

Hahnemann Library's Ten Steps to a Successful CINAHL Search

1. CINAHL starts by default in Advanced Search Mode, which provides “mapping” to subject headings. You can reach basic mode for a one-term “quick search” by clicking on the round EBSCO logo.
2. Break your search question down into separate concepts: think “*alcohol abuse*” and “*pregnancy*”, not “*the effects of alcohol abuse during pregnancy*”
3. On the Advanced Search screen, use the top search line to build your search one step at a time; the additional search box can be used if you need to search by author or other fields.
 - Start by typing the first “concept” of your search in the top search box. Note the checked option above the search box (“Suggest Subject Terms”); this will help you identify CINAHL subject headings that correspond to your search terms.
 - From the mapped list of subject headings, choose the one that best matches your search term; if there are narrower terms (you can click on the term itself to see that subject heading in a hierarchical “tree”), you may want to EXPLODE it to include all the narrower terms in your search.
 - Repeat the same process with the second concept for your search, then a third if needed.
4. To Combine search steps:
 - Mark the search sets you want to combine
 - Select “Search with AND” or “Search with OR” to combine the sets (see next page for *AND* vs. *OR* explanation).
5. Do you need to filter or limit your results in any way (by language, by type of article or type of journal)? In the Search History display, click on Revise Search. Some of the most frequently used limits include:
 - Peer Reviewed
 - Research Article
 - Nursing (in Journal Subset box)
 - English (in Language box)

After you selected appropriate limits, use the Search button at the top or bottom of the screen to apply them.
6. Take a look at your results – you can just scroll down the screen to see the articles from the last search step.

7. If an article looks like it will be useful to you, “Add to Folder” to save it. Not sure from just the title? Mouse-over the folder-with-a-magnifying-glass icon to see an abstract for the article.
8. View your Folder to print, email, save or Export your selected citations (to EndNote or Refworks). Note that there is a Print Search History link that will (voila!) print your search history; you can print your citations in APA format if you wish.
9. If there isn’t a “Full text” or “PDF Full Text” link, use the “Check SFX for Availability” link to see what your options are:
 - If the fulltext is available through other Drexel Library sources, those choices will be listed first.
 - If the fulltext isn’t available online, the next choice will be to check the Library Catalog for a possible print version.
 - If we don’t have article online or in print, use our Interlibrary Loan service to order a copy.
10. Create your own “MyEBSCOHost” account so that you can save your search strategy and then retrieve it later from your folder.

If you get stuck, come see us in the Library, or call the Reference Desk (215-762-7184) for help!

AND vs. OR	
OR	AND
Use OR when combining synonyms or parallel search terms that express the same concept your results will include all the articles that contain either one of the search terms, but not necessarily both.	Use AND when combining the separate concepts of your search; your results will include ONLY the articles that contain both search terms.
Example: “pregnancy” OR “pregnancy complications”	Example: “pregnancy” and “alcohol abuse”