



Anoka Technical College Library Media Center CINAHL (Nursing) Database Tip Sheet

Path to CINAHL: From the college website, click on Current Students – Library and Research – library databases -- CINAHL.


Composing a basic search

From the opening screen, enter your search terms in the white rectangle. The default search results will be returned in chronological order, the most recent results first. Only full-text results will be returned in **basic search**, although the database indexes thousands of authoritative sources that can be obtained through interlibrary loan. To change these settings, or to set additional search criteria ("**Search Modes and expanders**"), scroll down to below the green **Search Options** bar.

The screenshot shows the EBSCOhost search interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links like 'New Search', 'Publications', 'CINAHL Headings', etc. The main search area has a search bar with 'pregnancy' entered and a 'Search' button. Below the search bar is a 'Search Options' section, which is circled in red. This section is divided into two main parts: 'Search Modes and Expanders' and 'Limit your results'. The 'Search Modes and Expanders' part has three radio buttons: 'Boolean/Phrase' (selected), 'Find all my search terms', and 'Find any of my search terms'. There are also two checkboxes: 'Apply related words' and 'Also search within the full text of the articles'. The 'Limit your results' part has three checkboxes: 'Full Text' (checked), 'Abstract Available', and 'Publication'. There are also two checkboxes: 'References Available' and 'English Language'. The 'Published Date' section has two dropdown menus for 'Month' and 'Year'.

Viewing Your Search Results

The Result List Screen has three columns—**Narrow results by**, **Results**, and **Limit your results**. **Results (main) column** – The articles that were found display in the center of the Results screen.

- The **article title** link takes you to the citation information and/or the full text. Place your mouse over the **Preview** icon  to view the Abstract.
- The **HTML Full Text** link takes you directly to the full text of the article.

- The **PDF Full Text** link takes you to a PDF version of the full text. The PDF will open in the Adobe® Reader®.

Limit your results (left) column – You can limit your results by source type, subject, journal (publication), age, and gender. You may also select a date range by using the sliding bar.

Update Results. A revised Result List displays. (You can refine your search even more by clicking the **Search Options** link under Limit your results – see the arrow in the next figure & details on page 3.)

- Optional: re-sort results by relevancy, date, source or author to match the parameters of your assignment.
- **Folder** – To save an article, click the **Share** icon/link next to page options. You can share the results, the link to the results and various other options. To view items in your Folder, click **Folder View** when it pops up on the right.

The screenshot displays the EBSCOhost search results interface. At the top, the search term 'pregnancy' is entered in the search bar. The left sidebar contains 'Refine Results' with options for 'Full Text', 'References Available', and 'Peer Reviewed'. A date range filter is set from 1972 to 2015. The main results area shows three articles, each with a 'Relevance' dropdown menu and a 'Share' icon. A 'Folder View' button is visible on the right side of the page.

Overview of Search Options

Limiters

Limiters are huge time-savers. You may restrict your search to a specific publication, age group, gender, clinical query, and publication type such as care plans, case studies, and clinical trials. The **Journal Subset** will limit to articles from allied health, nursing, public health, and United States journals.

Placing a check-mark next to **Peer Reviewed** (right column of Limit Your Results) will limit your search to articles that were reviewed by a board of peers.

The advanced search screen offers additional limits such as evidence-based practice, articles with images, and inpatient versus outpatient.

Expanders

Less commonly needed is a technique to expand a search for more results. One way is to check the “**Apply related words**” box in the top-right, another is to brainstorm for varied keywords and spellings, such as *post-operative* and *postoperative*. Another is to “truncate” a term with the asterisk, which will allow for various spellings/forms of the word, such as *surg** for surgical or surgery.

Our version of CINAHL is set to return full-text results first when you are on the basic search screen, but your search terms will not go through the entire full-text of an article unless if you check the box “**Also search within the full-text of the articles**” on the right.

Note that whenever you expand a search to look beyond subject headings, you are most likely decreasing the relevancy of the results.

To receive results that are not full-text, but most generally available through interlibrary loan, unclick the **Full Text** box on the left.

The screenshot displays the CINAHL search interface with several key elements highlighted by red circles:

- Search Modes and Expanders:**
 - Apply related words**
 - Also search within the full text of the articles**
- Limit your results:**
 - Full Text**
 - Peer Reviewed**
 - Journal Subset:** A dropdown menu showing "Africa" selected.
- Publication Date:** A range from 1940 to 2015.
- Publication Type:** A dropdown menu showing "Abstract" selected.

