

Searching CINAHL and CINAHL Special Features

CINAHL Plus with Full Text is College of the Siskiyou's primary nursing article database. CINAHL offers both keyword and subject searching as well as extras like nursing overviews and CEUs on various topics.

Getting to CINAHL

1. Go to the Library's home page at: www.siskiyous.edu/library
 2. Click on the **A-Z List of Databases** link in the left sidebar
 3. Scroll down to *CINAHL*; click on the **On-** or **Off--Campus** link (depending where you are)
- ⇒ If you are off-campus, you will need to log in with your library card barcode number and password

Nursing Overviews & Education

- **Evidence-Based Care Sheets** describe what we know about a disease or condition and what nurses can do (such as relevant knowledge and nursing skills, and how to educate patients).
- **Quick Lessons** contain the following sections: description/etiology, facts & figures, risk factors, signs & symptoms/clinical presentation, assessment, treatment goals, "food for thought," red flags, and "what do I need to tell the patient/patient's family?"
- **Continuing Education Units (CEUs)** on a wide range of topics are available for free to help you meet your license's CEU requirements.

Keyword Searching in CINAHL

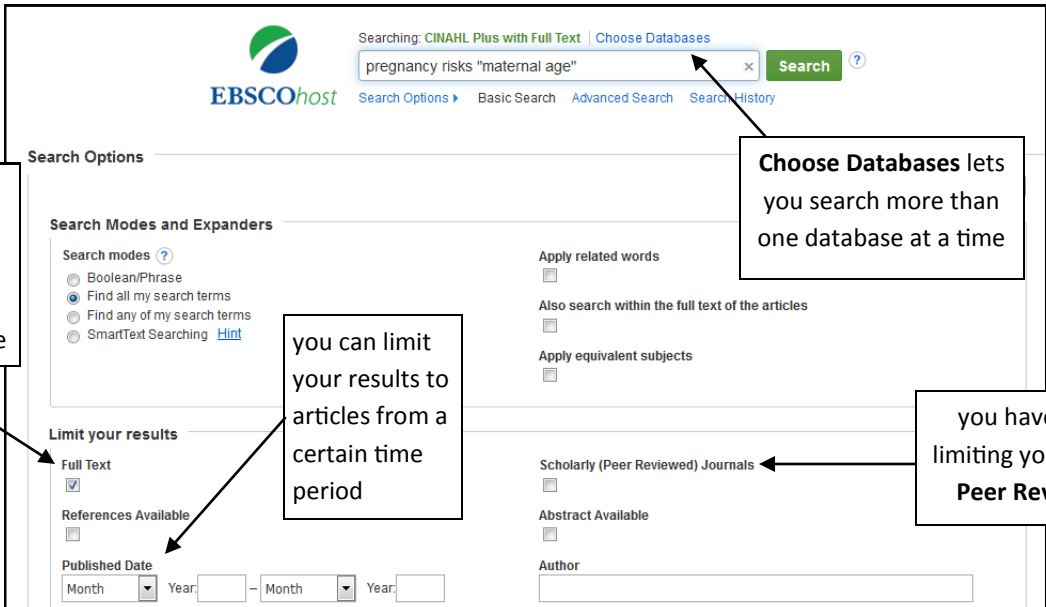
You can type in a keyword search right from the starting search screen. When **keyword searching**, only include words that are important to describe your topic—leave out any unnecessary words.

- TIP: Use quotation marks " " to search for phrases: e.g. "*chronic fatigue syndrome*"

Keyword searching examples

TOPIC: pregnancy risks increase with the mother's age → KEYWORDS: pregnancy risks "maternal age"

TOPIC: the role of *H. pylori* in acid reflux → → → → KEYWORDS: pylori "acid reflux"



The screenshot shows the EBSCOhost search interface. The search bar contains the text "pregnancy risks 'maternal age'" and a green "Search" button. Below the search bar, there are several sections: "Search Options", "Search Modes and Expanders", "Limit your results", and "Apply related words".

Callout boxes provide the following information:

