CINAHL Plus with Full Text is a database which provides details of articles in over 1,200 English-language nursing and allied health journals published since 1982 as well as details of books and book chapters, dissertations, selected conference proceedings, standards of practice, pamphlets, educational software packages and audiovisual material. Subject areas covered include nursing, biomedicine, health sciences librarianship, consumer health and 17 allied health disciplines.

Direct links to articles are included in many search results. Full Text Finder and Linked Fulltext buttons appear in other results if the article is available from one of the collections of electronic journals to which LJMU subscribes.

**To access CINAHL Plus with Full Text**

1. Go to the student home page on LJMUWeb
2. Click on Library
3. Click on Electronic Library
4. Click on Databases A-Z on the Electronic Library page
5. Scroll down the alphabetical list and click on the link to CINAHL Plus with Full Text.
Sample searches

The following sample searches are based on enquiries received from students. The accompanying notes include points which can be applied to searches in general.

I need to find some articles on assessment.

Assessment is a very broad topic which can occur in various different contexts, so it is important to define more precisely what is required. Is it health assessment, patient assessment, student assessment or ...?

In this case the student is looking for articles on the assessment of students.

Typing “student assessment” into the first box on the CINAHL search screen, leaving the “Select a Field (optional)” setting as it is and clicking on Search produces references to some articles.

Putting inverted commas around the phrase helps to ensure that the words appear near each other in each result.

Searching for “student* assess*” would include all the possible endings for both words and produce far more potentially relevant results.

If a search like this produces a large number of irrelevant results, it can be worth repeating the search with “TI Title” from the drop down “Select a Field (optional)” menu to restrict the search to articles which have the words in the title. These are likely to be articles which focus on the topic.
I’m looking for articles on patient dignity.

Articles on this topic might be indexed under respect or privacy as well as under dignity. You can include these alternative terms in a single search, as illustrated below.

I need some articles on mouth care for intensive care patients.

To search for material on a topic like this, it is a good idea to start by identifying the key phrases, i.e. mouth care and intensive care. To find articles about the mouth care of intensive care patients, you could try

CINAHL will then display details of articles which contain both phrases.

If you can think or more than one way to describe your topic, you can enter alternative search terms in the same search box and insert or between them, e.g. COPD or “chronic obstructive pulmonary disease”.

Searching with CINAHL headings

As they add details of new articles to the database, the indexers at CINAHL assign carefully selected subject headings or CINAHL headings to each reference to reflect the concept(s) discussed in the article. The aim is that all articles on a topic should be allocated the same CINAHL headings regardless of the terms which different authors might use to describe the topic. Sometimes a CINAHL heading will be the same as the word or phrase you’ve thought of. On other occasions it will be completely different.

To check the CINAHL heading for the topic and run a search for articles with that heading, click on the CINAHL Headings link above the search boxes, type the term you’ve thought of in the white box and click on Browse.
If you enter student assessment, you are advised to search under the CINAHL heading Student performance appraisal. To select this CINAHL heading, click in the little box to the left of Student Performance Appraisal.

To limit the search to articles which concentrate on the topic, click in the Major Concept box to the right of the CINAHL heading. Most CINAHL headings have associated subheadings which allow you to narrow down a search. Unless you select one or more subheadings, CINAHL will search for all aspects of the topic. Click the big green Search Database button once you’ve chosen your settings.

Exploring search results

CINAHL normally displays search results in order of relevance. To sort them by date instead, click on the Relevance link to the top right of the results list and select Date Newest from the list of options to see the most recent at the top of the list.

Point to the icon in the search result or click on an article title to read more about it.
Click on the PDF Full text or HTML Full text link, if there is one, for direct access to the full article.
If there is a Find Full Text button in a result, click on it to access the article from the collections of electronic journals which LJMU subscribes to.
If you have found details of an article which you are keen to read but none of the above options appears below it, consider requesting it through Inter-Library Loan.
Refining a search

After looking through the results of an initial search, you may decide that you’d like to refine it to produce a smaller number of more relevant results. One way to do this is to return to the search screen and type a term into the second box to narrow down the subject of the search, e.g. to find articles about the mouth care of intensive care patients, you could try

Alternatively, click on Show More>> in the column to the left of the search results display and choose the refinements you want to apply from the Limit your results section by ticking the appropriate boxes or selecting an option from a list.
For example, to limit a search to

- research-based articles, tick the Research article box
- articles published in the UK or Ireland, select UK & Ireland from the Geographic Subset list.
- articles about patients of a particular age, select the most appropriate option from the Age Groups list
- articles about patients of a particular gender, select Female or Male from the Sex list

Once you’ve chosen the refinements you want to make, click on Search. To cancel an individual refinement, click on All if it appears on a list or untick the appropriate box. To cancel all the refinements you’ve selected, click on Search options and then on Reset.

To add a record of your searches to your assignment, click on the Search History link below the search entry boxes and then on the Print Search History link above the display of your searches. Your recent searches will be displayed in a new window. To copy this Search History into a Word document, right click in the Print Search History window and choose Select All. Right click again and choose Copy. Open the Word document you want to add it to and right click where you want your search history to appear and select Paste.