



CINAHL: A Guide to Searching the Database

CINAHL (Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature) is a major database indexing articles and documents in nursing and allied health literature. Subjects covered include consumer health, biomedicine, behavioral sciences, and education.

Searching CINAHL

Enter a keyword or phrase and click **Search**. Use the **Limits** area to limit your search to full-text, English language, publication year, etc.

Advanced Search | Basic Search | Find Citation | More Fields | Search Tools

Keyword | Author | Title | Journal

Enter **Keyword** or phrase (use "\$" for truncation): Map Term to Subject Heading

dementia

Limits

Latest Update Research Abstracts
 English Full Text Revised Date

Publication Year: - - -

Notice the **Map Term to Subject Heading** box is checked. When this box is checked, clicking **Search** will cause the mapping display page to appear (see below). This will list **subject headings** in the database related to that keyword or phrase. To go *directly* to your search results after clicking **Search**, make sure the **Map Term** box is not checked.

Your term mapped to the following Subject Headings:
 Click on a subject heading to view more general and more specific terms within the tree.
Term mapped through permuted index

Include All Subheadings
 Combine selections with:

Select	Subject Heading	Explode	Focus	Scope
<input type="checkbox"/>	AIDS DEMENTIA COMPLEX	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	DELIRIUM, DEMENTIA, AMNESTIC, COGNITIVE DISORDERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	i
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DEMENTIA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	DEMENTIA, MULTI-INFARCT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	DEMENTIA, PRESENILE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	DEMENTIA, SENILE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	dementia.mp. search as Keyword			

This is the mapping display page. To continue, checkmark the "select" box next to the search you want to perform and click continue.

Notice the **Include all Subheadings** box is not checked. Checkmark this box if you wish to include all of the subheadings that fall under your search term and create a broader search. You will then be linked directly to your search results. See **Selecting Subheadings** for more information.

Using the Mapping Display Page

- Click on a **Subject Heading** to view its thesaurus—related terms that are more general and more specific.
- Select the **Explode** box if you wish to retrieve results using the selected term and all of its more specific terms.
- Select the **Focus** box if you wish to limit your search to those documents in which your subject heading is considered the major point of the article.
- If your search did not map to a desirable subject heading, select the box **Search as Keyword**.
- If you select more than one term, you can combine them using a Boolean operator (AND or OR).

Selecting Subheadings

Subheadings can be used to restrict the focus of your search. Adding subheadings will result in fewer but more specific search results. This is a great way to narrow down a search.

Combine selections with: [CONTINUE >>](#)

Subheadings for: **DEMENTIA**

Include All Subheadings (4774)
-- or choose one or more of these subheadings --

<input type="checkbox"/> /bl - Blood (2)	<input type="checkbox"/> /lj - Legislation and Jurisprudence (9)
<input type="checkbox"/> /ci - Chemically Induced (15)	<input type="checkbox"/> /mo - Mortality (22)
<input type="checkbox"/> /cl - Classification (113)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> /nu - Nursing (414)
<input type="checkbox"/> /co - Complications (322)	<input type="checkbox"/> /og - Organizations (6)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> /di - Diagnosis (593)	<input type="checkbox"/> /pa - Pathology (29)
<input type="checkbox"/> /dh - Diet Therapy (12)	<input type="checkbox"/> /pp - Physiopathology (124)
<input type="checkbox"/> /dt - Drug Therapy (276)	<input type="checkbox"/> /pc - Prevention and Control (139)

To choose one or more subheadings to add to your search, checkmark the box beside the subheading, combine the selections using AND or OR and click continue. If you do not wish to restrict the focus of your search, then select **Include All Subheadings**. Click the *i* icon to get more information about the scope of the subheading.

Viewing Your Search Results

Your search results will display with a list of records as shown below. You can view the abstract or complete reference for the article, check article availability, and mark the item(s) you may want to print or email.

The Abstract link provides article summary information. An abstract can be a brief statement or a comprehensive digest of the research and findings.

