Searching CINAHL Plus with Full Text  
(Cumulative Index to Nursing & Allied Health Literature)  
and Finding Full-Text Articles

Go to Bell Library's homepage:  http://rattler.tamucc.edu

Five areas require “authentication” for remote access:  Databases, the Find Journals List, Interlibrary Loan, E-Reserves, and Registering as a Distance Learner.

To search CINAHL Plus with Full Text:

- Click on Find Databases from the drop-down menu at the top of the page, or click on Find Articles.
- The QuickSearch screen is the default screen
- Click on the words Nursing/Medicine
- Click on the little /for information on the database and a search guide
- Click on CINAHL Plus with Full Text (EBSCO) to go into the database
If you are off-campus or in a campus dorm, you will be asked to log in. **Note:** Follow the instructions on the screen and click the Submit button when done. You will then be able to access CINAHL. If you cannot log in, call the library at (361) 825-2609 or at (361) 825-2340.

Below is the CINAHL search screen. Type two or more terms in separate boxes. If a search field is not selected from the drop-down menu on the right side of the screen, this will give the broadest search results. Examples of search fields are “Author,” “Journal title,” etc. There are many ways to limit results, such as Publication Year, Peer Reviewed, and Research Article. Once the search terms are entered and limits selected, hit Search.
When searching, if you are uncertain about what words to enter into the search boxes, click on the **CINAHL Headings** tab at the top of the screen.
Browsing the CINAHL Headings for the word “aids,” for example, shows that the phrase “Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome” is used in this database to describe this disease.

Select this heading, then add it to the search by clicking the Search Database button. “Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome” then appears in the search box and results on this topic are retrieved.

There are many ways to refine your search results and make them more relevant. On the right side of the Results screen, click on the Search Options link under the Limit your results pane to see all the ways you are able to limit your search results.
Sample search for “Nursing and ethics”: Results Screen

Look at record #3. After the article title is the author name(s), journal title, date, and volume number (issue number). If the full text is available in this database, a PDF icon will appear, as in result #4 below.

If the full text of the article is available in another database or in another format, such as in print, an SFX button will appear. For the journal Nurse Education Today, clicking on SFX or Search for Full Text resulted in the screen below.

The full text of the above article is available online in a couple of databases, including Elsevier's ScienceDirect. To get to the full text, follow either link.
At times, SFX directs the user to the Bell Library catalog.

When the link to “Bell Library catalog” is followed, no matches are found for Journal of Clinical Nursing. This means the library does not own this journal.

If the article is not available online or in any other format, the user may request a copy through the Interlibrary Loan Service (ILLiad). To do this, click on the Interlibrary Loan link under Services on the library’s homepage.
Another way to see if the library owns or has access to journals is to check the Find Journals List. Link to this from the library’s homepage. Type the journal name in the Find box and click Search.

Journal of Nursing Research is available online, full-text in two databases, Academic Search Complete and CINAHL Plus with Full Text. In this case, click on either database name to retrieve the full text.
When the link to CINAHL Plus with Full Text is followed, the database screen appears as shown below. Select the year in which the needed article was published to retrieve the full text.

Once you are in the appropriate year, enter some key elements of information from your citation into the search boxes—author’s last name and/or a few keywords from the title of the article, for example. Use the drop-down menus on the right side of the search boxes to specify the field or element of information you want to search—author or whatever. Or you can just search on keywords.

If you need further assistance, call the Reference Desk at (361) 825-2609 or use the “Ask a Librarian” e-mail Reference Service, which can be accessed under the Help drop-down menu on the library’s homepage.

8/08, dlh