Searching CINAHL Complete and Finding Full-Text Articles

Go to Bell Library’s homepage: http://rattler.tamucc.edu

Four areas require “authentication” for remote or off-campus access: Databases, the Find Journals List, Interlibrary Loan, and E-Reserves.

To search CINAHL Complete:

- Click on Find Articles, or look under Find Databases, the drop-down menu on the blue bar.
- Click on C for CINAHL
- Scroll down the page to access CINAHL Complete

If you are off-campus or in a campus dorm, you will be asked to log in. Follow the Library’s Remote Access instructions, http://rattler.tamucc.edu/offcampus/offcampus.html.

CINAHL is the Cumulative Index to Nursing & Allied Health Literature. Below is the CINAHL search screen.

- Type keywords or phrases in the search boxes. It helps to use separate boxes for each concept.
If you are uncertain about what words to use, click the Suggest Subject Terms box near the top of the screen. This can help you focus in on your topic. These words and phrases are those used by CINAHL, and they are called CINAHL Headings.

If a search field is not selected from the drop-down menu on the right side of the screen, you will get the broadest search results. Examples of search fields are Author, Journal title, etc. There are many ways to limit results, such as Publication Year, Peer Reviewed, and Research Article.

Once the search terms are entered and limits selected, click Search.

If the Suggest Subject Terms box is checked when doing a search about AIDS, for example, the screen below appears. Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome is the phrase used by CINAHL. If you use this phrase, your results will be more relevant.
Select this heading by clicking in the box to the left of the phrase. You will then see a list of Subheadings under that topic. You may focus on particular subheadings or leave the selection to Include All Subheadings.

You can also check Major Concept on the right side of the screen so that all articles retrieved will have this disease as the major topic of the article.

Add the topic to the search by clicking the Search Database button on the right side of the screen. Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome then appears in the search box, and results on this topic are retrieved.

There are many ways to refine your search results and make them more relevant. Under the Refine Results link on the left side of the screen, you are able to limit your results according to Publication Date, Source Types, Publication, etc. In order to see even more ways to limit your search, click on the Show More link.
Peer Reviewed, Research Article, Evidence-Based Practice, First or Any Author is Nurse are important ways to limit your search results.

You can also limit by Language, Journal Subset (e.g., Nursing), Publication Type (e.g., Care Plan, Clinical Trial, Journal Article, Nursing Interventions, Research Instrument, Software, Systematic Review, etc.)
Sample search for **Nursing and ethics**: Results Screen

Look below at record #1. The *article title* is in blue (hyperlinked) followed by the author name(s), *journal title, date, volume* number (*issue* number, if there is one), and page numbers. If the full text is available in this database, a **PDF** icon will appear.
If the full text of the article is available in another database or in another format, such as print, a "Get Full Text" icon will appear. Follow that link to see if Bell Library has access to the full text of the article. For the journal Nurse Education Today, for example, clicking on the “Get Full Text” icon resulted in the screen below.
Electronic full text articles from Nurse Education Today can be found in the Science Direct database. Dates of coverage are noted next to the database name. Click on the name to retrieve the article.

At times, the “Get Full Text” link directs the user to the Bell Library catalog. That link can be followed to see if the library has print or microform holdings.

If the article is not available online or in any other format, you may request a copy through the Interlibrary Loan Service (ILLiad). To do this, click on the Interlibrary Loan link under Services on the library’s homepage.

**Find Journals List**

Another way to see if the library owns or has access to journals is to check the Find Journals List. Link to this from the library’s homepage by hovering over the word Find. Once in the list, type the journal name in the Find box and click Search.

Journal of Nursing Research is available online, full-text in two databases, Academic Search Complete and CINAHL Complete. In this case, click on either database name to retrieve the full text.

![Find Journals List](image)

When the link to CINAHL Complete is followed, the database screen appears as shown below. Select the year in which the needed article was published to retrieve the full text.
Once you are in the appropriate year, enter some key elements of information from your citation—author's last name and/or a few keywords from the title of the article, for example. Use the drop-down menus on the right side of the search boxes to specify the field or element of information you want to search—author or whatever. Or you can just search on keywords to retrieve the full text.

If you need further assistance, call the Reference Desk at (361) 825-2609 or use the Ask a Librarian E-mail Reference Service, which can be accessed under the Help drop-down menu on the library's homepage.

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