

# USING CINAHL (NURSING AND ALLIED HEALTH LITERATURE)

CINAHL (Cumulative Index to the Nursing and Allied Health Literature) provides comprehensive coverage of the journal literature on nursing and the allied health disciplines with coverage dating back to 1937. Indexed material is drawn from over 900 journals, plus books, dissertations, conference proceedings, standards of professional practice, educational software, and audiovisuals. The database includes the full-text of state nursing journals, state nurse practice acts, and patient education materials. It also provides detailed information about selected research instruments, critical paths, and cited references. Additional guides that may be of interest:

- *Assessing an Information Need* (available at <http://www.utoledo.edu/library/mulford/pdf/assess.pdf>)
- *CINAHL Subheading, Publication Types, and Limiting Information* (<http://www.utoledo.edu/library/mulford/pdf/cinsubhd.pdf>)
- *ESBSCOhost Databases* (<http://www.utoledo.edu/library/mulford/pdf/ebsco.pdf>)

## General Information

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- The database can be accessed from the Library's Web page: <http://www.utoledo.edu/library/mulford>. Remote access is available to people who are registered with the Library (<http://www.utoledo.edu/library/mulford/remote.html>).
- Online help is available by clicking on the **Help** link. Local help is available at the bottom of the page.
- If assistance is needed, ask a library staff member. From home or office, contact Mulford Reference Assistance by calling 419-383-4218, sending an e-mail to [MulfordReference@utoledo.edu](mailto:MulfordReference@utoledo.edu), or by using Instant Messaging to chat with a librarian (see <http://www.utoledo.edu/library/mulford/resources.html>).
- Training sessions covering CINAHL are offered. Contact Reference Assistance for more information.

## Topic Searches

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The best way to do a search for references on a particular topic is to enter the topic in the **Find** box. Make certain that **Suggest Subject Terms** is checked. In topic searching, it is very important to use the **Suggest Terms** feature to pick subject headings with which to search. A subject heading pulls all articles on a concept together; there is no need to worry about synonyms, plurals, or variations in spelling. Subject headings also provide powerful search features such as restricting to focus and using subheadings. (See below for explanations of these features.)

For example, when searching for "breast cancer" using **Suggest Subject Terms**, you will be directed to use "breast neoplasms," the CINAHL subject term for references on breast cancer. If CINAHL cannot find the entered term in the thesaurus *and* if it cannot map to an appropriate term, it will give you the option to do a keyword search.

**CINAHL subject terms/CINHAL Headings.** The subject term screen provides a list of terms from which to choose. You can check the box next to each term that is relevant to your search, and combine those terms using the **Combine selections with** menu (for more on combining selections, see p. 2 of this guide). More options are available as well:

**Term**– Click on the link to see more information about the heading: related headings, scope note (how it is used in indexing), subheadings, etc.

**Explode**– Click if you want CINAHL to include narrower terms in the search (such as including portal and pulmonary hypertension in a search for hypertension)

**Major Concept** – This option will limit the search to those citations that have the heading as one of the main subjects. This will filter out those articles that do not have the heading as the focus of the article.

**Subheadings** - Subheadings allow a search to be restricted to one or more facets, such as diagnosis, therapy, or adverse effects. See the guide *CINAHL Subheading, Publication Types, and Limiting Information* for a complete list of subheadings (<http://www.utoledo.edu/library/mulford/pdf/cinsubhd.pdf>).

Then, when ready to search, click on the **Search Database** button at the top of the page.

For a step-by-step guide to searching in CINAHL, see the *Step-by-Step Searching in CINAHL* help sheet (<http://www.utoledo.edu/library/mulford/pdf/cinahlstep.pdf>).



## More About the Combine Selections with... Menu (and Combining Sets for Complex Searches)

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Next to the **Combine Selections with** heading, there is a drop-down menu of three Boolean operators. Here's what they do when you have more than one search term selected:

- and** will retrieve references that have the sets in common; use this to narrow a search (*coronary artery disease and exercise*)
- or** will create one big set from all the references in all the sets combined with or; use this to broaden the search (*HIV or AIDS*)
- not** will exclude references from the first set that were in the second set. This can be a tricky operator to use. Set order makes a difference: *diagnostic tests not blood tests* results in different references than *blood tests not diagnostic tests*. It is also very easy to exclude appropriate references using *not*. Contact a librarian for help.

These operators can also be used on the **Search History/Alerts** page (one of the links on the Search page).

## Textword Searching

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A textword search (which can be done by making sure that **Suggest Subject Terms** is *not* selected and leaving **Select a Field** in the drop down menu or by selecting **All Text** from the **Select a Field** drop down menu) will retrieve references that have the search term(s) or phrase in the records. To combine two textword searches, make sure that **Suggest Subject Terms** is not selected and type in your second term in the **Terms** search box and choose your desired option from the **Using** drop down menu. Textword searching can be messier and more complex than subject term searching. With a textword search, you may need to search for: synonyms (*myocardial infarction or heart attack*), variations in spelling (**estrogen or oestrogen**), and suffix variation (*hypertension or hypertensive*). Use of wildcards and truncation can help with this type of searching (see below).

**NOTE:** When searching by topic, search using the CINAHL subject terms whenever possible. If you cannot find an appropriate subject heading, then try a textword search.

## Searching with Wild Cards and Truncation

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Using wildcards and truncation can facilitate textword searching. The wildcard symbol (?) can be used to replace a character within a word (*wom?n* will retrieve references containing *woman* or *women*). The truncation symbol (\*) is used to retrieve references containing a word that begins with the truncated characters (*parasit\$* retrieves terms such as *parasite*, *parasitology*, and *parasitic*).

For information on more types of advanced textword searching, see the **Help** link in the upper right corner of the CINAHL search screen.

## Field Searching and Indexes

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Field searching allows you to search in a particular field of the database, such as author or journal title, which results in a more precise search. Enter the search term or phrase in the **Term(s)** box (under **Add the following to your search**), then select the desired field in which to search and click the **Add to Search** button. Commonly used fields include:

- AU author
- CA corporate author (like a committee, task force, or organization name)
- TI title (article, book, dissertation; NOT journal title)
- SO journal title
- IN instrumentation (research instruments used in the study)

In addition to searching specific fields, fields can be browsed. From the **More** menu at the very top of the page, choose **Indexes**. Select the desired field to browse and enter the desired starting letter or word. Journal titles can also be browsed by clicking on the **Publications** link (located at the top of the page).

## Narrowing Results by...

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This column to the left of the search results should be approached with caution when performing a subject search. The results from any link in this column may only be slightly useful for narrowing by subject. More results will be obtained by performing a second search and then combining the sets from both searches. [See above: **More About the Combine Selections with... Menu (and Combining Sets for Complex Searches)**] This option does have benefits when limiting by source type (see the **Viewing Results** section at the bottom of this page)

## Restricting Retrieval by Limiting Search Results

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Search limits can help with precise searching. To see the list of available CINAHL limits, click on the **Search Options** link under **Limit Your Results** (located to the right of the search results). For complete descriptions of these limits, and for tips on using them, see the guide *CINAHL Subheading, Publication Types, and Limiting Information* (<http://www.utoledo.edu/library/mulford/pdf/cinsubhd.pdf>).

<b>Research Article</b>	Limits to only research articles
<b>Peer-reviewed</b>	Limits to references from peer-reviewed publications
<b>EBP</b>	Limits to references which have <b>Evidence-Based Practice</b> as a special interest descriptor
<b>Publication Year</b>	Limits by the year(s) of publication
<b>Publication Type</b>	Limits to references of specific type(s). See the front of this guide for a list of the available publication types
<b>Exclude MEDLINE</b>	Excludes citations that are indexed in MEDLINE (this is helpful if you are searching in both CINAHL and MEDLINE and want to avoid duplicate results)
<b>Clinical Queries</b>	Filters search results to different categories of high quality research evidence
<b>Age Groups</b>	Limits to references that deal with particular age(s) of human.
<b>Gender</b>	Limits to references which refer to either one or both sexes
<b>Pregnancy</b>	Limits to references on pregnancy and pregnant women
<b>Inpatients</b>	Limits to references on inpatients
<b>Outpatients</b>	Limits to references on outpatients
<b>Special Interest</b>	Focuses the search to a particular area
<b>Articles with Images</b>	Limits results to publications that have images or graphics
<b>Number of Pages</b>	Limits to only those articles that meet a maximum or minimum number of pages
<b>Journal subset</b>	Limits to a subset of journals: geographical; topical; and review status
<b>CE module</b>	Limits to continuing education modules available from CINAHL. To get to the CE module, view the record and click on the link beside <b>CE Module</b>
<b>Exclude Pre-CINAHL</b>	Excludes citations not yet indexed in CINAHL
<b>EBSCO Full Text</b>	Limits to articles that are available full text in the EBSCOhost databases. Note that the library has access to many more online journals than just those from EBSCOhost. This option is <b>not recommended</b> because it limits the search too much and may exclude relevant references
<b>Language</b>	Limits to one or more languages: AFRIKAANS, CHINESE, ENGLISH, FINNISH, FRENCH, GERMAN, HUNGARIAN, ITALIAN, JAPANESE, NORWEGIAN, PORTUGUESE, SPANISH, and SWEDISH. Non-English language articles have been included in CINAHL since 1994
<b>References Available</b>	Limits to references that have cited references in the database

