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**Who can I contact for Help?**

The LRC can answer most questions at lrc.ref@usuhs.edu, 301-295-3398.

Updated 06/10/2015
What is CINAHL?

The CINAHL (Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health) database owned by EBSCO Corporation, contains over 2.7 million records for nursing and allied health publications from 1981 to the present. CINAHL can be accessed through the LRC website and provides full-text access to articles in electronic journals available at USUHS.

CINAHL’s content comes from a collection of 3,000+ journals, as well as healthcare books, nursing dissertations, selected conference proceedings, standards of practice, educational software, audiovisuals, and book chapters. The LRC’s CINAHL package, CINAHL with Full Text, links search results to the full-text of more than 600 journals.

Accessing CINAHL

To access CINAHL, go to the LRC website: http://lrc.usuhs.edu and login with your LRC ID/Password.

In the Featured Resources area, click the CINAHL icon.
Searching

The Advanced Search page is the default search mode.

- You may build your search by entering search terms and indicating which fields you’d like the database to search (e.g. Title, All Text, Author, Abstract).

- You may also decide how to combine these terms using the Boolean operators:
  - **AND** results in a smaller number of hits than either category on its own.
  - **OR** will give you more results than either single category.
  - **NOT** will give you results from one category that excludes any results from the other category.

Wildcards

When you search CINAHL, you may use “wildcards” to retrieve variants on your search terms.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wildcard</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*</td>
<td>Truncates a word. You can place an asterisk at the end of a work or between words.</td>
<td>cancer* will retrieve cancer, cancerous, or cancers. nursing * schools will retrieve nursing schools or nursing graduate schools.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>?</td>
<td>Replaces a letter in a word.</td>
<td>wom?n retrieves woman or women.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#</td>
<td>Finds optional letters.</td>
<td>an#esthesia will retrieve anaesthesia or anesthesia.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Viewing and Working with Results

Search Results

From the search results display, use **Refine Results** to limit by publication date, source type, age, gender, etc.

- Many citations will include a link to a PDF for the article. The database also provides you with thumbnail images for the charts, graphs, or pictures included in the article.
- Many CINAHL citations allow you to view the Bibliography of an article by clicking on the “Cited References” link associated with a record.
  - The cited references link allows users to add Cited Records to their Folder (see page 6 for information about adding records to your Folder) and also see how many times a citation has been cited by other articles in the CINAHL database.
  - When available, a record may also have a link that shows how many times a record has been cited in the database. Selecting this link will allow users to see articles that have referenced this citation and add these citations to their Folder.
Display Options

You may control how search results are saved on your screen using **Relevance Sort** and **Page Options** at the top of your results list.

- **Relevance Sort** allows the user to sort results in the order of CINAHL’s “Relevance” ranking, the date the article was published, and the Author.

- **Page Options** allows the user to determine how much information is provided for each citation, how many citations appear on a page, and the layout of the results screen.
  - The “Title Only” result format provides the least amount of information about the article, while the “Standard” format provides a truncated abstract and list of descriptor terms and “Detailed” includes the full abstract and all descriptor terms.

Saving Search Results

- When you find a citation that you like, click on the folder icon ( ) to temporarily hold citations you want to save for printing, exporting, etc.
  - Citations added to the folder will show a folder with a document inside.
  - To add all citations on results page, click **Share** and select **Add to Folder**.

- To view and work with the stored citations, click on Folder (located on top blue bar).

- Once you are on the **Folder Contents** screen, select or deselect items (make the check boxes) to work with the available options.
  - Use the check boxes to select items or check **Select/deselect all** to Print, Email, Save, Export or Delete Items.
Search History
The search history provides a record of searches conducted during a single session. To access this feature, click Search History.

- Each search has a “Search ID” number, indicates the search terms used, and any search limits or options selected.
- You can click to view results, details about the search (e.g. when it was last run), and edit the search’s terms or options.

Viewing the Full Record
For a quick view, click on the magnifying glass icon (🔍) – full details will pop up in separate window. You can also click on the title.
• When they are available, links to the PDF, bibliography, and records citing this article will be listed in the left hand column.

• The center column provides information about the authors and their affiliations, the article type and language, the abstract, keywords, and even the MEDLINE PMID when available.

• The right column provides Tools to save, email, print, bookmark, export a record, etc.

• Click Cite to have CINAHL generate citations in APA, Chicago, AMA, Harvard, MLA, and Vancouver formats.

**Limits (Refine Results)**

Use the Limit To options to refine your results by age, gender, publication type, and more. Be aware that applying too many limits can greatly reduce your retrieval and may cause you to miss relevant articles.

- The more commonly selected limits, **Source Types** (e.g., journals, magazines, books, etc.),
- **Publication, Subject Heading, Age** and **Gender** automatically display.
  - To make a selection, click on a limit (e.g., Age) and select the desired limit.
- To view the full range of limit options, click on Show More to select from Geographic Subset, Language, Journal Subsets, Clinical Queries and many more. Two helpful options are:
  - **Exclude MEDLINE records** will eliminate most PubMed records from your results.
  - Peer Reviewed limits search results to just peer reviewed articles.
Accessing CINAHL Headings

Both the Basic and Advanced search modes provide fast access to results but uses only keywords to retrieve articles. For more precise results, use the CINAHL Headings to refine key concepts and retrieve only the citations that match those concepts.

- To access, click on CINAHL Headings at the top of the screen.
- In the CINAHL Headings window, enter your search term (e.g., survivors) and click Browse.

CINAHL will display “relevancy ranked” listing of suggested terms. Within the listing of suggested CINAHL Headings, you can select as many headings as are appropriate to match your initial concept.

- Selected headings will be added in the far right column for terms to be used in your search.
  - If your concept has more specific terms related to it (e.g. infant is a more specific term for Child), you may checkmark Explode to have these terms included automatically.
  - The Major Concept allows you to specify that the concept be one of the core topics in the article, rather than a secondary, less---important topic.
- **Explosion** should be checked in almost every case when it is available.
  - The **Subheadings** column allows you to specify how you wish to have a term be used – narrow to a specific aspect of the term (e.g., Statistics and Numerical Data or History).
    - For example, articles talking about the education of cancer survivors are quite different from articles discussing statistics about the number of cancer survivors.
    - Consider **Subheadings** when you wish the most specificity in your search. Otherwise, the default is to **Include All Subheadings**.
  - Under **History Notes** are details about when the term was introduced, how the concept was described before the current term came into use, and what synonyms are associated with this term.
  - When you have selected your terms for your first concept, select **Search Database**.
    - You may repeat the process of discovering CINAHL headings until every concept needed to describe your search question has been covered. Once you are finished, use the search history feature to combine your terms into a single search.