Identify your RESEARCH QUESTION or statement

Example: What does research show regarding the best practices to nurture a just culture of patient safety hospital wide?

What are the most important concepts or key concepts in your question?

BRAINSTORM Keywords

Keywords are the main ideas of your research question. Keywords are the exact words used by the author in the title or the abstract and may or may not be the focus of the article. Discover more terms by reading articles that you find!!

Example: just culture, safety culture, patient safety culture, nurse leaders, nurse administrators, leadership

BRAINSTORM Subject Headings

Most articles are indexed by subject experts who read the articles and assign a specific terminology to describe the content of the article.

In PubMed the subject headings are called Medical Subject Headings or MeSH. When you use MeSH terms you retrieve all records on a subject regardless of the terms used by the author. Same for the CINAHL Subject Headings.

To look at MeSH terms for a particular citation, click the title and scroll below the abstract and click .

To find MeSH terms for your search, change drop down menu next to search box from PubMed to MeSH.

Combine both keywords and subject headings in your search for comprehensiveness

Not every article in PubMed has MeSH terms for various reasons (e.g., in process of being indexed, out of MEDLINE scope, or just released by the publisher) so you will need to use keywords.

Select the BEST Search Tools!

Databases

Click Research Databases from lib.uconn.edu and select one database at a time.

If PDF link is not available, click UCONN Full Text to link through to the item or to request item via Interlibrary Services.
Examples of pertinent databases for this project are on the EBSCO platform:

- **CINAHL Plus with Full Text** (Cumulative index to Nursing and Allied Health)
- **Academic Search Premier**
- **PsycINFO**

Examples of other helpful databases that are not in EBSCO, but available through the library:

- **PubMed** (includes Medline)
- **Scopus**
- **Cochrane** (Systematic reviews and clinical trials)
- **TRIP Medical Database (free version)** Turning Research Into Practice

**Full-text Databases**

Is a searchable collection of research literature that includes the entire text of an article or book, reproduced as a webpage and/or in PDF format, and other related resources.

These databases may be multidisciplinary (covering a range of subjects) or subject-specific (for one subject only), and are limited in scope!

**Example:** **PMC (PubMed Central), JSTOR**

**Reliable health related web sites**

Useful for background information, statistics and guidelines.

**Example:** **DynaMed Plus** (an EB tool), **Micromedex Healthcare Series**, **MedlinePlus**, **Medscape Reference**

**Examples from U.S. health agencies:** **AHRQ**, **Patient Safety Network**, **U.S. Preventive Services Task Force Recommendations** (USPSTF), **ERCI Guidelines Trust** (replaces the National Guidelines Clearinghouse), **CDC FastStats**, **CDC Features**, **CDC, Healthy People**, **National Institute of Nursing Research**

**Example of International agencies:** **World Health Organization**, **Fogarty International Center** (NIH Global Health)

**Search box on Library webpage** [https://lib.uconn.edu/](https://lib.uconn.edu/)

Searches multiple databases and the library’s catalog at once. The library catalog is an online tool used to find items housed physically in the library and electronic items such as articles, eBooks and streaming media. Remember to **SIGN IN** to renew what you have checked out, to create and save lists, or to request Items. **WorldCat** is another tool that searches our holdings and other research libraries.
You can find a lot of research on a topic quickly, but it may bring back too many results from many different fields of study on a topic. Certain databases (e.g., CINAHL, PsycINFO, or Academic Search Premier) may not be included, so it is still important to check the other databases.

Advanced Search screen is more efficient and much easier to narrow results.

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**Browse journals for information (not always efficient)!**

- View Journal Contents via BrowZine, view full text articles if we subscribe to journal.
- OR Click Find on webpage; then click E-Journal Search; enter name of journal.
- OR Browse the Table of Contents for each issue of a journal OR search for your topic within a specific journal by clicking search box.

**Examples:** AIDS Care; American Journal of Public Health; International Journal of Nursing Practice; Journal of Cultural Diversity; Ethnicity & Health; Global Health Promotion

**Web search engines**

Returns high quantity of results from the full range of sources available on the web. Results are determined by a formula involving popularity and relevancy. May not be the best place to start for scholarly research.

**Example:** Google, Google Scholar

**Types of Literature**

Try to find peer reviewed RESEARCH ARTICLES from academic journals

Journal articles are written by a researcher or scholar for a specific field, some are reviewed by peer scholars before publication.

