Literature Searches

Find Citations to Journal Articles: Print or Full-Text
Cressman Library subscribes to online indexes, including access to full-text databases.

Online indexes are available from the Cressman Library website Indexes page.
Full-text databases are available from the Cressman Library website Full-Text page.

Online index and full-text database search and results screens vary. Basic searches are typically by keyword or phrases while advanced searches usually allow Boolean (and/or/not) keyword, author, title, and subject queries along with limits by year. Results may typically be printed or emailed. When just citations are available, a record of the author, title of article, name of journal, date, volume number, issue number (if available) and page numbers will be required to obtain the actual article in print or via ILL.

Find Journals
From the Cressman Library website select E-journals & Periodicals and search by journal title. In addition, from Cressman Library choose Indexes or Full-Text to select and search from online resources.

To locate journal titles at other libraries, go to the Cressman Library WorldCat Local catalog and select “Advanced Search.” Narrow the search to the format “Journal, magazine” and change the search field to “Journal Source.”

Find Articles
If Cedar Crest subscribes to the journal, locate it on the shelves or online (described above). If the journal is not owned by Cedar Crest Cressman Library request an ILL via the WorldCat Local catalog. Look for the blue “Request Item” button to submit your request. Forms for submitting ILLs are also available in the library at the Information Services desk.

Searching Databases, Searching Techniques – Some Basic Principles
One of the difficulties inherent in literature searching is that different software developers and database providers adopt different search platforms, language and features that the user needs to become familiar with in order to search. Individual databases are often provided by different companies (e.g. EBSCO, Ovid), and therefore their search interfaces can be very different.

Reputable databases are developed with features that maximize the relevancy of search results. Using basic search principles provides the knowledge to search the various Cressman Library databases.
What are some of the basic search principles?

Define the search!
For example, “What is public opinion on the ethics of health care rationing?”

1. Include as many concepts as possible to limit the number of irrelevant results.
   In this example, a search on “rationing” in a health care database will give many relevant results. However, the results will include many article titles that do not specifically address the question.

2. Include synonyms so that as many relevant documents as possible are retrieved.
   For example include the following terms: rationing healthcare, public opinion, decision making, health services, consumer views, resource allocation, NHS attitudes, National Health Service, patient views

Use Boolean Operators (AND, OR, NOT)
Use Boolean operators to broaden or narrow a search. In the above example, use OR within each search field to keep the search broad. For example, rationing OR decision-making OR resource allocation. To narrow the search use the AND operator. Also using the NOT operator; for example, NOT United States would exclude US material. Use caution since in this instance it might eliminate comparative literature on the US and UK.

Refer to the help section provided by the specific database search to find out how to represent the Boolean operators. For example, symbols (+, -) may be used instead of AND, NOT.

Use Truncation
Truncation is often represented by symbols; usually * or $ or &. Using truncation will often help to retrieve a greater number of relevant results. For example, use ration* for ration and rationing, use consumer* for consumer, consumerism, and consumers, etc.

Use Controlled Vocabulary
The above examples use words or phrases (“keywords”) that we think may be helpful in retrieving relevant documents. However, many databases will have their own thesaurus of search terms developed specifically to cover the subjects and articles that the database indexes.

Use Other “Limiters”
When constructing a search it is important to consider other factors that will help to retrieve the most relevant results.

   Publication date: To search just the most recent 5 years.
   Material type: To retrieve only journal articles, not books, etc.
   Language: Retrieve articles written in English only.
   Study design: Some databases, including MEDLINE and CINAHL, will limit by study design. For example, to search for only review articles or for only randomized controlled trials.

