

Using CINAHL: Keyword Searching and Other Features

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*For instructions on **accessing CINAHL** and other Nursing & Health Sciences Databases see [Accessing Nursing & Health Sciences Database](#) handout.

Sample search topic: What can be done to prevent nosocomial infections?

1. Begin by breaking your topic into its individual concepts. These concepts will become your search terms. For this example there are 2 separate concepts: nosocomial infections and prevention. (With a PICO statement, each portion of the statement can be a concept.)
2. In the **1st box** enter **1st search term** - eg. ***nosocomial infection***. In the **2nd box** enter the **2nd search term** - ***prevention***. Enter any additional terms related to your search in the same fashion.

The screenshot shows the CINAHL database search interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'New Search', 'Publications', 'CINAHL Headings', 'Cited References', and 'More'. Below the tabs, there is a search bar with the text 'Searching: CINAHL' and a 'Choose Databases' link. The search terms 'nosocomial infection' and 'prevention' are entered in two separate boxes, separated by a dropdown menu showing 'AND', 'OR', and 'NOT'. Red arrows point to the search terms and the Boolean operator dropdown. To the right of the search boxes are 'Search' and 'Clear' buttons. Below the search boxes, there is a link 'Add Row' and a box with the text 'Click if additional rows are needed'. On the left side, there is a 'Refine Search' panel showing '1,691 Results for...' and a list of search terms: 'Find all my search terms: nosocomial infection AND prevention'. Below this, there is a 'Refine your results' section with a checkbox for 'Linked Full Text'. On the right side, there is a list of search results. The first result is 'Impact of the International Nosocomial Infection Control Consortium (INI) in 51 Cities of 19 Limited-Resource Countries from Latin America, Asia, th' (includes abstract) Rosenthal, Victor D.; Pawar, Mandakini; Leblebicioglu, Hakan; Navoa-Ng, Jos Medeiros, Eduardo A.; Mitrev, Zan; Gikas, Achilleas; et al.; **Infection** Control & Hospital Epidem ISSN: 0899-823X PMID: 23466916 Subjects: Infection Control; Cross Infection; Consortia; Handwashing; Cross Infection; Cross Inf Control; Infection Control Database: CINAHL. A red arrow points to the 'Add Row' link.

Use drop-down menu to change Boolean operators

Click if additional rows are needed

3. Combine your search terms with **Boolean** operators (**AND, OR, NOT**)

AND – combines search terms together so the resulting articles include both/all search terms. (eg. Search results will contain articles that have **both** *Nosocomial infection* **AND** *prevention* in the article).

OR – combines search terms so the resulting articles include at least one of the terms. (eg. A search for *bacteria* **OR** *virus* will result in articles that contain either the word bacteria or the word virus)

- Useful for:
 - capturing synonyms for search terms (cancer OR neoplasm)
 - alternate spellings (pediatrics OR paediatrics)

NOT – provides a way to exclude a concept. Search terms entered after the Boolean **NOT** are excluded from search results. (eg. *Nursing* **NOT** *breastfeeding* will result in a list of articles that contains the term “nursing” but exclude from those results articles that contain the word “breastfeeding”).

Combining Search Terms with Multiple Boolean Operators:

Multiple Boolean operators can be used in a search. Using parentheses you can nest terms together to build a search string.

Using **parentheses** dictates the order in which the database processes the search terms (just like an algebraic equation!). Information within parentheses is read first, then information outside parentheses is read next.

(eg. Using our topic from above, a simple nested search would look like this: (*nosocomial infection* OR *hospital acquired infection*) AND *prevention*. This search string will result in articles that have the word prevention in them but also either the term nosocomial infection OR the term hospital acquired infection).

The screenshot displays the EBSCO CINAHL database search interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'New Search', 'Publications', 'CINAHL Headings', 'Cited References', and 'More'. Below these, the search bar shows the query: '(Nosocomial infection OR hospital acquired infection) AND prevention'. The search results section, titled 'Search History/Alerts', shows a table with one search entry (S1) for the same query. Below the table, a 'Refine Search' box indicates '2,334 Results for...'. A red circle highlights this result count, and a red arrow points to it from a text box that reads: 'Notice, there are many more results since adding “hospital acquired infection” using OR (2,334 vs 1,691)'. The search results list includes a citation for 'Apisarnthanarak, Anucha; Warren, David K; Glen Mayhall, Clov' with PMID: 23757004.

Other Search Tips:

- **Asterisk** – use an asterisk to find different endings for a root word (eg. *Prevent** will find prevention, preventing, prevents, etc.)
- **Phrase searching** – use quotation marks (“ ”) to search for an exact phrase (eg. “infection control” or “case management”)
- **Title search** – searches for the entered terms in the title of the article.

