

Using CINAHL

Need help?

Ask A Librarian: www.ohsu.edu/library

Call: 503 494-3462

E-mail: refer@ohsu.edu

CINAHL (Cumulative Index to the Nursing and Allied Health Literature) provides comprehensive coverage of the literature from nursing and the allied health disciplines with coverage dating back to 1937. It is primarily used to look up full-text articles from nursing journals.

Access

From the OHSU Library homepage (www.ohsu.edu/library), click the **CINAHL** link under **Articles and Databases** in the middle of the page.



OHSU students, faculty and staff can access CINAHL from off-campus. After clicking the CINAHL link you will need to enter your last name and library barcode number. Don't have a barcode? Go to <http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/library/off-campus-access.cfm>.

Finding a citation you already have

CINAHL provides a Citation Matcher, located under More, at the very top of the page.

Subject Searching

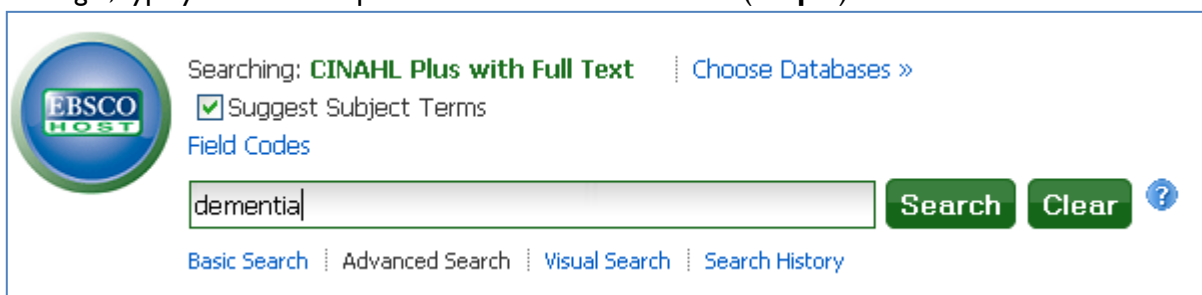
When you do a keyword search in a database it does not take into account the meaning of the words used as search terms, so if a term has more than one meaning (such as "mouse" - computer hardware or rodent?), irrelevant records may be retrieved. When you do a subject search in a database, only the subject headings or descriptors are searched for words that match your search terms. The articles indexed in the database have been assigned subject headings as access points, to assist you in locating the content.

Every article and piece of literature indexed in CINAHL is assigned specific **subject headings**. The best way to find articles in CINAHL is to look for headings that match your topic of interest.

CINAHL's headings work like a thesaurus by pulling all articles on a concept together; there is no need to worry about synonyms, plurals or variations in spelling.

To begin searching for articles on a topic, make sure that **Suggest Subject Terms** is checked. This helps you choose a more exact subject heading to search by. For example, if you type in *breast cancer*, CINAHL will direct you to use the subject heading *Breast Neoplasms*.

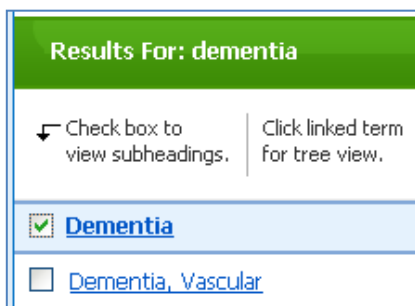
To begin, type your search topic in the box and click **Search (Step 1)**.



Searching: **CINAHL Plus with Full Text** | Choose Databases »
 Suggest Subject Terms
Field Codes
dementia | Search Clear ?
Basic Search | Advanced Search | Visual Search | Search History

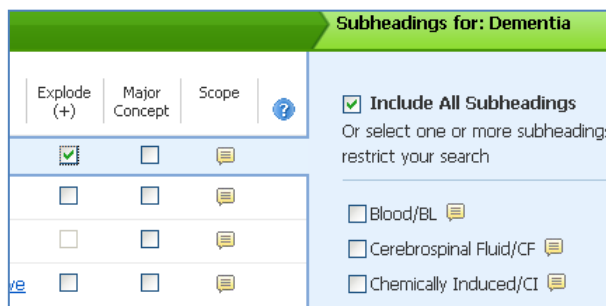
Step 1

On the next screen that appears, check the box (**Step 2**) next to the heading that best fits your topic. You then have the option to **Explode** the heading, focus it as the **Major Concept** of the articles you get in return, and select specific **Subheadings**. After setting up your search options, click **Search Database** to see your list of results (**Step 4**).