Search on specific fields
An advanced search in most databases will allow a search in a specific field or index. For example, a search can just be the title index or the abstract index instead of a basic search of all the fields that a database indexes.
How to Improve Database Search Results

Too few or no results

- look for misspellings in search terms
- try a broader search strategy
- use a term from the MeSH thesaurus when searching PubMed and PubMed Central
- follow the “find similar” results or “related citations” links
- check the search field selections and/or field qualifiers
- remove terms that are unlikely to be used by an author
- replace terms that are too general or too specific
- increase the number of synonyms or alternatives for a term
- use a truncation symbol at the end of a term to pick up variant endings
- follow the “find similar” results or “related citations” links
- try running the search on earlier years (back files) of the database
- try a different database

Too many results

- choose the most specific subject headings or most significant key words
- use subheadings to narrow the focus of the subject heading if appropriate
- increase the number of search concepts using the Boolean AND
- use fewer synonyms for terms
- use a more specific term from the thesaurus, the subject heading list or controlled vocabulary (use the "major topic" link in PubMed)
- limit search to type of article, language, age group, current years, etc.
- use very relevant terms in the TITLE search field
CINAHL
(Please note that information and search page interfaces may change without notice.)

CINAHL, the Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature, is the authoritative resource for nursing and allied health professionals, students, educators and researchers. This database provides indexing for more than 3,000 journals from the fields of nursing and allied health. The database contains more than 3 million records dating back to the late 70’s. CINAHL is limited to 4 simultaneous users.

Go to the Cressman Library website
Click Indexes
Click CINAHL
(Note: If searching from off-campus, enter your EZproxy username and password. This is the same as your campus network login.)

How to perform a search
CINAHL will open to an Advanced Search screen by default. Several Search Options are available. Many of the same options are available to choose from after the search, but not all. Type a word or phrase in the search box and click the "Search" button. The default search searches several fields, including the Article Title, the Abstract, the Subject Headings and Keywords.

- For a more specific search, choose the search field from the optional “Select a Field” drop-down list (for example, search in only the Subject field, only the Author field, etc.).
- Use the Boolean operators AND, OR, and NOT to combine or exclude topics.
- Limit results by publication date, research article, peer reviewed, any author is a nurse, etc. Check the boxes as appropriate for the search.
Search results
Click or right click to open the result. Click the title for the “detailed record.” The detailed record is often very useful; see the subjects assigned to the article, verify whether or not the article is peer reviewed, use the tools to get the article citation, and more. For access to the entire article, click the “Full Text Finder” or the “PDF Full Text” link to the article if available. Note: Full Text Finder links open in another window. Follow those links.
Go to the Cressman Library website
Click Full text
Click Ovid: Journals A-Z
(Note: If searching from off-campus, enter your EZproxy username and password. This is the same as your campus network login.)

Select Resource(s) to search. Journals@Ovid Full Text includes indexing to all Ovid journals, while Your Journals@Ovid includes just what the library subscribes to. Select Journals@Ovid and limit to Full Text later.
To begin searching change from Basic Search to Advanced Search or Multi-Field Search in order to combine search terms.
Scroll down to display the results. The default display is citation. This can be changed to title or to abstract. Full text documents are available via the PDF icon – click or right click to open in a new window. Or, select Ovid Full Text.
SAGE Journals
(Please note that information and search page interfaces may change without notice.)

Go to the Cressman Library website
Click Full text
Click SAGE
(Note: If searching from off-campus, enter your EZproxy username and password. This is the same as your campus network login.)

Performing a search

- SAGE will open to an Advanced Search screen by default. (If it doesn’t, click “Advanced Search” in the upper right of the screen under “Search all journals.”) Type search terms in the search fields and click the "Search" button.
- For a more specific search, choose the search field from the optional “All Fields” drop-down list (for example, search in only the Abstract field, only the Author field, etc.).
- Use the Boolean operators AND, OR, and NOT to combine or exclude topics.
- Limit results by SAGE journals available OR by discipline: Nursing. Limit by date range, too.
Search results
Information for each article is included in the search results display; including the article citation, and highlighted search terms in context with accompanying text from the article. Links for each result include the abstract, full text PDF (if available). Plus, there is often a link to just the references; along with links out to those articles.