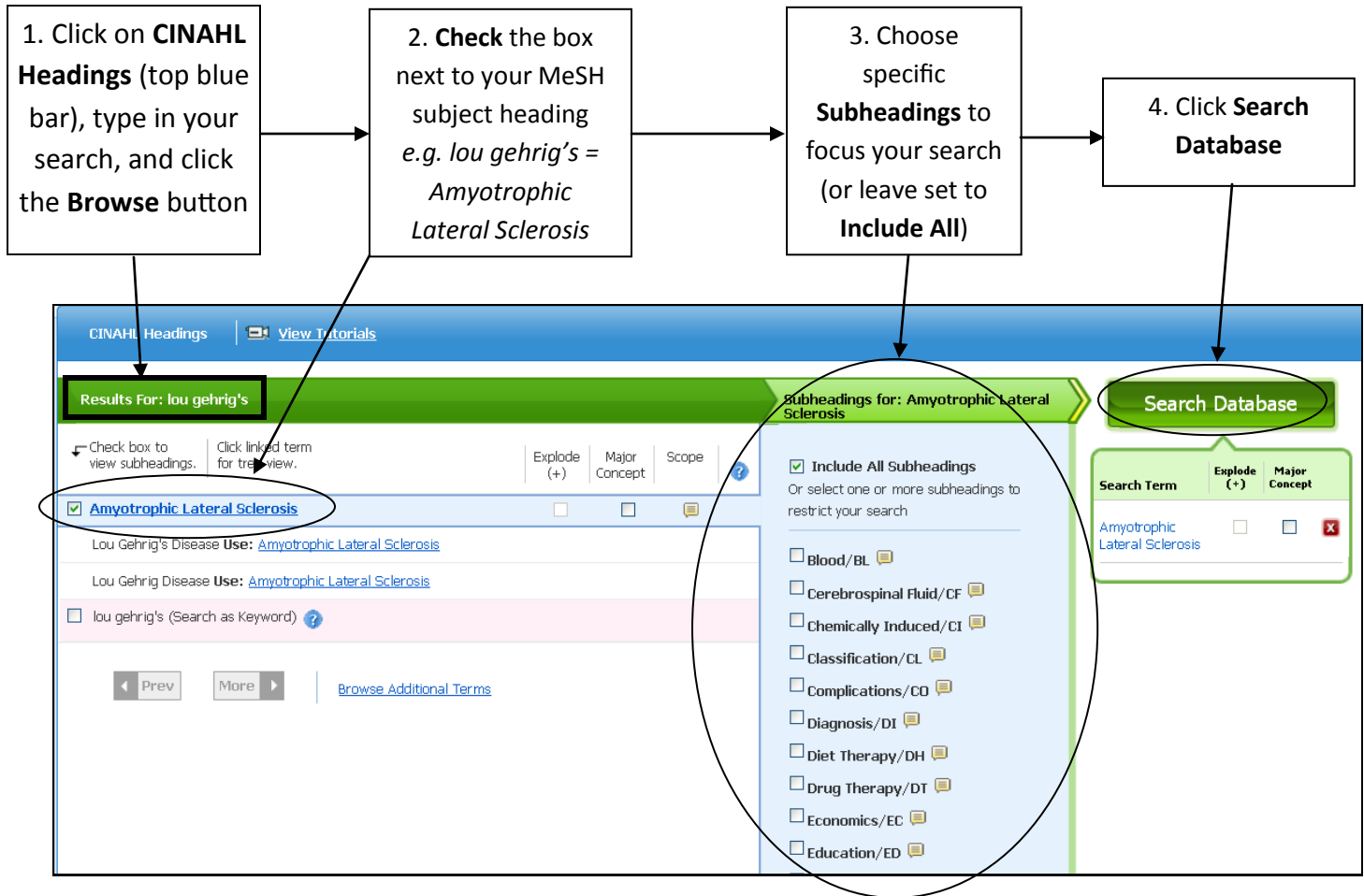
- checking the Full Text box means everything in the results will include the complete article**: Points to the "Full Text" checkbox under "Limit your results", which is checked.
- you can limit your results to articles from a certain time period**: Points to the "Published Date" section under "Limit your results", which includes dropdown menus for "Month" and "Year".
- Choose Databases lets you search more than one database at a time**: Points to the "Choose Databases" link above the search bar.
- you have the option of limiting your results to only Peer Reviewed articles**: Points to the "Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals" checkbox under "Apply related words", which is unchecked.

Subject Searching in CINAHL

Any time an article is added to CINAHL, it is assigned subject terms. “**Subject terms**” are standardized words and phrases used to describe a topic. CINAHL uses a specialized set of medical subject terms called **MeSH**.

Since we often have more than one way to describe a topic, subject searching is a powerful way to search. For example, if you type in a search for “Lou Gehrig’s disease”, you will only get back articles that use that terminology and you will miss articles that instead only use the acronym “ALS” or only use the phrase “amyotrophic lateral sclerosis”. *All articles that are about Lou Gehrig’s will be assigned the same MeSH subject term (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis), making the MeSH term a great one to use in your search.*

Subject Searching Step-by-Step



Refining Your Search Results

Once you are looking at your search results, you may want to **refine your results** using the options in the left sidebar.

- If you only want to see results that offer the whole article, check **Full Text**.
- If you only want to see articles published in a specific time period, change the **Publication Date** range.
- You can also limit your results to certain age groups, gender, etc. (look for these options further down in the left sidebar)

