Guide to Using CINAHL with Full Text

The Cumulative Index to Nursing & Allied Health Literature (CINAHL) provides full text access of 760 journals and summaries of articles an additional 4,000 professional journals in nursing and allied health disciplines. CINAHL offers access to healthcare books, nursing dissertations, selected conference proceedings, standards of practice, educational software in nursing, audiovisuals, care sheets and CEU lessons.

Getting Started

CINAHL is available from both on-campus and off-campus computers. To use the database from home and other off-campus computer, you must have an Internet connection and be a current Rock Valley College student, administrator, faculty or staff member. For instructions on how to access CINAHL with Full Text and many other databases from off-campus, see the guide entitled “Using Library Resources Off-Campus.”

Step 1. Access the Estelle M. Black Library homepage at http://www.rockvalleycollege.edu/library
Step 2. Click the “Library Databases” link in left hand column.
Step 3. Go to the Subject List, select Health and open CINAHL with Full Text
CINAHL with Full Text

CINAHL® with Full Text is the world’s most comprehensive source of full text for nursing & allied health journals, providing full text for more than 600 journals indexed in CINAHL. Of those, 301 are not found with full text in any version of Academic Search, Health Source®, or Nursing & Allied Health Collection™. This authoritative file contains full text for many of the most used journals in the CINAHL index - with no embargo. With full-text coverage dating back to 1981, CINAHL with Full Text is the definitive research tool for all areas of nursing and allied health literature.

Dentistry & Oral Sciences Source

Dentistry & Oral Sciences Source includes the top journals covering all areas of dentistry, including, but not limited to: general dentistry, cosmetic dentistry, dental anesthesiology, dental public health, endodontics, forensic odontology, geriatric dentistry, oral and maxillofacial pathology, oral and maxillofacial radiology, oral and maxillofacial surgery, orthodontics and dentofacial orthopaedics, periodontics, pediatric dentistry and prosthodontics.

MEDLINE

Covers all areas of medicine, including clinical medicine, experimental medicine, dentistry, nursing, health services administration, nutrition, and much more. Indexes over 9,000 journals (most with abstracts).

Micromedex

Micromedex® Healthcare Series covers a variety of clinical content areas including drugs, diseases, labs, toxicology, and patient education information. This is a clinical reference tool that is currently used in hospitals around the country. Information from the Physicians’ Desk Reference (PDR) is included in Micromedex. The PDR is a recognized resource for information on thousands of current FDA-approved drugs. This electronic version of the PDR gives you instant access to all the information contained in the PDR, the PDR® for Nonprescription Drugs and Dietary Supplements, and the PDR® for Ophthalmic Medicines.

PubMed Central

PubMed Central is a digital archive of life sciences journal literature at the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH), developed and managed by NIH’s National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) in the National Library of Medicine (NLM).
Searching CINAHL with Full Text

1. Select a Search Mode

- **Keyword Search** (basic or simple search) allows you to type in the keywords you want the computer to match. (Basic Search is the default search)

- **Advanced Search** allows you to search for words in a combination of different parts of the database. For example, you could look for both an author’s name and a subject (descriptor) at the same time.

- **CINAHL Headings** are activated using the top toolbar and allow you to browse for subjects that are arranged from a general to a more narrow focus according to a subject “tree” structure. CINAHL Headings can be used in searches to retrieve articles on major concepts and specific aspects of these concepts (subheadings).

2. Type in search terms

Type your search words into the box. You may use a single word (immunity), a phrase (infectious disease), or combine these terms using **Boolean operators** (immunity AND infectious disease), as explained below.

- **Boolean Operators (and, or, not)**: Use to link or combine keywords.
  - AND narrows your search by finding records that have both your first and second keywords (immunity AND infectious disease).
  - OR broadens your search by finding records that contain either your first keyword or your second keyword (infectious disease OR immunity).
  - NOT excludes the second keyword from your search (infectious disease NOT immunity).

- **Truncation**: Use the asterisk (*) as the truncation symbol to search for all words starting with the same root. For example, immun* will find immunity, immunization, immunosuppressive, immunodeficiency.
3. Search Limits

There are several ways to limit your search.
- Limit to “Linked Full Text.” This will cause only full-text articles to be returned as part of the search set.
- Limit to “Peer Reviewed.” This will cause only scholarly journal articles to be returned as part of the set.
- Limit by “Publication Year.” Search for articles published in a specific timeframe.
- Limit by “Author.” Search for articles by a specific author.
- Limit by “Publication.” Search for articles in a specific journal.

4. Start the search

Keyword Search Click the search button to retrieve articles.
CINAHL Headings Search

1. Activate CINAHL Headings from the toolbar on the top of the CINAHL start page.
2. Check the box next to a concept
3. Click Search Databases button to retrieve articles.

Viewing the Search Results

The results of your search will be displayed after you click on the Search button. The number of records or citations that have been returned will be shown in the All Results field. To Limit your search results to articles that are available in full text or have been recently published, find the Refine column on the left and make changes. The Update button is used to display Results that reflect these changes. To access the record, click on the title of the article. Also, if the article is available in full-text, a link will be present. Click on the PDF Full Text link to open the article.
Clicking on the title of the article will open up the complete record for the article. This will include all the necessary items need to correctly cite the article including the article title, author(s), source (journal name), and volume, issue, and date information. The record will also include subject headings which are terms that describe what the article is about. An abstract (summary) of the article may also be present.

Other Features of CINAHL with Full Text

- Print, Save, E-mail, Cite. After you have selected and opened an individual article record, Use the Tools on the right side of the article to save a link to the article, print or e-mail the article, and keep the citation to the article in style required for your assignment (MLA, APA, Chicago etc).

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