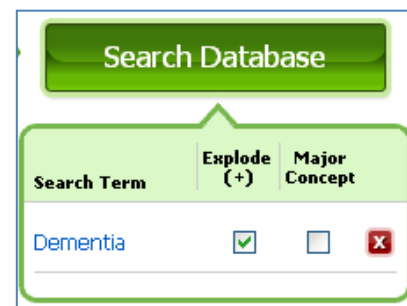
Results For: dementia
Check box to view subheadings. | Click linked term for tree view.
 Dementia
 Dementia, Vascular

Step 2



Subheadings for: Dementia
Explode (+) | Major Concept | Scope ?
 Include All Subheadings
Or select one or more subheadings restrict your search
 Blood/BL
 Cerebrospinal Fluid/CF
 Chemically Induced/CI

Step 3



Search Database
Search Term | Explode (+) | Major Concept
Dementia | | | X

Step 4

CINAHL has various search options that allow you to customize your subject heading search (see **Step 3** above):

Explode

Check this box if you want CINAHL to include narrower terms in the search. For example, if there are different types of dementias within the main heading for Dementia, CINAHL will also retrieve articles on those topics. This option **broadens** the search, and you end up with more results than if you left it unchecked.

Major Concept

Check this box if you want to limit your search results to articles that have the selected subject heading as one of the main subjects. This option **narrows** the search, and you end up with fewer results than if you left it unchecked. Major Concept is most useful when searching for a single concept.

Subheadings

Subheadings allow a search to be restricted to one or more facets, such as diagnosis, prevention and control, and therapy. By default CINAHL includes all subheadings in the search results, but if you want to specify certain ones then you can click next to them individually. The subheadings available will vary, according to the subject term.

Combining Subjects for Complex Searches

As a rule of thumb, **keep your search as simple as possible at first**. If you have a complex topic in mind, such as *pain measurement in patients with dementia*, do not type this entire phrase into the search box. Instead, break the topic down into 2 or 3 components, search for them separately and combine the searches at a later point. CINAHL allows you to combine more than one subject heading together.

To easily do this, follow Steps 1-4 above for your next concept, in this case, *pain measurement*. Repeat with each concept you wish to include in your search. Your searches will display on the Search History page:

[Basic Search](#) | [Advanced Search](#) | [Visual Search](#) | [Search History](#)

Search History / Alerts

[Print Search History](#) | [Retrieve Searches](#) | [Retrieve Alerts](#) | [Save Searches / Alerts](#)

Select / deselect all

	Search ID#	Search Terms	Search Options	Actions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	S2	(MH "Pain Measurement")	Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (19895)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	S1	(MH "Dementia+")	Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (28640)

Your searches will be numbered S1, S2, etc. The number of results for each search will also be displayed, next to *View Results*. Once you have found the subject terms to use for each concept within your topic, select each search you wish to combine, by clicking the checkbox next to the Search ID#.

Choose *Search with AND* to search for the selected terms together. Use *Search with AND* when you are combining different concepts.

Choose *Search with OR* to combine like searches in one set, while eliminating duplicates. Use *Search with OR* when you are combining similar concepts.

	Search ID#	Search Terms
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	S3	(MH "Dementia, Vascular")
<input type="checkbox"/>	S2	(MH "Pain Measurement")
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	S1	(MH "Dementia+")

MORE ON OR

If you want to create one large set, that combines two related concepts, select each related search and then *Search with OR*.

The resulting search will be a set of the two searches combined and any duplicates will be removed.

You would then combine that merged set of search results, with a completely different concept, using *Search with AND*.

Keyword Searching

A **keyword search** (which can be done by making sure that **Suggest Subject Terms** is **not selected**) will retrieve references that have the search term(s) or phrase in the records. To combine two or more keyword searches, type your additional terms in the subsequent search boxes. Keyword searching can be messier than subject term searching. With a keyword search, you may need to search for: synonyms ("*myocardial infarction*" or "*heart attack*"), variations in spelling (*estrogen* or *oestrogen*), and suffix variation (*hypertension* or *hypertensive*). When searching for phrases, make sure to put them in quotation marks (i.e. "*holistic nursing*") so the database knows to search those terms together, not separately. Use of **wildcards** and **truncation** can help with keyword searching as well.

Searching with Wildcards and Truncation

Using wildcards and truncation can facilitate keyword searching. The wildcard symbol (?) can be used to replace a character within a word (*wom?n* will retrieve references containing *woman* or *women*). The truncation symbol (*) is used to retrieve references containing a word that begins with the truncated characters (*parasit** retrieves terms such as *parasite*, *parasitology*, and *parasitic*).

Narrowing Search Results

Sometimes you need to narrow your search results further according to things like age group, gender, article type, publication year, etc. CINAHL makes this easy. After completing your search, you will see a menu on the left side of the screen labeled **Refine Your Results**. To see all options, click **Show More** and a window will pop up. Select the desired options and click the **Search** button which is located at either the top or bottom of the pop-up window.

