



CINAHL Plus with Full Text: The Basics

The CINAHL database provides citations and abstracts for articles for nearly 4,000 nursing and allied health journals and magazines. Coverage dates from 1937 to present. In addition, CINAHL indexes health care books and book chapters, nursing dissertations, some conference proceedings, standards of practice, educational software and audiovisuals.

Although primarily a bibliographic database, CINAHL Plus with Full Text also includes:

- Full-text for more than 700 journals
- Evidence Based Care (EBC) Sheets
- Quick Lessons
- Research instruments (scales and questionnaires)
- Over 200 books and pamphlets
- Continuing education modules

Open CINAHL

Go to the Levy Library home page at <http://www.mssm.edu/library>. Then click the link to CINAHL under **Key Resources** on the left hand side of the page.

Launch a Basic Search:

Enter your search terms in the search box next to the EBSCOhost button and click **Search**.

The screenshot shows the EBSCOhost search interface. At the top, it says "Searching: CINAHL Plus with Full Text" with a "Choose Databases" link. Below this is a search input field, a "Search" button, and a "Clear" button. At the bottom, there are links for "Search Options", "Advanced Search", "Search History/Alerts", and "Preferences".

Important:

CINAHL's search platform, EBSCOhost, automatically looks for the words you enter as an exact phrase.

- Example: if you enter *fall prevention*, you retrieve only results where that exact phrase occurs in the CINAHL record, or about 400 citations.
- To find records where the words *fall* and *prevention* both appear, but not necessary together, you must use the Boolean operator "**and**". Example: if you search *fall and prevention*, you retrieve over 1,550 results!
- You can also combine search terms with the Boolean operators "**or**" and "**not**".

Expand Your Basic Search:

- **Apply related words:** Includes plurals and some synonyms of your terms.
- **Also search within full text of the articles:** Finds your terms within the full-text content included in CINAHL Full-Text.
- For the most comprehensive search, use CINAHL's Advanced Search features.

The screenshot shows the "Search Options" panel. It has a "Reset" button in the top right. Under "Search modes", "Boolean/Phrase" is selected. There are checkboxes for "Apply related words" and "Also search within the full text of the articles". Under "Limit your results", there are checkboxes for "Peer Reviewed" and "Evidence-Based Practice". There are input boxes for "Publication Year from" and "to". There are also input boxes for "Author" and "Publication". A "Search" button is at the bottom.

Limit Your Results:

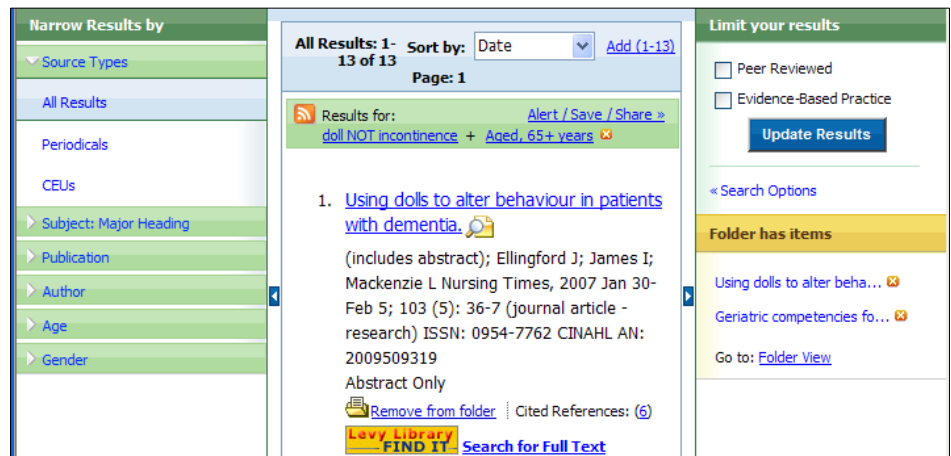
- Check **Peer Reviewed** to limit to articles from peer reviewed journals.
- Check **Evidence-Based Practice** to obtain articles from evidence-based practice journals, articles about evidence-based practice, research articles, and commentaries on research studies.
- Use the **Publication Year from** boxes to specify the years of publication.
- Enter an author's last name in the **Author** box.
 - It is not necessary to use initials, but if you do, you must use the exact initials in the record.
 - If you are unsure if an author always uses a second initial, or if you don't know the second initial, use an asterisk (*) as a "truncation symbol". **Example: Vezina M***
 - Do not use commas or periods.
- Enter the unabbreviated title of a journal or book into the **Publication** box to search for that publication.

