

**Geisel Library
Saint Anselm College**

Using CINAHL Effectively

About CINAHL:

CINAHL stands for *Cumulated Index To Nursing And Allied Health Literature*. It indexes and abstracts articles from a large number of nursing, medical, and allied health journals, as well as a variety of other materials, such as conference proceedings and laws. Coverage is from 1982 to the present.

Although full-text is available for some articles indexed on CINAHL, scholarly nursing literature is usually NOT available in full-text online. In some cases, however, links to full-text articles residing on other databases (Academic Search, MUSE, etc.) are supplied.

Accessing CINAHL:

CINAHL can be accessed from the library's homepage at both the 'Indexes & Databases' or 'Guides & Tutorials' links. If you are accessing the database from outside the Saint Anselm College campus, you will need to authenticate your user status by supplying the 6-digit library barcode from your college ID.

Searching CINAHL – Tips & Techniques:

1. Think about your strategy, even before you sit down to your computer.
2. Consider your terms and their relationship to one another. Do you want to bring two different ideas together in one article? (ex. diet therapy **and** diabetes) Can you think of synonyms for your terms that may expand your results? (ex. cancer **or** neoplasms). Have you considered using a wildcard symbol to bring both plural and singular forms of words into your results? (ex. homeless* and child*)
3. Use Thesaurus Searching to locate official forms of subject headings.
4. Use online help for basic search tips.
5. Limit your search results. Common limits are date (2000-2005) and publication type (research or peer-reviewed).
6. If you need assistance, please do not hesitate to ask a librarian.