HOW TO SEARCH CINAHL FOR AUDIOLOGY STUDENTS

ACCESS THE DATABASE

- Click on “CINAHL” on the “QUICK LINKS to HEALTH DATABASES” list.

AUTHENTICATION

- Type your last name and NSU ID number in the appropriate boxes.
- Then click on “SUBMIT.”

A password is required to access this resource.

Please note: your access to this resource may be restricted depending on whether you are in the Library; on or off campus; an NSU student, faculty or staff member; a registered Broward County user; or a walk-in user. Please make sure that you have selected your appropriate patron type in the previous page to be properly authenticated.

LAST NAME: [Input Field]
UNIVERSITY ID NUMBER: [Input Field]
SELECT CINAHL FROM THE LIST OF EBSCOhost DATABASES

• Click on the words “CINAHL Plus with Full Text” to access the database.

RETURN TO THE EBSCOhost LIST OF DATABASES BY CLICKING ON THE “CHOOSE DATABASES” TAB
• Every EBSCOhost database has a common interface.
• To return to this list without the need to log off and then log back on, click on the “Choose Databases” tab at the top of the page in each EBSCOhost database.
• You can then change conveniently from one EBSCOhost database to another.

THE SEARCH TERMS FOR THIS TUTORIAL

For this tutorial, we will do a search on “Middle Ear Infection” and the possibility of “Hearing Loss.” These are correlated terms, meaning that the second condition can result from a severe case of the first. Correlated terms are most often combined in searches. The process of combining search terms will be covered in detail later in this tutorial.

GET THE MOST PRODUCTIVE TERMS FOR YOUR SEARCH IN CINAHL

• The default setting for a search in any of the EBSCOhost databases is “CINAHL Subject Heading.”
• Unlike “Keyword” searches, the old default setting, which pull up every instance of the search-term whether it is the main topic of the article or merely mentioned briefly or as an aside, “CINAHL Subject Heading” searches retrieve the most relevant citations because the terms entered match those used consistently by authors in their abstracts and indexers who compile the CINAHL and Medline databases.
• Nevertheless, to make sure that you are getting the most appropriate CINAHL term, the “preferred” term, make sure the “Suggest Subject Terms” box is checked.
• Enter the term in the top query box and click on the “Search” button.
FIND THE CINAHL TERM ON THE LIST OF SUGGESTED TERMS

- Notice the term suggested differs from the one entered, e.g. “Otitis Media with Effusion” instead of “Middle Ear Infection.”

SELECT THE PREFERRED TERM FROM THE LIST OF TERMS

- **IMPORTANT**: For best results put a check mark in the box under “Major Concept.”
- Placing the preferred term in CINAHL’s top query box, requires clicking on the “Search” button.
- The actual search for the topic is done simultaneously.
• The “MM” code in front of the search term signifies that it is a “Major Concept.” A major concept is the topic treated as the primary emphasis of the study rather than just as a side issue, that is, merely touched on by the author(s).
• If the results of the search are disappointing, with the number of articles retrieved too few for your needs, do not use the MM code.

**VIEW THE TERM IN THE SEARCH HISTORY BOX**

• The term is automatically placed in the “Search History” box with the results indicated on the far right side of the screen.
• Notice that the search has been given an alphanumeric ID: “S1.” This is a handy abbreviation if you want to include the topic in subsequent searches involving a combination of correlated terms such as “Smoking” and “Lung Cancer” or “Otitis Media with Effusion” and “Hearing Loss.”
• Combining search terms will be covered later in this tutorial.
USE LIMITERS TO BRING THE NUMBER OF ARTICLES DOWN

- Over 150 articles retrieved during this search, even with the search term as a major concept, are too many to deal with conveniently.
- For such situations, CINAHL has a mechanism called “Limiters.”
- These can be found by clicking on the word “Revise” in the “Revise Search” column in the search history box or by clicking on the “Refine Search” tab.

SOME SUGGESTED LIMITERS TO MAKE YOUR SEARCH MORE PRODUCTIVE

- CINAHL has a multitude of limiters. Some of the most useful are:
  - To keep the dates of publication to the last two to four years: “Publication Year;”
  - To restrict the material to “Peer Reviewed” journals.
    - These are journals that are “reviewed” by an editorial board of nurse-experts, your “peers,” who make sure that the articles submitted for publication adhere to strict standards of quality. All articles felt to be substandard are eliminated.
  - If you are in a hurry, and you do not mind if some important articles that may appear in the search results are skipped, click on the “Full Text” limiter.
    - This retrieves only those articles which are in full text format.
    - CAUTION: using the full text limiter also removes articles that might be important but do not happen to have the full text label.
    - However, you can often find these important articles in electronic journals whose titles are not retrieved during the search with the full text limiter deployed.
    - NSU has more than 17,000 journal subscriptions online.
    - Thus, the likelihood of finding articles that don’t carry the full text label is quite high.
    - Moreover, even if a particular journal is not online or in the library, you can still request an article later from the HPD Library’s Interlibrary Loan Department.
• Other very useful limiters are to select “Journal Article” from the “Publication Type” box, and “English” from the list of “Languages.”
• Journal articles are much more current than are other forms of dissemination.

