



# CINAHL: Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health

CINAHL can be used from the Medical Center Library’s Website at <http://www.mclibrary.duke.edu>. There are several ways to approach a search – by using CINAHL subject headings (*recommended*), keywords, or both.

## 1 CINAHL Headings describe the topic of the article

- Click on **CINAHL Headings** in the blue bar at the top of the screen.
- Search each unique concept from your question or topic separately. Enter a term for the concept and click **Browse**.
- Find the heading most relevant to the concept and click on it to see broader and narrower headings. The terms indented under a broad heading are its narrower terms. A “+” in the **Tree View** also indicates narrower headings that can be displayed.
- Check the box next to the term you want to include in your search. Check the **Explode** box to include all the narrower headings. (*Leave the subheading box unchecked.*)
- Click on **Search Database** at the far right.
- You should repeat this process for each concept in your question and then combine search sets using the **Search History** link.

## 2 Keywords – Words that appear in the record (e.g. title or abstract)

1. Enter words or phrases that describe your topic in the search box. Put each unique concept in a separate box.
2. Combine keywords by using “**AND**” or “**OR**” from the drop down menus in the search box.
3. Click **Search**.



### 3 Combining Terms

“**OR**” will retrieve **either term** in the reference and is used to combine terms similar in meaning.

“**AND**” will retrieve **all the terms** in the same reference and is used to combine all concepts in the article.

### 4 Search History (Combining Results)

Use this link to display a history of your searches (search “sets”). You can combine these sets by checking the boxes for individual sets and then clicking on either the **Search with AND** or **Search with OR** button. (Note: It may be necessary to clear the **Search** box first before adding in new set numbers!)

### 5 Limiting or Refining Your Combined Search Results



Common limits include **English Language, Publication Date, Peer Reviewed, Age Groups, and Publication Types.**

Limiting to **Research Article** retrieves reports of studies or systematic reviews. **Peer Reviewed** will limit to articles in peer reviewed journals.

**Note:** Once limiting options are set, they are applied to subsequent searches unless changed or “reset.”

Click on **Show More** to see all the limit options.

### 6 Getting Full-text Articles



Links directly to the online full-text article that is provided by EBSCO.



Lists the availability of a specific article online or in print format. If an item is not available, you will have options for Interlibrary Loan and Ask a Librarian.

### 7 My EBSCOhost – To Save Searches and Citations

- With an account, you can **save and retrieve a search strategy**, set up an **e-mail alert** to receive new references on your topic, store references in **permanent folders** for future use, and **share your results** with other colleagues within your institution.
- To set up a personal account, click on **Sign In** (at the top right) and then click on **Create a new Account**.
- To save your Search History, click on **Save Searches / Alerts**.

### 8 Need HELP? Contact the Medical Center Library

