Get Going with

CINAHL Plus

A workbook prepared by Ulster University Library staff on searching in the CINAHL Plus nursing and allied health database.

Life & Health Sciences Library Team
ULSTER UNIVERSITY
Introduction

The aim of this workbook is to show you how to search effectively for journal articles in the CINAHL Plus database.

Learning Outcomes:
- Access CINAHL Plus from the Library & ICT tab on the Portal
- Keyword searching
- Truncation and phrase searching
- Combining terms
- Planning and carrying out a search within CINAHL Plus
- Viewing the results and finding the full text
- Creating a personal account to save searches and articles

What is CINAHL Plus?
CINAHL Plus is the main nursing database in the Library and indexes over 4,500 nursing and allied health journals with coverage going back to 1937.

Accessing CINAHL Plus from the Portal

There are a number of different ways of accessing CINAHL Plus. In this workbook you will access it from the Portal.

Go to the Portal Login screen (portal.ulster.ac.uk)
Type in your Student ID and Network password, click on Login.

AUTHENTICATION
You will need to identify yourself as an Ulster University user to gain access to the database.
If you see an OpenAthens screen prompting you to login, ignore this and search for Ulster under the Find your Organisation and click on the Ulster University link
On the next screen showing an artist’s impression of the new Belfast campus, enter your student email address and Ulster Network password. This will authenticate you for the current browsing session.

Click on the Library & ICT tab to access Library resources and services.
To access the Library databases, click on the **Databases** link, displayed under the heading **Key Services**, in the right hand side of the screen.

A new screen will open; search for CINAHL Plus using the A-Z list or by typing the name of the database into the search box.
Access the database by clicking on the **CINAHL Plus (Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health) and Medline Package** link displayed at the top of the box.

Click on **Proceed**.

**Keyword Searching**

CINAHL Plus will open at the **Advanced Search** screen; change this to Basic Search by clicking on the link below the main search box.

The screen will now look like this:
You can enter search terms individually or as short phrases, e.g. seating and pressure ulcers. Click on Search and CINAHL Plus will then search the title, abstract and subject headings of records to retrieve relevant results.

When keyword searching, it is important to remember that the database will only find the exact terms you enter. So you need to be aware of the following points;

- the same topic may be referred to in more than one way
  e.g. paracetamol can also be known as acetaminophen, high blood pressure as hypertension
- variations in British v American spelling
  e.g. orthopaedics/orthopedics, organisation/organization
- many terms have different endings (including plurals) that may also be useful to search for
  e.g. therapy, therapies, therapeutic ulcer, ulcers, ulcerate, ulceration

There are a number of techniques that can be used to search for all of these variations and we will look at those next.

### Truncation and Phrase Searching

When searching by keyword databases will usually only find the exact term you enter and not any plurals or variations. In order to make sure that all variants of a term are found a number of advanced search techniques can be used:
• * is the truncation symbol, use to find all the various different endings of a term
e.g. disorder* will find disorder, disordered, disorders, disorderly
herb* will find herb, herbs, herbalism, herbalist
• Placing double quotation marks around a phrase will find the terms right next to each other
e.g. "chronic pain", "nurse education"

Combining Terms

You will need to combine terms using OR, AND in order to retrieve the most relevant results.

Use **OR** to combine terms which are similar, this will widen a search and increase the number of articles retrieved.

Use **AND** to combine terms which are different, this will narrow and reduce the number of articles retrieved.
Remember to combine all the similar terms with OR before you combine with AND, the database won’t be able to understand what you are asking it to look for otherwise.

Next we will go on to carry out a worked example search within CINAHL Plus.

### Planning and carrying out a search

Database collections can be huge (e.g. CINAHL Plus holds over 4.8 million individual journal citations) and you need to be prepared and specific about what information you want to find. It makes sense to plan your search before you start; ask yourself, what information do I want to find out?

In the remainder of this workbook we will use this example question:

**“The changing nature of diabetes care, the role of community nursing”**

As with most databases you should not enter your search statement into the database as one long sentence. Instead break it down into separate search concepts or search terms, this will return more relevant and specific results.

First ask yourself what is the focus of the question? **Community nursing and Diabetes**

Next, think of other words which might help you to find information to answer the question. For example, community nursing may also be referred to as:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community nursing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District nurses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health visitors</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This is not a comprehensive list and you may think of other words or phrases.*

You also need to consider which **limits** you will apply to your search. In this search you will limit to **journal articles** published from **2005** onwards.

On the Basic Search screen enter the first set of search terms regarding community nursing using phrase searching and truncation, **“community nurs*” or “health visit*” or “district nurs*”**.
The details of the search and the number of records found will be recorded in the **Search History/Alerts** panel of the screen, displayed below the Basic search box. As you progress each search will be recorded in the **Search History/Alerts** panel.

The number of results found is shown in the Actions field.

Next, we will search for records on the other part of the question: diabetes. Carry out a search as before:
There should now be 2 searches listed in the Search History panel.

To find records which are about diabetes in relation to community nursing, district nursing or health visitors, we must now combine S1 (our combined search on community nursing, district nursing and health visitors) and S2 (our search on diabetes). Tick the checkboxes displayed to the left of S1 and S2 and click on **Search with AND**.

A new set of results, S3 is created.
Each record in S3 must contain the search term diabetes and at least one of the search terms community nursing, district nursing or health visiting.

**Limits**

Before looking at the results you need to apply some limits, scroll down the page to the Refine Results column.

1. Limit your results to those published from 2005 onwards using the Publication slider to change the date.

2. The missing link: district nurses as social connection for older people with type 2 diabetes mellitus.

3. Do primary health care nurses address cardiovascular risk in diabetes patients?
You are now ready to look at the records retrieved.

Viewing results and finding full text

Each record is displayed like so; title of the article is in blue, authors, journal title and publication details - date, volume, part number and the page numbers.

Click on the blue hyperlinked journal article title to view more information. You will now be looking at the Detailed Record.
The abstract will provide you with a summary of the original article and should help you decide if the article is going to be relevant. Not every record will include an abstract.

The U Find it button is displayed on the left hand side of the record. Click on this to check if the Library can link you to the full text of the article.

On the next screen select a supplier by opening one of the hyperlinks, in this example either from Science Direct.

You will then be linked to the article, where you can read online, download or save/print the pdf.
Not every article open in this way, occasionally you will be taken to the contents page of the journal and will then have to look up the article.

To go back to the original record in CINAHL Plus close the full text and click on the Results List link to go back to the list of records.

If the U Find It cannot link you to the full text, the following message will be displayed:
You can check the Library Catalogue and/or Google Scholar for full text. You will need to copy and paste the title of the journal/article into each respective resource. If no full text is available can use the Library Document Delivery Service, for more information so to [http://library.ulster.ac.uk/documentdelivery/](http://library.ulster.ac.uk/documentdelivery/)

**Saving your Search History**

In order to save your search history from the current session and re-run it at a later date you must create a CINAHL Plus account.

Video Guide – [Saving a search](#)

Click on the **Save Searches / Alerts** button on the Search History / Alerts panel

![Image of CINAHL Plus interface showing Save Searches / Alerts button](image)

Go to **Create a new Account** and complete the onscreen form and **Save Changes**.

Give the search a name and select Saved Search to save a search or Alert to set up an email alert to receive any new results.

If you wish to use both functions, you will need to first save the search and then set up the alert.
To retrieve a search, Sign In and go to My Folder.

Any saved searches will be displayed, click on Retrieve Saved Search and rerun.

Not every article in your results list will be relevant. You can save those that are by clicking on the Add to Folder icon, if you have a personal account these will also be saved permanently.
The icon will then change

Scroll to the very top of the screen and click on Folder

Only the selected articles will be displayed in the folder.

From here you can print, email, save, or export the records (to Refworks) using the output functions displayed along the right side of the screen.

You can also create personal folders to organise to save articles into.
Help

You should now be able to carry out and save a basic search in CINAHL Plus.

If you want to go further take a look at the advanced searching guide

http://library.ulster.ac.uk/electronic/guides/cinahlwb_headers.pdf

CINAHL Plus itself has an excellent Help section find it at the top of the search screen.

Don’t worry if you are having difficulties using the database; just contact a member of the Life and Health Sciences subject team who will be happy to help.

Contact Details

For further information please contact your Subject Librarian

Mary Rose Holman. July 2017