Each result will also display a journal cover image that links to the journal website. Full text access to the article is available when the results display the message "Article Free" or “Article Available.”
WorldCat Local – MEDLINE
(Please note that information and search page interfaces may change without notice.)

Go to the [Cressman Library website](http://example.com)
Click [WorldCat Local](http://example.com)
(Note: If searching from off-campus, enter your EZproxy username and password. This is the same as your campus network login.)

Click “Advanced Search” then “Add/Remove databases” and select MEDLINE. Save selections.
Remove the WorldCat database so that you are able to narrow your search with options specific to MEDLINE as shown below. For example, search within the abstract field and use MeSH terminology.
Search Results

MEDLINE search via WorldCat Local using a Medical Subject Heading (MeSH) as found in the PubMed MeSH database. Follow the article title link for the detailed record to see the abstract and the DOI, if available. Go to the Full Text via “view now” in the results list or under “find a copy online” on the detailed record page.
PubMed
(Please note that information and search page interfaces may change without notice.)

Go to the Cressman Library Nursing LibGuide
Click PubMed from the Indexes list on the Nursing LibGuide
(Note: If searching from off-campus, enter your EZproxy username and password. This is the same as your campus network login. Go to PubMed from the library pages so that you will have access to library subscriptions via the PubMed links, where available. See below for more detail.)

The National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) advances science and health by providing access to biomedical and genomic information, including PubMed. PubMed is a database of more than 26 million citations for biomedical literature from MEDLINE, life science journals, and online books. Citations may include links to full-text content from PubMed Central and publisher web sites.

PubMed is a free resource that is developed and maintained by the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI), at the U.S. National Library of Medicine (NLM), located at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Follow the links for “Using PubMed” or begin by clicking “Advanced” for the “PubMed Advanced Search Builder.”

Quick Start
Tutorials
Build the search using the “Search Builder” and the Boolean drop-down list.

Note: PubMed Advanced Search Builder is similar to an Ovid Advanced Search.
Many databases, including PubMed, provide options for limiting your search from the results screen. Note the selections in the left column. “Free Full Text” will be available via PubMed Central.
You will not know whether or not the library has an online subscription to a particular article until you click the article title for the abstract and follow the full text links, if any, in the upper right corner of the screen.

Did you access PubMed from the library website? If so, follow the full text links in the upper right corner for access to Cressman Library subscriptions, where available. (Open Access articles will be available either way.)
Journal availability
Go to the Cressman Library website
Click E-Journals & Periodicals

Verify journal availability in the E-Journals & Periodicals database. When you have the citation to an article, copy/paste the journal title in the search field.
Check **E-Journals & Periodicals** to verify access to full text. A relevant article may be discovered in one database with limited access there. More complete access may available in yet another database or in print only.
Quick Google Tips

1. Phrase searching is the most precise Google search
2. Can only search up to 32 words, anything else is ignored
3. Stop words – words that can’t be searched (the, be, to)
4. Plurals – Google DOES NOT search for plurals on single words
5. Capitalization is ignored
6. Punctuation ignored except…

| ‘accent mark | Used for foreign language searches |
| ‘apostrophe | Peoples, people’s, peoples’ (all search differently) |
| ~tilde | Words with similar meanings (~help = help, guides, manuals, FAQs, tutorials) - synonyms |
| *asterisk | Wildcard (wom*n = woman or women) |
| .. two periods | Gives a range (2011..2016) |
| “Quotes” | Phrase searches |

Too many results?
- Add another word or phrase
- Put important words first
- Use specific words
- Limit by date
- Limit to a specific domain
- + (words desired)
- - (words not desired)
- Put the important word in search two times

Too few results?
- Click on “Similar” at the end of a result
- Use related URL to get similar pages; For example -- related:www.cedarcrest.edu
- Remove a word or phrase
- Remove limits
- To search definitions = Define:
- Increase chances of full text=Filetype: pdf (“the search”)