

**Wellehan Library**  
**Saint Joseph's College**  
**Locating Qualitative or Quantitative Research Articles in CINAHL**

Currently, there is no single approach to recommend for locating qualitative or quantitative research articles in *CINAHL*. Try these strategies.

**Using “MH Exact Subject Heading” field options**

*CINAHL* uses “qualitative studies,” not qualitative research and “quantitative studies,” not quantitative research as exact subject heading.

Conducting an Advanced Search, enter the type of study of interest in the first search field, and from the “Select a Field (optional)” drop down menu, select “MH Exact Subject Heading.”

In the subsequent fields, enter appropriate keywords; select appropriate limiters, and click “Search.”

**SAMPLE SEARCH**

The screenshot shows the EBSCOhost Advanced Search interface. The search criteria are: "quantitative studies" in "MH Exact Subject Heading", "diabetes" in "Select a Field (optional)", and "adults" in "Select a Field (optional)". The search mode is set to "Boolean/Phrase". The "Publication Year from" is set to 2005 to 2009. The "Peer Reviewed" limit is checked. Three callout boxes provide additional information: 1) "Keywords (diabetes and adults) are added to complete the Advanced Search." 2) "Publication date range ensures professor's requirement for currency is met." 3) "Peer-Reviewed limit helps ensure retrieval of scholarly material."

## Using “Clinical Queries” limiter for Qualitative studies.

On the Advanced Search screen, enter appropriate keywords and select “Qualitative-Best Balance” from the “Clinical Queries” limiter.

### SAMPLE SEARCH

The screenshot displays the EBSCOhost Advanced Search interface. The search terms "diabetes" and "adults" are entered in the search boxes. The "Clinical Queries" limiter is selected, and the "Qualitative - Best Balance" option is chosen from the dropdown menu. A callout box explains that keywords are added to begin the search. Another callout box explains that Clinical Queries are specific search strategies for retrieving clinically-relevant and scientifically-sound results from CINAHL databases. The interface includes search modes (Boolean/Phrase, Find all my search terms, Find any of my search terms, SmartText Searching), search options (Apply related words, Also search within the full text of the articles), and limit your results (Title Owned by Wellehan, References Available, Publication Year from, Author, English Language, Research Article, Exclude MEDLINE records, Linked Full Text, Abstract Available, Published Date from, Publication, Peer Reviewed, Exclude Pre-CINAHL).

## Using Related subject headings.

When building a keyword search, try these closely related subject headings.

In *CINAHL*, these subject headings are closely related to “qualitative studies”:

Action Research, Ethnographic Research, Ethnological Research, Ethnonursing Research, Grounded Theory, Naturalistic Inquiry, Phenomenological Research.

In *CINAHL*, these subject headings are closely related to “quantitative studies”:

Quasi-Experimental Studies, Multiple Time Series, Nonequivalent Control Group, Time Series, Repeated Measures, Retrospective Design, Time and Motion Studies , Work Sampling.