

Searching the Nursing and Allied Health Literature Using EBSCO CINAHL



What is CINAHL?

- CINAHL=Cumulative Index of Nursing and Allied Health Literature
- Originally a print index, produced by nurses at Adventist Health in Loma Linda, California
- Recently bought by EBSCO



What is EBSCO?

- Database and journal vendor (middleman)
 - Ovid is another database vendor
- Most databases they sell are produced by others
 - MEDLINE > National Library of Medicine
 - ERIC>Dept of Education
- Similar interface used on all their databases
- Recently purchased CINAHL outright; will soon be only CINAHL vendor



EBSCO CINAHL Facts

CINAHL includes:

- Includes more 1 million references (usually with abstracts) to journal articles
- Articles are from almost 3000 journals in nursing and allied health fields
- Subject headings added based on content

EBSCO CINAHL includes:

- Full text links for many of the articles
 - Full text is not technically part of CINAHL



Why not Google?

- Most professional journal articles not available full-text on web for free
- Imprecise searches
- Results listings influenced by links to that article
- Isn't patient health worth a better search?



Subject Headings

- Controlled vocabulary of predetermined subjects used to describe contents of articles
- Consistent use of headings
- Broader and narrower relationships between terms shown in hierarchy
- Cross-references lead from one idea to another (“Scope Note”)
- Updated annually
- Reduces reliance on author’s words



Indexing

- Subject headings assigned by subject specialists after reading article
- A small number of the assigned terms are designated as “major” or “focus” terms (*)
- Most specific headings possible are assigned



CINAHL Vocabulary

- Controlled vocabulary of 8,000+ terms
- Uses MeSH (MEDLINE vocabulary) terms for diseases, drugs, anatomy, physiology
- All other terms unique to CINAHL representing nursing and allied health



CINAHL Tree

Nervous System Diseases

 Cerebrovascular Disorders

 Carotid Artery Diseases

 Carotid Artery Dissections

 Carotid Stenosis

 Dementia

 Encephalitis

 Epilepsy

 Epilepsy, Absence

 Epilepsy, partial

 Status epilepticus

 Headache



Textword Searching

(exact word or phrase in title or abstract)

Effective when you need to -

- search for a new or limited concept
- search for a brand/product name
- search for possible headings
- go beyond the suggested “mapping”
- use a database that has no controlled vocabulary



Textwords

- Word or phrase in the title or abstract
- System will search for only what is typed in
- User must consider synonyms, variant word forms, etc.

Subject Headings

- Word or phrase in the subject/descriptor field
- System will “map” to the appropriate heading(s)
- Use of subject headings accommodates for synonyms



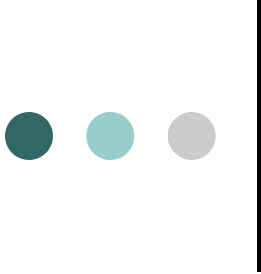
4 Elements of the Clinical Question (PICO)

Patient or Problem: Describe your patient or the problem – be specific!

Intervention: Could be treatment, cause, prognostic factor, etc.

Comparison Intervention: Could be standard therapy, no intervention, etc.

Outcome(s): Could be the desired outcome, or could be the result not desired



4 Elements of the Clinical Question (PICO)

P: In patient with Alzheimer's disease,

I: does the use of alternative or herbal therapies.

C: as compared to standard therapy or no therapy,

O: lead to improved outcome?



Using PICO

	Is this important when appraising validity of articles?	But do you need to search for this component?
Patient, Problem, Population	Yes	Always
Intervention	Yes	Almost always
Comparison	Yes	Rarely
Outcome(s)	Yes	Sometimes