Limiting Search Results to Evidence-based Resources

You can find EBM articles within CINAHL in a number of ways.

You can also narrow your search results by selecting **Edit** next to the search set you want to limit and then select **Evidence Based Practice**

OR

Narrow your search results by selecting **Edit** next to the search set you want to limit, scroll down to **Publication Types** and select one or more of the following (hold down the control key to select more than one):

Clinical Trial

Critical Path

Evidence-based Care Sheet

Practice Guidelines

Standards

Systematic Review

OR

You can also select the subheading **Standards** when selecting your subject.

OR

Combine your subject with one or more of the following subject headings: Professional Practice, Nursing Practice, Evidence-Based or Practice Guidelines

You can execute each of these searches, select each and then combine them into one EB set by choosing **Search with OR**.

Getting the Full-Text

Depending upon the source of the full-text of the reference, different links will be available from the results list and the individual reference page: full text links and the **Find It!** link.

[The assessment and management of pain in care homes.](#) 

(includes abstract); Cunningham C; McClean W; Kell (7); 29-35, 37 (journal article - case study) ISSN: 1-2010801689

Subjects: Pain Measurement; Dementia; Long Term Pain; Aged, 80 and over; Male; Female

Database: CINAHL Plus with Full Text

 Add to folder | Cited References: (42)

 HTML Full Text

 PDF Full Text

PDF or HTML

Click here!

NO PDF or HTML

[Assessing pain in patients with dementia.](#) 

Federico A; Nursing, 2009 Dec; 39 (12): 64 (journal article) ISSN: 0360-4039 19934749 CINAHL AN: 2010497749

Subjects: Dementia; Nursing Assessment; Pain Measurement; Pain; Aged: 65+

Database: CINAHL Plus with Full Text

 Add to folder | Cited References: (9)

Find It@OHSU Library

Click Find It@

Always click the **Find It@OHSU Library** link if you do not see a PDF or HTML link. The Find It@ link will open up a new window with a link to the full-text or a link to the library catalog with the location of the article in the print journal stacks (if either are available). If the Find It@ information does not indicate that the article is available electronically or in print from the OHSU Library, you can request a copy from another library by using the interlibrary loan system called ILL Express. The article(s) will be delivered to you electronically within 5 – 7 days. For more information go to www.ohsu.edu/library ▶ Services ▶ Interlibrary Loan and Photocopy Services.

What you'll see in the **FindIt@OHSU Library** window – move through these links from top to bottom:



Title: *Pain in dementia.*

Author: Scherder

Source: *Pain* (03043959) (ISSN 03043959) 20091001 145 (3): 276-

Link to article - OHSU only

Full-text available through [ScienceDirect](#)
LIB HAS 01-01-1975 -

1. Click to link to full text...either from the publisher or from

Library Catalogs

[OHSU/SEL/NCNM/UWS Library Catalog \(Journals only\)](#)
Search to see if library has *Hoitotiede*

2. Click this link to full-text or print, via the Library catalog

[OCLC WorldCat](#)

Check libraries in Oregon and beyond. Enter state or ZIP code when prompted.

Interlibrary Loan

Request article through [Interlibrary Loan](#)

3. Click this link to make an Interlibrary Loan request

Viewing, Printing and Emailing References

After searching, combining, or limiting, the system will display the record list. To view the complete citation and/or abstract, simply hold your mouse pointer over the magnifying glass next to the title of the reference. To view the entire reference, **click on the title**. To store a reference from this list, click **Add to folder**.

Once references are selected, the right side screen will indicate that the **Folder has items**. To view the stored items, click on **Go to Folder View** in the right side screen or click on the folder icon at the top of the page. Select the citations in the folder, then, select the desired option:

Print - with the option of printing any full-text articles in HTML format

Email - with the option of emailing the full text of articles in HTML and PDF formats

Save - with the option of saving full-text of articles in HTML and PDF formats

or

Export to import records into a bibliographic management program like RefWorks, which is the default option for exporting and will open the RefWorks program when you click **Save**.

Saving Searches and References

To save a search strategy to run at a future time, you need to create a **My EBSCOhost** account (this is free) and be logged in. To create an account, click **Sign in to My EBSCOhost** at the top of the page, then choose **I'm a new user**. After you are logged-in, run the desired search. Click on the **Search History/Alerts** link, then click **Save Searches/Alerts**. Use the **Saved Search** option if you want to rerun the search manually; use the **Alert** option if you want EBSCOhost to run the search automatically and email you the results.

With a My EBSCOhost account, you can also save individual references. Once you are logged in, click **Add to folder** next to the items that you want to save permanently.

Each time you log-in to your account, you will be able to access your saved searches and saved references in your folder.

Notes: