and 'Image Quick View'.

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



The screenshot shows the CINAHL search options page. In the 'Limit your results' section, the 'Peer Reviewed' checkbox is checked and highlighted with a red box. Other options include 'Full Text', 'Abstract Available', 'Published Date', 'Exclude MEDLINE records', 'Meta Synthesis', 'Evidence-Based Practice', 'Clinical Queries', 'Therapy - High Sensib...', 'Therapy - High Specific...', and 'Therapy - Best Balance'.



## 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](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](http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/smith/forms/ask_a_librarian)