

*Using***CINAHL**

**CINAHL (Cumulative Index to Nursing & Allied Health Literature)** is a database offering indexing and abstracting for over 2,900 **nursing and allied healthcare** publications. The database contains more than 1,000,000 records dating back to 1981. CINAHL covers nursing, biomedicine, health sciences librarianship, alternative complementary medicine, consumer health and 17 allied health disciplines. Full text is available for over 72 journals as well as legal cases, clinical trials, drug records and research instruments. Additionally, CINAHL offers access to nursing dissertations, select conference proceedings, standards of practice and book chapters.

**Representative publications include:****AANA Journal****Cancer Journal****Journal for Nurse Practitioners****OpenMind****Addiction****Cardiology Clinics****Nursing Ethics****Science & Medicine****Age & Ageing****JAMA****Nutrition****Sports Medicine****Potential uses include:**

- ***Research Projects***  
**Locating peer-reviewed articles**  
**Book chapters**  
**Full-text access to publications not in the library**
- ***Professional Development***  
**Clinical practice standards**  
**Research instruments**
- ***Literature Reviews***  
**Search for citations on topics of interest**  
**Locate secondary sources**

***Accessing CINAHL***

Access is available to all Marian University students, faculty and staff via a link from the library web site ([www.marian.edu/library](http://www.marian.edu/library)). Use the computers in the library, campus computer labs, or any computer with internet access.

**Note about off campus access:** You will be prompted to type in your Marian University email account name and password to authenticate you as a valid user before you will be able to access the database.

**Path to database**

**Library web site → Articles and Databases → CINAHL**

**- See reverse for search tips -**

## TIPS FOR SEARCHING AN ELECTRONIC DATABASE

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### Keep it simple

Search by one or two terms only.

Start with the most obvious or relevant term(s), narrow the search as you review your results.

Be certain you are spelling your search term(s) correctly.

### Search operators (also called Boolean operators)

And	Or	Not
<b>Decreases number of hits</b>	<b>Increases number of hits</b>	<b>Decreases number of hits</b>
Each result contains <b>all</b> search terms.	Each result contains <b>at least one</b> search term.	Results <b>do not contain</b> the specified terms.
The search <i>heart and lung</i> finds items that contain <b>both</b> <i>heart and lung</i> .	The search <i>heart or lung</i> finds items that contain <b>either</b> <i>heart or</i> items that contain <i>lung</i> .	The search <i>heart not lung</i> finds items that contain <i>heart</i> <b>but do not contain</b> <i>lung</i> .

### Grouping search terms and operators

Group similar terms, using parentheses and search operators to broaden the search.

(athletes or athletics or sports) and nutrition

### Truncation and Wildcards

**Truncation** is represented by an asterisk (\*). The \* symbol may be used to search for any form of a root word. Educat\* searches for educate, education, educational, educator, etc.

**Truncation tip:** Use “or” to search singular and plural forms of a root word instead of using \*  
Ex. (cell or cells) will search only for the singular and plural of “cell”  
cell\* will also return cellular, cellulose, celluloid or other non-relevant terms

The **wildcard** is represented by a question mark ?. To use the wildcard, enter your search terms and replace each unknown character with a ?. Results include all citations of that word with the ? replaced by a letter.

*Example:* type **ne?t** to find all citations containing **neat**, **nest** or **next**. **Net** is not returned because the wildcard replaces a single character.

### Search results and printing

Sample search: geriatric nursing

Sample hit result:

[Fostering student interest in geriatric nursing: impact of senior long-term care experiences](#). Preview (includes abstract); Williams KN; Nowak J; Scobee RL; *Nursing Education Perspectives*, 2006 Jul-Aug; 27 (4): 190-3 (journal article - research, tables/charts) ISSN: 1536-5026 PMID: 16921803 CINAHL AN: 2009243083

 PDF Full Text

Click on either the title or the file format to access the available text. *If no file format is specified, full-text is not available.* The citation will be displayed first along with the abstract, followed by the full text of the article if available. **Note: Any item not accessible in full text format may be available via Interlibrary loan. Please complete the Interlibrary Loan Request form available on the library website and submit it to the circulation desk.**

Scan the abstract and article text **before** printing to be certain it is relevant and applicable to your needs. To print an article, display the text, click on the print button within the database (not the browser print icon) and follow the printing instructions.

**Please help conserve library resources - - do not print articles you do not need!**