Using CINAHL Complete

CINAHL is the **Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature** and is one of the health databases offered by the Hoffman Family Library.

To use the CINAHL database from outside of the library building, you will need to be an “authorized user.”

An [**authorized user** is a **current Goodwin College faculty or staff member** or a **current student**. You will need to enter your BlackBoard ID and BlackBoard Password to gain access to the database.

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**To locate CINAHL:**

Go to the **Hoffman Family Library** main page:

[http://www.goodwin.edu/library/](http://www.goodwin.edu/library/) Select the **Databases** tab and select **Databases A – Z**.

Select the letter “C.”

Scroll down and select the link for **CINAHL Complete** (authorized users: you will be prompted to login if you are off-campus)

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**Keyword Searching**

When you first log into the database, you will probably be on the **Advanced Search** screen. To perform a search, enter search terms into the box.

**Search Tip:**

Use **Boolean operators** for your search. Boolean operators are the words, **AND, OR** and **NOT**.

Example: whooping cough **AND** outbreaks

Example: (whooping cough **OR** pertussis) **AND** outbreaks

Example: common cold **AND** (vitamin c **OR** zinc)

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**Search Tip:** Use **parentheses** to enclose terms and synonyms that you want to “**OR**” together.
Using Advanced Search

The **Advanced Search** screen provides more than one search box and enables you to easily separate your search concepts. Choose the Advanced Search option to have access to additional search fields and limits.

For example, you can **select a field** in which to search, such as the title or author fields. If you do not select a specific field then by default the search will be in the citation and abstract fields.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Search</th>
<th>Publications</th>
<th>CINAHL Headings</th>
<th>Evidence-Based Care Sheets</th>
<th>More</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Search Tip:** Use an **asterisk** to search for various forms of a word.
Example: `prevent*` will find prevents, preventing, prevention, preventable, etc.

This example search will look for publications with “migraine” in the title, and *any form of the word* “prevent” in the citation and abstract fields.

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**Search Tip:** If you are retrieving too many results, you may want to try searching for your term in a specific field or using limits.
Limits

Select Limits (optional): In CINAHL there are many choices for limiting your search. You will see the limit choices beneath the search boxes.

Limits include:

Full Text - make sure your results will include the entire article, not just the citation and abstract.
Publication date - set the date range you want your results to be from.
Peer Reviewed - make sure your results are from peer-reviewed or scholarly journals.
Publication Type - there are many to choose from including care plans, CEUs, doctoral dissertations, practice guidelines, reviews, questionnaires, research instruments, systematic reviews, etc.

Advanced Search limits also include:
Evidence-Based Practice - finds high levels of evidence such as systematic reviews.
Clinical Queries - another way to finding evidence based articles.
First Author is a Nurse - get a publication written with a first-hand nurse perspective.
Any Author is a Nurse - get a publication that a nurse has contributed to.
Special Interest - narrow down to articles on informatics, dental care, emergency care etc.
Patient groups - there are limits for Inpatients, Outpatients, Pregnancy, Gender and Age Groups.

Questions on using CINAHL?
Contact:
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