Wellehan Library
Saint Joseph's College
Using CINAHL Database

The purpose of this document is to provide various approaches for using the CINAHL database and to offer sample searches that may be adapted to other search queries.

Basic Search:
Conducting a basic keyword search is a good, simple way to begin using the database; however, in most instances, this search without limiters will yield too many results. Try this approach with any basic search.
- Enter search term in the search field.
- Make appropriate selections from the "Limit your results" list.
Examples:
- Select "Title Owned by Wellehan" to be prompted when Wellehan Library owns a journal in print that is not available in full text in the database.
- Select "Linked Full Text" to get only results that are available in full text.
- If currency is important, assign a date range using "Publication Year from."
- Make sure your results have been peer reviewed with the "Peer Reviewed" option.
- "Journal Subset" will allow you to retrieve results only from journals relating to particular subjects. There is a "Nursing" journal subset, for example.
- Since CINAHL includes information from books, doctoral dissertations, etc., selecting the "Publication Type" option allows for limits by "journal article" or "abstract."

Advanced Search:
Selecting the "Advanced Search" option provides an expanded list of limiters found in "Limit your results." Also, it allows for joining words and phrases using and, or, or not, which are referred to as Boolean Operators. Additionally, the drop-down options available from "Select a Field (optional)" allow for searching within specific fields.

Advanced Search using Boolean Operators:
My tentative research question concerns the use of diet and exercise to treat depression.
- Enter each search term in separate search fields joined by and.
- Select appropriate limiters, such as "Linked Full Text" and "Peer Reviewed."
- Click "Search."

NOTE: The "Linked Full Text" option does not, unfortunately, ensure full text availability.

CINAHL Database Tabs:
"Publications"
Use the "Publications" tab when you know the title of a journal in which you wish to search.
- Click on the "Publications" tab.
- Enter "Nurse Researcher" in the Browse field.
- Click on the title from the results list.
- Record includes thorough journal information and a date listing.
- Click on the "2007" date link.
- Click on the "Vol. 14 Issue 4" link.
- Results list includes entries found in that volume and issue of the journal.

"CINAHL Headings"

Using CINAHL Headings is one of the most effective ways to search the CINAHL database. It allows you to search using exact CINAHL subject headings.

- Click on the "CINAHL Headings" tab.
- In the Browse field, enter <u>high</u> <u>blood</u> <u>pressure</u>.
- Results list identifies "Hypertension" as the official subject heading used by CINAHL to identify the term "high blood pressure."
- Scroll down to the "Hypertension" link.
- Use the "Scope" note to the right for an explanation of how the term is defined.
- Click inside the checkbox on the left of the term.
- Notice the term is now inside the Search Term Builder Box on the right side of the screen.
        You now have options:
- To run a search only using the term "Hypertension," click on the "Search Database" link above the Search Term Builder Box.
- To add any subheadings to the term to help narrow the search, click inside the checkboxes for those subheadings. You will see those terms added to the Search Term Builder Box. When terms are selected, you can click on the "Search Database" link.
- To add additional subject terms, scroll down the page to the "Browse Additional Terms" link. Click on the link to search for and to add additional terms. Click the "Search Database" link to begin the search.

"CINAHL Headings" used to find nursing theories

- Click on the "CINAHL Headings" tab.
- In the Browse field, enter "nursing theory" and click "Browse."
- Click on the "Nursing Theory" link.
- Click on the "Nursing Models, Theoretical" link.
- Click in the checkbox for the desired theory.
- The theory is now added to the Search Term Builder Box at the top of the page.
- Click on the "Search Database" link to begin the search.

Contact the Reference and Information Literacy Librarian for more assistance.
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