NURS 3205 - Nursing Research tips using UConn Library tools

Identify your RESEARCH QUESTION or statement

Example: What is the process of body image adaptation following physical disfigurement from a burn?

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: burns, burn patient, burn victim, burn survivor; body image, self-concept, coping, adaptation, self-esteem

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. This is the same with 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. Keep a list of terms that you like and terms that you will not use in your search.

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 are on the EBSCO platform:

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

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

- PubMed (including Medline)
- Scopus
- Cochrane (Systematic reviews and clinical trials)

**Full-text Databases**

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, guidelines, and patient information.

Example: DynaMed, Micromedex Healthcare Series, MedlinePlus, Medscape Reference, CDC, VisualDx

**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.

Example: burns AND body image in the Advanced Search mode:
Browse journals for information (not always efficient, but fun)!
  o Click Find; then click E-Journal Search; enter name of journal (e.g. MCN, Nursing Made Incredibly Easy!). You can browse the Table of Contents for each journal issue.
  o OR View Journal Contents via BrowZine.

Web search engines

Returns high quantity of results from the full range or 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, or Meta-Analysis (Quantitative research).

You may want to include Grounded Theory, Phenomenological Research, or Lived Experience (Qualitative research).

You may want to exclude (using NOT) Letters, Editorials, Comments, Meeting Abstracts, Book Reviews, or 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: “portion size” AND (obese OR obesity) will narrow your results

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

Other 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: “body image”
- Use a search tag to indicate term should be found in a specific place: beverage*[ti] AND “Portion Size”[Mesh]
- Use Parentheses if you are using more than one Boolean: “eating disorders” AND (intervention* OR motivation*)

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

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.

- Narrow topic by adding (with AND) another concept (e.g. journal name, author name, or type of research such as qualitative/qualitative research, Randomized Controlled Trials, etc.).
- 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!
- Click Search History located below search box to manipulate search sets, if desired.
Create Alert will save your search and will notify you by email of new publications on your topic.

Click Show More under Refine Results to narrow results (select Peer Reviewed, English, Research Article, and Publication Date).

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

Run same search in different EBSCO databases without changing your strategy!

Step 1. Click Choose Databases to navigate to another EBSCO Database.

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 the **article title** to view the **subject headings**. Read the article to build your keyword/key phrases list. Look at the **bibliography** in each article to make sure you have those titles.

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: a new version of PubMed will be available 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**. Use **parentheses** to nest similar concepts or synonyms.
  - (burns OR burn patient* OR burn victim*) AND (body image OR self-esteem or self-image)
Search Details on the results page will show where your terms are found in the citation record (e.g., author, title, journal, and keyword).

- Use [ti] to find your terms in the title; use [tiab] to find terms in the title or abstract. You cannot use the asterisk when searching in the title or title/abstract field [tiab].

- Add Qualitative (or Quantitative, Randomized Controlled Trials, Meta-analysis, Mixed Methods, etc.) to find research articles.
  - (“burn survivors”[tiab] OR “burn victims”[tiab]) AND (qualitativ* OR phenomenological)

- Click title of article to view abstract or to find UCONN Full Text.

- Click Filters on left side of results screen to narrow your focus (e.g. Article Types, Languages, Publication Date, Age, Etc.). Click “Show Additional Filters” to activate more choices.

- Click article titles to view the Medical Subject Headings (MeSH), which are pre-approved terms that describe content in an article. For example, articles indexed with “Burns/psychology” [Mesh] will describe the psychological aspects of burns, even if the author did not use those terms in the title or abstract.

- Check citation box to select article, then send to Clipboard under Send to dropdown, and then select Add to Clipboard.
When done with search, click Clipboard icon to bring up your saved citations.

Print your saved results, or click Send To and email results, save to My Bibliography, or export saved results to RefWorks (select File or Citation Manager).

**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.

**Getting full text articles:**

- To find all UConn full text articles when searching our databases, **NEVER** limit your retrieval to full text!
  - 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, or a message saying **No full text available** → click **Request this article through Interlibrary Services** to order the article from Interlibrary Loan.
the scanned article will be sent to you via your UCONN email

Use our Research Guides for more help

Examples: Health Subject Guide or Citation Guides

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

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

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