## Viewing Results

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Depending on the type of articles your search yields, you may have several sort options for your results list. In addition to **All Results**, some of the different sort options are **Periodicals**, **Books/Monographs**, and **Research Instruments**. You can choose these options by clicking on the desired limit under the **Narrow Results by ... Source Types** category to the left of your search results. Other options are available as well, such as **Evidence Based Care Sheets** which provide information on evidence based patient care; and **Quick Lessons** which provide a description of the illness or condition, signs/symptoms,

assessment, treatment options, as well as other tips, facts, and references. If you would like to perform a search for only **Evidence Based Care Sheets** or **Quick Lessons**, select the links in the blue shaded area at the very top of the screen (Quick Links are located within the **More** menu).

## Checking Full Text Availability

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NOTE: With the wide range of online journal providers and the lack of publishing standards, it is very difficult to provide *simple* access to every online article available to the University of Toledo Health Science Campus community. You may need to attempt several options to obtain the full text of an article. Be assured that the Mulford Library and OhioLINK are doing everything possible to provide easy access to these materials. Any questions about the availability of a journal article should be directed to Mulford Reference Assistance at 419-383-4218.

Depending upon the source of the full text of the reference, different links will be available from the results list and the individual reference page:

- On the results list page, several options may be available under the article's citation information: **HTML Full Text**, **PDF Full Text**, and **Find It!**. To print either the HTML or PDF file, select the desired format. If neither **HTML Full Text** or **PDF Full Text** are available, select **Find It!**
- Click on the **OLinks** icon (or **Find It!** link). OLinks will indicate if the article is available online from one of the major journal systems. If OLinks indicates that no online full text is found or if the full text link isn't working, look in the subwindow to determine if the Mulford Library has the journal. If we have the journal, holdings information can be found at the top of the subwindow. (St. Vincent's holdings are also included.) "MULFORD Journal Stacks" indicates that we have the journal in print; "MULFORD Electronic" indicates that we have the journal online. Click on the link **View details in the Mulford Library catalog** to confirm which issues are available from Mulford and to reach the link for available full text. If it says "no print holdings found," click on the link **Search catalog by title**, just to confirm that Mulford doesn't have the journal.
- **When in doubt, contact a librarian in Mulford Reference Assistance (419-383-4218; [MulfordReference@utoledo.edu](mailto:MulfordReference@utoledo.edu))**

## Viewing, Printing, Emailing, and Downloading Citations

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After searching, combining, or limiting, the system will display the record list. To view the complete citation and/or abstract, simply hold your mouse pointer over the magnifying glass next to the title of the reference. To view the entire reference, click on **Citation** (or you can click the title of the desired reference). To store a reference from this list, click **Add to folder**.

Once references are selected, the right side screen will indicate that **Folder has items**. To view the stored items, click on **Go to Folder View** in the right side screen or click on the folder icon at the top of the page. Then, select the desired option: **print** (with the option of printing any full-text articles in HTML format), **email** (with the option of emailing the full text of articles in HTML and PDF formats), **save** (with the option of saving full-text of articles in HTML and PDF formats) and **export** to import records into a bibliographic management program like EndNote.

## Other Features

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| <b>Sorting Results</b> | At the top of the results list, there is a drop down menu for sort options.   |
| <b>Saving Searches</b> | To save a search strategy to run at a future time, you need to create a <b>My EBSCOhost</b> account (this is free) and be logged in. To create an account, click <b>Sign in to My EBSCOhost</b> at the top of the page, then choose <b>I'm a new user</b> . After you are logged-in, run the desired search. Click on the <b>Search History/Alerts</b> link, then click <b>Save Searches/Alerts</b> . Use the <b>Saved Search</b> option if you want to rerun the search manually; use the <b>Alert</b> option if you want EBSCOhost to run the search automatically and email you the results. |