CINAHL Complete - Basic Search Techniques

- Find a link to the CINAHL Complete Database

Use the link in the Quick Links box

Use the Databases tab
• From the Databases tab

1. Find the CINAHL Complete in the Databases list. Click on the database title

2. Then click on Go

• Log In – follow the instructions carefully

- DSI number is your D# - include the D
- Password never changes
- Six numbers
- No spaces
• Determine Search Terms

Use one word or two word phrases to describe the topic

EXAMPLE QUESTION:

Urinary Catheters are a common source of Urinary Tract Infection (UTI). Early removal of the catheter helps prevent the development of a UTI. Should nurses have the ability to determine the time to remove the catheter without a doctor’s order?

Possible search terms or phrases:

- Urinary Tract Infection
- Urinary Catheter
- Removal

• Combining Search Terms

The search fields allow for the use of the Boolean Operators of AND, OR or NOT. Boolean Operators allow for the combination of terms. To understand how the Boolean Operators work when combining terms, see the illustration below.

See next page for example of entering search terms
On the CINAHL Complete landing page, there are three search boxes or fields.

The Boolean Operators are provided by using the drop down menu.

This illustration demonstrates a simple search using one word or two-word phrases to search for articles that speak to the example question.

See next page for methods to narrow down the search to fewer articles.
Use the tools on the left-hand column to constrict the search to only those articles that are available full-text and published in the last five (5) years.

To narrow the search further, scroll down the toolbar on the left and open the Subject: Major Headings menu.

Click on Subject: Major Headings to open the menu.

Then numbers indicate how many articles have that subject: major heading.

Use the show more link at the bottom to open a menu with more subject heading options.

This search demonstrates applying the limits after the search has been completed. Limits can be applied before searching as well. Applying the limits before searching can provide a search with no results. Therefore, do not apply too many limits. The librarians suggest if you are going to apply limits before searching to only apply the limits of Full-Text, Publication Date, and Peer-Reviewed.

See illustration on the next page.
Use the Drop-Down Menu to choose the Month
Type in the Year
Click on Search after entering Limiters

Find help on the Library Homepage in the Ask A Librarian Box

Library Homepage is http://library.chamberlain.edu/

REMEMBER: if you have search for longer than 10 minutes and not had any success, it is time to Ask A Librarian