Working with CINAHL's Search Results

The **Result List** screen has three columns: **Narrow Results by**, **All Results**, and **Limit your results**.

All Results

- Click the **title** to open the full citation.
- Place your mouse over the **Preview icon**, next to the title link, to view the Abstract.
- Results are automatically sorted by **Date**, with the most recent citations first. Use the **Sort by** drop down menu to resort articles by **Source**, **Author**, or **Relevance**.
- To save results to a **Folder**, click the icon at the bottom of the record on the Search Result page, and at the top and bottom of every Full Citation.
 - The titles of articles saved to the Folder appear in the right hand column of your screen, under the Limit section. To view items in the Folder, click the **Folder View** link.
 - Items are saved in a Folder until you close your CINAHL search session. You can register to create a free personalized EBSCOhost Folder to save search results after you log out.



Getting Full-text

- If full-text is available from CINAHL, **Linked Full Text** and/or **PDF Full Text** links take you directly to the HTML or PDF versions of the document. CINAHL Full Text documents open in the same window as your search results. To return to your search, click the **Result List** link, located above the document.
- The yellow **Levy Library FIND IT** button will appear below journal article citations. Click the button to open our FIND IT service in a new window.

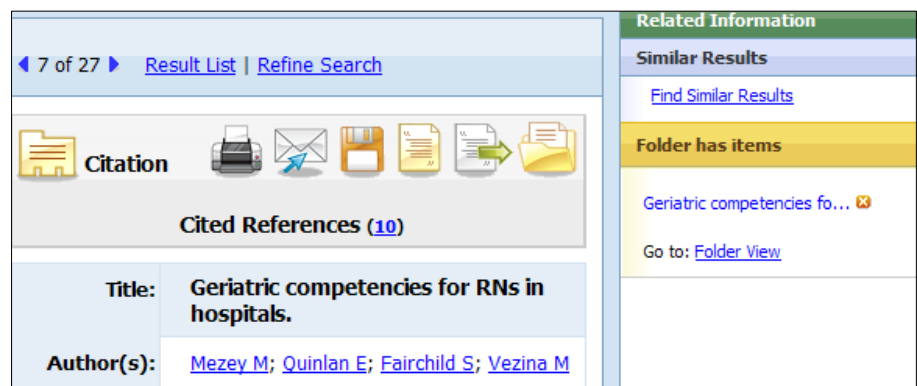
Refine your search from the Result List

- The **Narrow Results by** options allow you to focus your results by Source Types; Subject: Major Heading; Publication; Author; Age; or Gender. This feature, known as “clustering,” is also an easy way to discover the major subject groups for your topic.
- Limit your results** to Peer Reviewed or Evidence Based Practice from the right column of the Result List screen. Select a limiter and click the **Update Results** button.

The **Full Citation screen** has two columns: **Citation** and **Related Information**.

The **Citation** provides options to manage your results.

- Click the **Print**, **E-mail**, or **Save** and follow the directions on screen.
- Click the **Cite** icon to view your results in popular citation formats such as AMA and APA.
- Click the **Export to Bibliographic Manager** icon to save the citation to a reference manager such as RefWorks or EndNote.
- You can print, e-mail, save or export up to 500 results at the same time if they are saved in a Folder.



Related Information offers links to **Similar Results** and to your **Folder**. Click the **Find Similar Results** link to launch a new search for articles with subject headings similar to the ones in the citation.