<input type="checkbox"/> 5. Arnold E. Sorting out the 3 D's: delirium, dementia, depression. [Journal Article, CEU, Exam Questions, Nursing Interventions, Pictorial, Tables/Charts] <i>Nursing</i> . 2004 Jun; 34(6): 36-43. (6 ref) AN: 2004112315 NLM Unique Identifier: 15187716. Find Similar Find Citing Articles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">AbstractComplete ReferenceOvid Full TextLibrary Holdings
<input type="checkbox"/> 6. Fox C. Richardson C. Dementia in the elderly. [Journal Article, CEU, Exam Questions] <i>Healthcare Traveler</i> . 2003 Oct; 11(4): 72-6. (21 ref) AN: 2004080709. Find Similar Find Citing Articles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Complete ReferenceLibrary Holdings

Click in the square here to select or mark those records you wish to look at in detail, print out, save to a disk, or send to an email account. When you click on the box, a checkmark will appear. You can review your selected results through the **Results Manager** at the bottom of the page.

The full-text of some articles will be contained within the Ovid database. Click on **Ovid Full Text** to see the entire article. Other articles will be available through one or more of the University's electronic databases. Click **Library Holdings** to find where the full-text of the article can be accessed. Need help finding the full-text of an article?

Ask a librarian.

Search History

The Search History, which appears at the top of the search results screen, allows you to keep track of the searches you've performed, return to a previous search, and combine searches to reduce the number of search results. Click **Display** beside the search you want to see again. Click **Combine Searches** to choose the searches you want to combine and run the new search.

[Change Database](#) | [ASK a Librarian at HSL](#) | [Help](#) | [LOGOFF](#)
[Saved Searches/Alerts](#)

#	Search History	Results	Display
1	Dementia/dt [Drug Therapy]	277	DISPLAY
2	nursing homes.mp. [mp=title, subject heading word, abstract, instrumentation]	7774	DISPLAY

Combine Searches | **Delete Searches** | **Save Search/Alert**

Results Manager

The Results Manager appears at the bottom of your Search Results screen. Use the Results Manager to display, print, email, sort, or save your Selected Results.

Results Manager ↑

Results	Fields	Result Format	Actions
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Selected Results <input type="radio"/> All on this page <input type="radio"/> All in this set (1-28) and/or Range: <input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/> Citation (Title, Author, Source) <input checked="" type="radio"/> Citation + Abstract <input type="radio"/> Citation + Abstract + Subject Headings <input type="radio"/> Complete Reference <input type="radio"/> ASCII Full Text (if available) <input type="button" value="SELECT FIELDS"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Ovid <input type="radio"/> BRS/Tagged <input type="radio"/> Reprint/Medlars <input type="radio"/> Brief (Titles) Display <input type="radio"/> Direct Export <input type="checkbox"/> Include Search History	DISPLAY PRINT PREVIEW EMAIL SAVE ORDER
Sort Keys Primary: <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Ascending <input type="text"/> Secondary: <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Ascending <input type="text"/>			

Developing Good Searching Skills

Most electronic research databases work on the same basic principles to search for and retrieve information. By learning just a few searching tips, you will have a head start on finding the information you need in CINAHL and most research databases, library catalogs, and free web search engines.

Searching Tips

In keyword searching, you can use special operators to combine search terms and broaden or narrow your search.

Operator	Search Example	Finds Records Containing
AND	dementia and nursing	Finds records containing both dementia and nursing
OR	hospital or clinic	Finds records containing either hospital or clinic
NOT	drugs not prescription	Finds records containing drugs but not prescription. Use carefully because not eliminates records containing both terms
NEAR	art near therapy	Finds records containing art and therapy in same sentence
WITH	hospitals and nurses	Finds records containing hospitals and nurses in the same field

Broaden your search by using *truncation*. In the keyword search box, type a word root and immediately follow it with a \$ (can also be a * or ?). For example, the search term “child\$” retrieves records containing child, child’s, children, childbirth, childcare etc.

If you have questions about using CINAHL or any other research databases, finding information, or general research questions, please ask a librarian or call the reference desk at x7295.