You may want to find a review of the literature for background information
You may want to include Clinical Trials, Randomized Controlled Trials, Multicenter Study, and Meta-Analysis

You may want to exclude Letters, Editorials, Comments, Meeting Abstracts, Book Reviews, and Case Reports

**USE Boolean Operators** Insert AND, OR and NOT into your search to broaden or narrow it.

**Example** obese OR obesity OR overweight will broaden your results

**Example** nursing practice AND refugees will narrow your results

**Example** Puerto Ricans NOT Mexican Americans will exclude irrelevant terms, but use with CAUTION!

**MORE tips:**

- Use an Asterisk * to truncate a root word for more terms (e.g. mimic* will find mimic, mimics, mimicking)
- Use double Quotes to search an EXACT phrase, use with caution.
- Use a search tag to indicate term should be found in a specific place: beverage*[ti] AND "Portion Size"[Mesh]

**Example** infant mortality AND (health policy OR social policy)

- (“graphic medicine” OR “graphic novels” OR “graphic narratives”) AND (literacy OR self-care)

Most databases ignore stop words (e.g. the, if, in, all, any, an, are)

**Eight possible topics for your assignments with suggested keywords and websites**

- **Nondisclosure of HIV status among Childbearing Women- its implications (i.e. stigma, depression, poor health care)**
  - **KEYWORDS:**
    - (nondisclosure OR disclosure) AND (HIV OR “AIDS patients” OR acquired immunodeficiency syndrome) AND (women OR woman OR maternal OR mother*)
    - (HIV disclosure OR HIV nondisclosure) AND (women OR woman OR maternal OR mother*)
  - **WEBSITES:**
    - AIDS.gov OR AIDSinfo (NIH)
      - [https://www.aids.gov/](https://www.aids.gov/)
      - [https://aidsinfo.nih.gov/](https://aidsinfo.nih.gov/)
    - HIV InSite (University of California, San Francisco) http://hivinsite.ucsf.edu/

- **Best Practice in Prevention Education and Enhancing Adherence in Chronic Illnesses (pick a specific disease of interest such as HIV, TB, diabetes, hypertension, diarrhea/diarrhoeal, etc.) and/or population (i.e. rural, underserved, veterans)**
KEYWORDS:
- (diabetes OR diabetic*) AND (prevention OR education OR self-care OR self-management) AND African American*
- (diabetes self-care OR diabetes self-management) AND Hispanic*
- (diabetes education OR diabetes prevention) AND primary care AND African American*

WEBSITES:
- American Association of Diabetes Educators (AADE) Guidelines for the Practice of Diabetes Education (2016)
  http://www.diabeteseducator.org/DiabetesEducation/position/Practice_Guidelines.html
- International Diabetes Federation Global Guidelines
  https://www.idf.org/e-library/guidelines.html

o Enhancing Cultural Competency in Nursing

KEYWORDS:
- enhance* cultural competenc*
- cultural competenc* AND (nursing OR nurses) AND (increase* OR fostering OR enhancing OR creating OR strengthen*)
- (cultural competenc* OR cultural sensitivity OR cultural awareness OR cultural diversity) AND (empathy OR leadership)

WEBSITES:
- Transcultural C.A.R.E. Associates:
  http://www.transculturalcare.net/
- National Center for Cultural Competence
  https://nccc.georgetown.edu/__click Resources
- Office of Minority Health- U.S. agency (Click Cultural Competency)
  https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/

o Overcoming Health Disparities in a Developing country (i.e. HIV rates, TB, malaria, infant and maternal mortality, anemia, human trafficking)

KEYWORDS:
- South Africa* AND child health AND (interventions OR education)
- South Africa* AND (infant mortality OR maternal mortality) AND (interventions OR education OR counseling OR screening)

WEBSITES:
- International Council of Nurses Position Statement – Health of Migrants, Refugees and Displaced Persons

- WHO Publication - ANC guidelines for a positive pregnancy experience (2019)


- The First Thousand Days of Life http://www.thousanddays.org/


- Strategies to Improve Mental Health of Various Populations (e.g., improving access, reducing stigma, suicide prevention, etc.) - pick a population (i.e. veterans, college students, transgender) and specific mental disorder (i.e. depression, dysthymic disorder, addiction)

