What is CINAHL?

CINAHL stands for the Cumulative Index of Nursing and Allied Health Literature. It is an CINAHL database, through which you can locate literature on nursing, biomedicine, health sciences librarianship, alternative/complementary medicine, consumer health and 17 allied health disciplines.

How do I access CINAHL?

You can access CINAHL from the Library’s homepage, as shown in the image below. If you will be using CINAHL from off campus you will need to use a Proxy account. If you cannot remember your login and password, please contact the help desk at help@rush.edu or call (312) 942-4357.
The CINAHL Search Screen

The search screen below is the starting point for all CINAHL database searches. The entire screen is divided into three sections. The top section (1) has the search boxes where search terms can be entered. The middle section (2) allows the searcher to select different options to apply to a search. The bottom section (3) displays all the limiters the searcher can apply to a search strategy.
Searching with CINAHL

To begin searching, type a subject term into the first search box on the screen. Click Search.

The next screen displays a list of CINAHL subject headings for the term pain. This list allows you to select the most relevant term from the list. In most instances, the most relevant term will be at the top of the list.

The Explode and Major Concept columns give options for broadening and/or narrowing the search. The Explode box, when available, will include search terms that are more narrow for the term pain in the set of results it retrieves. Major Concept retrieves articles in which a significant portion of the article is devoted to that term. Once you have determined whether or not to check the Explode or Major Concept column, select the box in front of the term pain, and click Search Database at the right side of the screen.
The results from the pain search are displayed on the screen. To add a second subject to the search, click the clear button. Then type *rheumatoid arthritis* in the box and click *Search*.

Select the term *rheumatoid arthritis* by clicking the box to the left of the heading. Click the *Search Database* button. The results for *rheumatoid arthritis* will display on the screen.

Next, click *Search History* located below the triple search boxes.

Both searches are displayed as lines S1(*pain*) and S2 (*rheumatoid arthritis*). To find the articles that discuss both subjects, first clear the search box near the top of the screen. Then combine S1 with S2 by checking the box in front of each set and clicking the *Search with AND* button. (S1 and S2) will appear in the search box, and the results of that search will appear in your Search History.

Scroll down the page to view your search results.
The first 50 results are displayed in the center of the page. The number of items displayed can be changed using the drop-down menu called *Page Options* at the top of the screen.

**Viewing Full Text**

There are two ways to obtain the full text of an article. Sometimes the pdf and/or HTML of the article is displayed directly below the citation.

If you do not see a link to the pdf or HTML of the article directly below the citation, click the green *Get It @ RUSH* button. This may link you to the full text of the item from an additional source. If there is no full text option after clicking *Get It @ RUSH*, you have the option to order the item via Interlibrary Loan.
Limiting Results

Users can limit the amount of results generated by a search by setting *Limits*. *Limits* can be found on the search results screen, once a search has been completed.

On the left side of the screen, users can limit by *Publication Type*, *Subject Heading*, *Publication Year*, *Age*, *Gender*, etc. The limits shown at left can be expanded and contracted by using the arrow icons at the top of each section.

Using the Folder

The CINAHL database has a folder that can be used to create temporary lists of citations. The contents of the folder can be emailed, imported or saved. To add a citation to the Folder, click the light blue folder icon located to the right of each of the citations of interest. Users may view the contents of their folders by clicking the yellow folder icon at the top right side of the screen.

For more information on CINAHL, please contact the Library Services Desk at (312) 942-5950 or lib_ref@rush.edu.