EBSCO CINAHL

Searching: CINAHL | Choose Databases

"case management"

AND []

AND []

Basic Search | Advanced Search | Search History

Search Options

Actions

Relevance | Page Options | Share

Refine Search

3,119 Results for...

Find all my search terms: TI "case management"

Refine your results

Linked Full Text

References Available

Abstract Available

Page: 1 2 3 4 5 Next

1. Academic Journal

Case Management: The Allocation of Hours and Influencing Factors in the Management of Survivors of Traumatic Brain Injury.

(includes abstract) Arnold, Susan; Elder, Meagan; Care Management Journals, 2013; 14 (1): 2-10. (Journal article - equations & formulas, research, tables/charts) ISSN: 1521-0987 PMID: 23721038

Subjects: Case Management; Brain Injuries; Adult: 19-44 years; Middle Aged: 45-64 years; Aged: 65+ years; Male; Female

Databases: CINAHL

Add to folder

2. Counselling, Case Management and Health Promotion for People Living with HIV/AIDS: An Overview of Systematic Reviews.

Limiting Your Results:

AND Select a Field (optional) Add Row

Basic Search | Advanced Search | Search History

Refine Search << Page: 1 2 3 4 5 Next >> Date Newest | Page Options | Share

▼ 1,226 Results for...
Find all my search terms:
nosocomial infections AND
prevention

▼ Refine your results

☒ Linked Full Text

☐ References Available

☐ Abstract Available

1981 Publication Date 2013

Update

Show More »

▼ Source Types

Choosing this Limit of Linked Full Text will give **ONLY** what we have available in CINAHL – we have **MUCH** more full text than what CINAHL contains!

Choose the **Show More** link for more Limits. A pop-up box will appear.

infections and their prevention after extensive flooding.
arak, Anucha; Warren, David K; Glen Mayhall, Clovus; Current Opinion in Infectious
59-65. (journal article) ISSN: 0951-7375 PMID: 23757004

reduces mortality and improves intestinal epithelial homeostasis

in experimental sepsis.
(includes abstract) Khailova, Ludmila; Frank, Daniel M; Dominguez, Jessica A; Wischmeyer, Paul E; Anesthesiology,
22 PMID: 23571641

Hand hygiene compliance in transplant and other special patient groups: An
observational study.

Search Options

Reset Search

Search Modes and Expanders

Search modes

☐ Boolean/Phrase

☒ Find all my search terms

☐ Find any of my search terms

☐ SmartText Searching [Hint](#)

Apply related words

☐

Also search within the full text of the articles

☐

Limit your results

Linked Full Text

☐

Abstract Available

☐

Author

Publication

Peer Reviewed

First Author is Nurse

English Language

Research Article

Search Only Pre-CINAHL

Evidence-Based Practice

Clinical Queries

Therapy - High Sensitivity

Therapy - High Specificity

Therapy - Best Balance

Randomized Controlled Trial

☐

Geographic Subset

Africa

Asia

Australia & New Zealand

Language

Afrikaans

Chinese

Danish

Pregnancy

☐

Outpatients

☐

Special Interest

Advanced Nursing Practice

Case Management

Chiropractic Care

Journal Subset

All

Allied Health

Alternative/Complementary Therapies

Biomedical

Publication Type

Randomized Controlled Trial

Research

Research Instrument

Research Term Definition

Sex

Female

Male

Inpatients

☐

Age Groups

All

Fetus, Conception to Birth

Infant, Newborn: birth-1 month

Infant: 1-23 months

Number of Pages

All


Search

Use to limit to English, date, and/or Research Article

Scroll down the pop-up box for more limits. **Publication Type** includes Evidence based practice terms like Clinical Trials or Systematic Review. Hold down **Ctrl** key to select multiple terms.

When you have finished choosing Limits, click the **Search** box at top or bottom of page



4. Some articles will have full text available directly from CINAHL.



Nosocomial infections in neurosurgery intensive care units. 

(includes abstract); Çelik SA; Journal of Clinical *Nursing*, 2004 Sep; 13 (6): 741-7 (journal article - research, systematic review, tables/charts) ISSN: 0962-1067 PMID: 15317514 CINAHL AN: 2004206528

Subjects: Critical Care Nursing; Cross Infection; Infection Control; Intensive Care Units; Meningitis; Neuroscience Nursing; Neurosurgery; Urinary Tract Infections

Database: CINAHL

 Add to folder | Relevancy:  | Cited References: (20) | Times Cited in this Database: (1)

 PDF Full Text  Click for Full Text

5. For articles that do not have the Full Text PDF link, see the [Finding Full Articles \(Electronic\)](#) hand-out located on the Nursing webpage under Library Instruction. See Library hand-outs link. ... or in your courses in Knowledge in the Library Resources Folder.