American Career College

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Nursing Reference Center Plus

Search this database for skills videos, drugs, diseases, clinical decision making, diagnostics, health interventions, & scholarly (journal) articles in health sciences & nursing.

After searching CINAHL or Credo, Nursing Reference Center provides specific information for pieces of your paper to fill in gaps about diseases, patient population, drug treatment, interventions, & disease management.

• Click on **Drug Reference Books** to *narrow* your search on a particular drug discussed in an article

• Still need basic disease, health problem, or patient population information? No problem. **Click on tabs above (e.g. drugs, diseases, etc.), then enter search terms before clicking the “Search” button**

• **After reviewing your search results, to *broaden* your results choose “All Areas”**
Quickly evaluate search results by reviewing article titles for readability (not too technical), currency (not too old), and ways to iterate your search strategy with new keywords / concepts that recur in your results.

Here we see “quality of life” and “prostatectomy” as new keywords that help us search more narrowly & organize our paper! In short, we find what we’re missing and what we didn’t know to include in our search.

ITERATE YOUR RESEARCH STRATEGY:
(1) Add new search terms
Here “quality of life” & “prostatectomy” & “erectile dysfunction” recur in our search results, so we see a pattern of overlooked keywords and their synonyms. (Medical procedures often result in “after effects” patients must manage as a result of a treatment to a health problem).

(2) Narrow or broaden search terms
Here we can focus on different searches for different pieces of our paper.

(3) Use date range
Too many search results? Narrow by date to find the newest articles, including best practices.

Quickly assess an article by reviewing its Abstract. An “abstract” is a brief summary of an article always found at the beginning of an article. If it’s readable and not overwhelmingly technical, go with it.

SMART SPEED READING STRATEGY:
(1) Identify the PICO in the Abstract:
Patient population / health problem
Intervention / medication / therapy / mix
Comparison / placebo / control group
Outcome / (in)conclusive or (in)effective

(2) Numbers matter
Evidence-based medicine & best practices scientifically measure interventions on larger scales across more diverse patients to document increasing validity under increased scrutiny. Experimental studies w/ small “N” = beware.

(3) Am I bored or too lost?
Skip the article & move on!
Read like a Bot: Press Control+F, or Command+F on a Mac, is the keyboard shortcut for the Find command to locate keywords quickly. Here we get right to 98% efficacy of treatment / intervention that improves “quality of life.”

Automated bibliographies (APA or AMA Citations) you email to yourself with PDF of articles.