The interface also shows a "Refine Results" sidebar on the left and search results on the right, including a snippet about "Pregnancy: Assessing Reliability and..."

Composing advanced searches

CINAHL headings provide more relevant search results than do keywords. First you must browse the CINAHL headings list to find the correct terminology for the database. You can browse alphabetically “Term Begins With,” or search within the index using “Term Contains,” or “Relevancy Ranked”. Search results for “*artificial pacemaker*” show that the terms are in reverse order.

Database: CINAHL Plus with Full Text

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Results For: artificial pacemaker

Check box to view subheadings | Click linked term for tree view.

Explosive (+) Major Concept Scope

Heading	Explosive (+)	Major Concept	Scope
Artificial Pacemaker Use: Pacemaker, Artificial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Pacemaker, Artificial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cardiac Pacemaker, Artificial Use: Pacemaker, Artificial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Cardiac Pacino, Artificial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Membranes, Artificial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Lungs, Artificial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Fetal Membranes, Artificial Rupture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Artificial Organs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Insemination, Artificial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Prostheses and Implants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Heart Assist Devices	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Search Database

Search Term Explosive (+) Major Concept

Check a box to select a subject heading to begin building your search strategy.

You may “explode” CINAHL headings to determine if you want to search broadly or select subheadings. Here is the “exploded” heading for “**Pacemaker, Artificial**”. Select a major heading or subheading by placing a checkmark

Pacemaker, Artificial

Tree Views

- [Equipment and Supplies +](#)
- [Surgical Equipment and Supplies +](#)
- [Artificial Organs +](#)
 - [Eye, Artificial](#)
 - [Heart, Artificial](#)
 - [Heart, Mechanical](#)
 - [Kidney, Artificial](#)
 - [Larynx, Artificial](#)
 - [Lung, Artificial](#)
 - Pacemaker, Artificial**
 - [Skin, Artificial](#)
 - [Urinary Sphincter, Artificial](#)
- [Surgery, Operative +](#)
- [Prostheses and Implants +](#)
 - [Blood Vessel Prosthesis](#)
 - [Breast Implants](#)
 - [Cochlear Implant](#)
 - [Defibrillators, Implantable](#)
 - [Dental Implants](#)
 - [Eye, Artificial](#)
 - [Heart, Artificial](#)
 - [Heart Assist Devices](#)
 - [Heart Valve Prosthesis](#)

On Search:

Major Concept

Qualify Subheadings: [Clear Selections](#)

- Adverse Effects [\[scope\]](#)
- Classification [\[scope\]](#)
- Contraindications [\[scope\]](#)
- Economics [\[scope\]](#)
- Education [\[scope\]](#)
- Ethical Issues [\[scope\]](#)
- Equipment And Supplies [\[scope\]](#)
- Evaluation [\[scope\]](#)
- History [\[scope\]](#)
- Legislation And Jurisprudence [\[scope\]](#)
- Mortality [\[scope\]](#)
- Methods [\[scope\]](#)
- Nursing [\[scope\]](#)
- Organizations [\[scope\]](#)
- Psychosocial Factors [\[scope\]](#)
- Rehabilitation [\[scope\]](#)
- Supply And Distribution [\[scope\]](#)
- Statistics And Numerical Data [\[scope\]](#)
- Standards [\[scope\]](#)
- Trends [\[scope\]](#)
- Utilization [\[scope\]](#)

Related Heading:

[Pacemaker Care \(Saba CCC\)](#)

Used For:

Cardiac Pacemaker, Artificial; Artificial Pacemaker; Pacemaker; Pacemakers

The **advanced search screen** allows you to combine terms with search rectangles, or search specific fields with drop-down arrows, such as Article Title (TI), Author (AU), Subject (SU), ISSN number (IS), and Publication (JN). To expand a search, choose All Text (TX).

Managing your search results

- In the folder view, click the **Print**, **E-mail**, or **Save** icon and follow the directions on screen to print/e-mail/save your results. You will also be able to choose a format to **export** your required citation style. **Note:** Items placed in the folder will be removed if you close your browser.
- Use the Ask-A-Librarian link in the upper right corner for search tips (allow several hours or a business day for an answer). Use interlibrary loan links to get copies of articles not included with the abstract.
- If you would like to save your search strings and rerun them on a later date(s), create a free account in “My EBSCOhost” through the link in the upper right corner.