Finding Evidence Based Nursing Information in EBSCOHost CINAHL with Full Text

1. Go to the UCC Library homepage: www.ucclibrary.com
2. Under “Search Databases,” select “Nursing,” then “CINAHL with Full Text”

OPTION 1: Search by Subject (“I want information about…”)

CINAHL has its own collection of subject headings that it uses to organize articles by topic. If you want to find information about a general subject or area of practice, this is your best search choice.

Subject headings work like the entries in a phonebook’s Yellow Pages: there are general categories. In CINAHL, if I want to see articles and research dealing with bedsores, I need to know that bedsores are called “pressure ulcers” in the database. So I would search for the term “pressure ulcers,” not “bedsores.”

To search CINAHL by subject:
1. Select the “CINAHL Headings” option from the bar at the top of the screen.

2. Enter the term you want to research, and find its relevant heading. (Optional: choose “Scope” if you want to see exactly how the heading is defined.)

3. Major Concept (see next page)
3. Once you’ve selected the subheadings you want (and for most searches, you will also want to select “Major Concept” to find articles primarily about your subject), select “Search Database” to begin finding articles on those subjects.

4. We’re going to want to narrow this search further for evidence-based articles. Go to “Refining Your Search” below for more information.

OPTION 2: Search by Keyword (“I want to find this author/article title/drug name, etc”)

When you have very specific criteria that you want to search for, looking for the general topic may be too broad. In that case, a keyword search is a good choice.

1. Enter your term(s) into the search bar (where it says “Search”).

2. Go to “Refining Your Search” below for more information.

Refining Your Search in CINAHL with Full Text

Now you have a search term—one that will match CINAHL’s subject headings if you are searching by subject, or one which will find specific information on an article, author, or other specific name/term if you are searching by keyword. The next step is to refine, or limit, your search to only those items which are evidence-based. In addition, you will want to consider your ability to access the articles you locate.

To refine your search, look to the LEFT of your search results.

1. Decide if full-text access is necessary.
   If you do not select the “full text” checkbox, you will find articles where the full text may not be available online or at UCC Library, and to read these articles you will need to request them through Interlibrary Loan, which can take up to 2-3 weeks. However, your searches will bring up more results. If you do select “full text,” your searches will locate only those articles which are available online in their entirety.

2. Choose “Show More” and select the “Evidence-Based Practice” checkbox:

[Image of search results with “Evidence-Based Practice” checkbox]
3. Notice that, while CINAHL with Full Text is locating some EBP articles with the “Evidence-Based Practice” limiter, it is also bringing up articles which are general studies into the use of evidence-based research in certain practice settings—not the evidence based practices themselves. To locate evidence-based practices, you can return to the “Refine Search” screen and select one or more of the following “Publication Type” (to search more than one Publication Type at a time, hold down the “CTRL” key as you make your selections):

- Clinical Trial
- Protocol
- Critical Path
- Standards
- Practice Guidelines
- Systematic Review

(You will need to scroll down to find the “Publication Type” menu on the “Refine Search” screen.)

4. You can also find evidence-based practice in CINAHL by adding one of the subject headings below to your original search term in the “Find:” bar. For example, ((MH “Pressure Ulcer”) and “Meta Analysis”):

- Meta Analysis
- Nursing Practice (Evidence-Based)
- Practice Guidelines
- Systematic Review

5. Any of the searches you’ve done so far can be joined together under the “Search History” link. To find the largest amount of results, select the checkbox next to each and click the “Search with OR” button:

Need More Assistance?
If you have questions about searching CINAHL with Full Text, or you are having trouble, we’re happy to help you at the UCC Library! Your reference librarian, Katherine Cunnion, is available for drop-in consultation at the library on campus Mon-Fri. You may also contact her remotely by email (katherine . cunnion @ umpqua . edu) or call her office phone at (541) 440-7681.