  KEYWORDS:
  - (immigrants OR refugees) AND (mental health OR trauma)
  - (women veterans OR female veterans) AND (mental health OR traumatic stress OR mental disorders)
  - mental disorders AND primary health care AND (vulnerable population* OR underserved or under-served)

  WEBSITES:


Creating a “Just Culture”

KEYWORDS
- “just culture” AND (leaders OR administration)
- (organizational culture OR teamwork) AND safety
- safety culture AND (Nurses OR nursing staff)
- "just culture" AND patient safety

WEBSITES:
- The Joint Commission-Sentinel Event Alert Issue #43 Leadership Committed to Safety
  http://www.jointcommission.org/assets/1/18/SEA_43.PDF
- The Joint Commission–Developing a Reporting Culture: Learning from close calls and hazardous conditions (2018)
  https://www.jointcommission.org/assets/1/18/SEA_60_Reporting_culture_FINAL.pdf
- Actionable Patient Safety Solutions (APSS) from Patient Safety Movement Foundation

Minimizing Horizontal and Vertical Violence in nursing (incivility)

KEYWORDS:
- (violence OR bullying OR incivility) AND workplace AND (nurses OR nursing)
- (bullying or disruptive behavior) AND leadership AND workplace
- (incivility OR bullying OR workplace violence OR harassment) AND nursing leader*

WEBSITES
- The Joint Commission. Sentinel Event Alert #40 Behaviors that undermine a culture of safety
  http://www.jointcommission.org/assets/1/18/SEA_40.PDF
- U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration on preventing workplace violence in health care
  https://www.osha.gov/Publications/osha3148.pdf
- American Nursing Association
- International Council of Nurses. Position Statement on abuse and violence against nursing personnel
- **Workplace Violence against Health Care Workers in the United States.** (copy PMID number in PubMed for article)

  - *Reducing Nursing Burnout*
    **KEYWORDS:**
    - “nursing staff” burnout
    - nursing burnout AND (intervention* OR prevent* OR minimiz* OR alleviat*)
    - nurs* AND (reduc* OR prevent*) AND (stress OR burnout ) AND (leader* OR management)
    - job satisfaction AND quality of care AND nursing staff

  **WEBITES:**
  - The American Nurses Association (ANA) on Nurse Staffing
  - *Nurses say stress interferes with caring for their patients*

**Let’s take our keywords (natural language) and search in CINAHL**
EBSCO platform provides multiple search boxes. Put one topic on each line and click **Search**.

  - **Enter key term(s)** in search box (similar concepts are combined with OR), and click **Search** button.

  ![Search](image)

  - Narrow topic by adding (AND) another concept (e.g. journal name or author name)

  ![Search](image)
- Use the **pull-downs** in **Select a Field** if you want to look for words in a specific part of the citation (e.g. title, author, or abstract fields) – remember this may drop important articles!

![Search History](image)

- Click **Search History** located below search box to manipulate search sets, if desired

- Click **Show More** under **Refine Results** on left to filter results (select **Peer Reviewed**, **English**, **Research Article**, Publication Date, and Evidence-Based Practice. From the Publication Box select **Review, Guidelines, if needed**)

**Note:** If you choose “Limit to Full Text” you will not get the UCONN Links!!

![Refine Results](image)

Run same search in different EBSCO databases without changing your strategy!
Step 1. Click Choose Databases to navigate to other EBSCO Databases

Step 2. Deselect the database you were in (e.g. CINAHL Plus with Full Text) - just remove check mark in box

Step 3. Select the box next to a new database (e.g. Academic Search Premier) – one database at a time

Step 4. Click OK button

- Now you are running the same search in Academic Search Premier
- Click Search button to run the search in the new database
- Click Refresh Search Results button

EXPAND your keywords

Click article title to view the subject headings and add those terms as applicable.
  - Open the full text document and read article to build a search term list.
    - Look at the bibliography in each article to make sure you have the titles.
If you discover an article title that you should have found, find out how that article is indexed.

- Copy/paste an article title of interest in Scopus to find other articles that have cited this article.