• You can, if necessary, limit your search to a particular age group such as “Adolescence,” 13-18 years or any other age group.
• You can also select one of the topics in the “Special Interest” box.
• The last limiter constitutes “overkill” and should be deployed only if necessary.
COMPLETING THE SEARCH WITH THE LIMITERS IN PLACE

- Return to the topmost search box at the top of the screen.
- Click on the search box once again.
- The new number of retrieved articles is now revealed in the search history box.
ADDING A SECOND TERM TO THE SEARCH

To do a search with two correlated search terms, do the search on the first term as demonstrated in the preceding sections. Then, repeat the process with the second term. In this case, the search will be on “Hearing Loss” suffered by patients who have had a severe case of “Otitis Media with Effusion.”

- Make sure to reduce the search to basic concepts e.g.: “Otitis Media with Effusion” and “Hearing Loss.”
- Clear the search term from the top query box by using the “Clear” button.
- Add the new term to the top box.

- Once you have done the search on the second term, your search history will reflect the results of both processes.
- Notice that the preferred term for “Hearing Loss” is “Hearing Disorders.”

- Place check marks in the boxes located to the left of the search terms.
• Click on the “Add” button.

• Both terms now move to the topmost query box.
• Notice the “And” between the S2 and S1.
• The word “And” is called a “Boolean Operator.”
• It operates by forcing the search engine to find articles in which both terms are present; not just one or the other.
• The “And” operator is the default operator when you do a search combining terms.
• **IMPORTANT:** Remove the check mark from the Suggest Subject Terms box.
• Click on the search button of the main query box once again to get the results.

• There are 13 articles in which both search terms occur.
• Normally, there would be more hits which would necessitate the use of limiters.
• Here, limiters are of little use because so few articles were retrieved when combining the search terms.
### SELECTING ARTICLES

- Click on either the number “13” or on the tag “Results” to access the list of retrieved articles.
• The first page of results comes into view.

• Click on the folder icon on the right side of the screen to select an article.
• It is placed in a folder for later action.
• After selecting as many articles as you need, go to the top of the screen.
• Click on the folder on the right.

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• Click on the folder on the right.
- The folder’s contents are revealed.

- You can print, email, or save the articles to disk.
- For assistance with finding full text articles, please go to that tutorial.
- For more information about CINAHL, read the in-depth version of the tutorial.

**SEARCHING FOR AN AUTHOR**

- Each of the three query boxes has a drop down menu.
- To reveal the various fields on which to concentrate the search click on the down arrow at the far end of the box.

- All of the fields on which the user can search are revealed.
- Notice that the “MM” or “Major Concept” field can also be accessed from this list.
- Here it is called “Exact Major Subject Heading.”
Select the “AU” or “Author” field by clicking on it.
Enter the author’s name last name first and then the initials.
Do not use commas between last name and initials.

All of the articles written by that author either by himself/herself or as a co-author will be retrieved.
As usual, click on either the “Results” tab or the number in the “Results” column.
All of his/her articles indexed in this database are now listed.
If the author’s name does not appear, it is because only the first three of the co-authors’ names appear.
If you click on the title of an article, however, you will find the author for whom you searched in the more extensive citation shown.
SEARCHING FOR AN ARTICLE BY TITLE

- Click on the down arrow to reveal the drop down menu.
- Select and click on the “TI” or “Title” field to select it.

- Enter the article title in the query box and click on search.
- **CAUTION:** Do not use any punctuation marks whatsoever.
- Use only part of the first part of the title; not the entire title.
• The article appears in the search history box.

• Click on the Refine Search tab or the word “Revise” in the Results column to get the citation.
• Click on the “PDF Full Text” label to get the entire article.
• When given a choice of full text formats, choose PDF, as this presents the contents of the article as a facsimile of the actual page in the journal.
• HTML often shows images and charts in thumbnail size; impossible to read.

SEARCHING FOR A TOPIC IN A SPECIFIC JOURNAL

• If it is necessary to limit a search to a specific journal, for instance one that you know is in the library in print form or online and in full text, first point the cursor to the “Publications” panel in the tool bar and click to activate it.
• Enter the title of the journal in the “Browse Publications” query box.
• Click on the “Browse” box.
• The journal will be displayed at the top of the page.
• Make sure to click in the box to the left of the title to select it.

• Click on the “Add” button to bring the title to the “Find” box.
• Then click on “Search.”
The journal’s title is immediately transferred to the top query box with the appropriate code: “JN.”
Click on the Search box again.
Clear the journal title from the query box by selecting “Clear.”
Remember that the journal will be retained in the Search History box.

Now type in the topic that you wish to investigate.
Click on the Search box as usual.
At this point you need to follow procedure by making the topic a Major Concept and clicking on the Search button.

Once the topic has been searched and the results retrieved, clear it from the query box.
• Place check marks in the two boxes under “Add to Search.”
• And click on the “Add” button using the “And” operator.

The two terms are brought to the top query box.
Make sure to remove the check mark from the Suggest Subject Terms box.
Then click on the Search box.

• The results of the combined searches are displayed in the Search History box.
- You can now examine the articles and select those which match your research needs.