CINAHL - Cumulative Index to Nursing & Allied Health Literature

Accessing the Database

1.) From the SSM intranet, under Clinicians, go to Library Services (direct link is http://libraries.slu.edu/ssm/ssmsearch)
2.) The CINAHL link is located in the Research box (lower left corner)
3.) There are two ways to search this database using either text words or CINAHL Subject Headings.

Searching Using CINAHL Heading Terms

1.) Break your search into simple concepts
2.) Click on the CINAHL Headings tab above the search boxes
3.) Type your concept into the search box and click “Browse”
4.) Check the box to the left of the most appropriate term. To your right, you will see options for subheadings as well as the definition of the term (Scope) if available. By default, the search will include all subheadings to ensure your search is inclusive. Selecting only 1-2 relevant subheadings can narrow your search if necessary.
5.) Once you have selected your subheadings, click the Search Database button. Note that clicking the Major Concept box will narrow your search.
6.) Go back to CINAHL Headings to find and add your additional concepts to the search
7.) Now you want to combine your search sets so click on the boxes to the left of the searches you already ran and then click on the button that says “Search with AND” (AND, OR, NOT are Boolean operators that connect searches).
8.) Now there is a new search using the Boolean operator in your search history. To view the results, click on the link that says View Results.

Refining Your Search

1.) If you need to find a certain age group or a certain time period or a certain type of publication, you can refine your search.
2.) Click on the “Show More” link under the Publication Date scroll bar on the left side of the results page. You can limit to English language, Peer Reviewed articles, Research Articles, Age Groups, Publication Types (like Systematic Review and Practice Guidelines), etc. Remember that the more limits you add, the fewer your retrieved articles.
3.) Once you have selected your limits, click on the “Search” button
4.) Note that your limits will generally remain in effect for additional searches until you remove them. You can remove limits by going back to the “Show More” link and clicking the Reset button.
Managing Results

1.) If you want to print or email multiple citations, you can do so by clicking on the Folder icon with the plus sign next to the citations.
2.) Once you have selected all the citations you want printed or emailed, click on the Folder icon at the top right of your screen. You will see links for emailing or printing.

Searching Using Text Words (Keywords)

1.) Break your search into simple concepts and enter the terms or phrases into the search boxes—one term or phrase per box. Note that the boxes are already combined with the Boolean operator AND.
2.) If you have synonyms or word variations for a concept, you can enter those into the same box combined with the Boolean operator OR. For example, you can type: “autism OR autistic” into a search box. This means you would accept articles with the word “autism” or the word “autistic”.
3.) After you have entered your text words, click on the Search button.
4.) Generally a text word search will yield more results than the CINAHL Heading search, but not all the citations will be as relevant. Sometimes you may not be able to find a CINAHL Heading that describes your concept, so you then must use a text word. You can use both CINAHL Headings and text words in the same search if desired.
5.) Refine your results as described above using the “Show More” limit link.

Getting Full Text Articles in CINAHL

1.) For each citation in CINAHL, you will see a Find It@SLU button that will allow you to order the full text article.
2.) Click on the Find It@SLU button for your article. You will be taken to a “SLU Libraries” page where you will locate the link that says “Request Via Interlibrary Loan (MCL).” The link will take you to the logon page for the ILLiad Document Delivery Service at SLU and you will order the article through ILLiad. You will generally receive a PDF of your article within 24-48 hours Monday-Friday.
3.) For additional details about using the Find It@SLU button and the ILLiad service, please see the PPT tutorial Getting Full Text Articles at SLU.