Let's run the same search in PubMed. [NOTE that a new version of PubMed will occur in December 2019]

- Before leaving EBSCO, click Search History and copy a set of the best search terms and paste in PubMed search box, click Search. For example:
  - (just culture OR safety culture) AND (leaders* OR administration) – this example will find the terms anywhere in the record

PubMed retrieves huge results so view Search Details on the results page to see where the terms are found.
- In this example, just culture is translated to ethnology or laboratory culture or culture anywhere in the record!
- Culture = “ethnology”[subheading] OR “ethnology”[All Fields] OR “culture”[All Fields] OR “culture”[Mesh terms]

- Narrow results further by searching terms as a phrase in specific fields - Caution!
  - “just culture”[ti] OR “safety culture”[ti] to find phrase in title
  - “just culture”[tiab] OR “safety culture”[tiab] to find phrase in title or abstract

- Use parentheses to delineate each topic or group synonyms
  - (“just culture”[tiab] OR “safety culture”[tiab]) AND (leaders* OR administration)

- Click article titles to view the MeSH and add to search:
  - (“Patient Safety”[Mesh]) AND “Nurses/psychology”[Mesh]) AND ”Qualitative Research”[MeSH Terms]

- Click Advanced under search box to review search history

- To limit results, click Show Additional Filters on left side when displaying results
  - For English language: Select Languages, click SHOW, select English then reselect
  - For AGES and select specific age groups
  - For more Article Types (e.g. Practice Guideline, Systematic review, Meta-analysis, Randomized Controlled Trials), click Customize under Article Types, select article type to show, click Show then reselect your limits
PubMed Tips:

- PubMed has a special filter that allows you to limit a search to **systematic reviews** and meta-analysis **Systematic [sb]** (12/18).
  - Add **AND systematic [sb]** to your Search set
  - "patient safety" AND systematic[sb]

- To find **meta-analyses**, combine the search term, **meta-analysis**, with your search results using **AND**.

- Click **title of article** to find **UCONN Full Text** and the full text. This example shows a full text link from **PMC & UCONN Full Text**

- **Sort your results** by **Most Recent**. **Caution** is advised with **Best Match**, which is available in the **Sort** menu. **Best Match** is not a comprehensive search and uses an algorithm which counts the number of times that your search terms appear in a record.

Use our Research Guides for more help

Examples: **Health Subject Guide** or **Psychology Subject Guide** or **Citation Guides**

ORGANIZE YOUR RESEARCH -

- Set up a **MY EBSCOhost** account to save your work in EBSCO databases:
  - Select **Sign In** located on the top tool bar to create a new account.
  - Click blue icon located next to article title you want, once article is saved it turns yellow.
  - Once you save articles, click open folder to view you saved citations.
  - If you close your browser without saving your work to your my EBSCOhost account you will lose your temporary folder and the contents!
- Set up a **My NCBI** account to save your work in PubMed.
  - Select **Sign in to NCBI** and create account.
  - Click the box next to the article title you want and send to Clipboard. When finished save to Collections or export to RefWorks.
  - Save your search, save your references, set up search alerts, turn on **highlighting** for ease of searching.
Get full text articles:

- To find all UConn full text articles when searching our databases, NEVER limit your retrieval to full text!
- **Look for:**
  - PDF symbol which will automatically give you the PDF article
  - HTML symbol which will give you the article in HTML format
  - **UCONN Links** if PDF symbol is not given, click **UCONN Full Text**

- **UCONN Full Text** may provide:
  - a link to the article
  - a link to the journal website and from there you can search for the article
  - a message saying **No full text available**
    - click **Request this article through Interlibrary Services** to order the article from Interlibrary Services
    - the scanned article will be sent to you via your UCONN email

**Use a Citation Manager/Reference Manager**

An online tool or desktop software used to organize and store citations and full-text articles or other documents, create bibliographies, insert in-text citations into a paper, and share references with research partners.

**Example:** RefWorks, Mendeley, Zotero
Websites about writing op-ed:

http://www.theopedproject.org/

Websites discussing Position statements:

http://www.nursingworld.org/positionstatements (American Nurses Association)
https://www.ena.org/practice-resources/resource-library/position-statements (Emergency Nurses Association)

Non-profit organization focusing on national and global health issues:

Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation http://kff.org/

Click located on the library website if you have a question.

Valori Ann Banfi
valori.banfi@uconn.edu
860-486-2824

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Some of the ideas used in this handout came from Kathy Kavanagh Webb, Research & Instructional Services Librarian kavanaghk@ecu.edu & Elsevier’s Library Connect