

SEARCH TIPS

Combining Terms & Searching Fields

<input type="text"/>	in	Select a Field (optional)	<input type="button" value="Search"/>	
and	<input type="text"/>	in	Select a Field (optional)	<input type="button" value="Clear"/>
and	<input type="text"/>	in	Select a Field (optional)	Add Row

To the right of the search boxes are pull down menus (set at "Select a Field (optional)") that allow you to select fields such as author, title of article, title of journal, exact subject heading (MH), word in subject heading (MW), and many others. It is usually best to leave the pull-down menu at "Select a Field (optional)". The Boolean operators (terms in the left side pull-down menus) and field choices allow you to combine different fields (for example, you can search for a specific author AND a specific journal title). The Add Row adds additional search boxes.

Boolean Operators (AND, OR, NOT)

AND

CINAHL/EBSCO automatically (and invisibly) inserts the connector AND in between each word so every word that you have entered will be searched and only articles with ALL of the words will be retrieved. You can combine a phrase with a word or field using AND for example, "lung cancer" AND smoking will find articles that have both the phrase "lung cancer" and the word smoking.

OR

If you want to include synonyms or words with similar meanings, use the word OR in between the words. Teenagers OR adolescents will pull up articles with either word (or even both words).

NOT

If you choose NOT, this will bring up articles having the first word/phrase but not the second one. For example, ulcer NOT stomach.

The search below uses Boolean operators and phrase searches to find articles on lung cancer AND smoking that do not focus on (NOT) teenagers.

"lung cancer" OR "lung neoplasms"	in	Select a Field (optional)	<input type="button" value="Search"/>	
and	smoking	in	Select a Field (optional)	<input type="button" value="Clear"/>
not	teenagers OR adolescents	in	Select a Field (optional)	Add Row

Phrase Search

If you would like to search a specific phrase (two or more words in a specific order), enclose the phrase with quotation marks. For example, "lung cancer" will search for the phrase *lung cancer* instead of the word *lung* and the word *cancer* individually. This can be helpful since it can narrow the results, but you may miss some relevant articles.

Truncation (searching for variations of a word root using the truncation symbol *)

The truncation symbol * is used to search for variations of the root of a word.

For example, if you enter *nurs** you will pull up articles with the word *nurse*, *nurses*, or *nursing*.

Field Codes

The CINAHL database employs some searchable field codes that can create confusion if they are used in keyword searches. These include IN (which stands for instrumentation) and IS (which stands to ISSN). It is best not to include "in" or "is" in your search statements.