Worksheet: Simple Introduction to searching CINAHL and Medline for Midwives

Sorting out what you’re searching for.

What is your search topic?

Can you put it into a simple sentence? If you are searching a database you must make sure you are certain what you’re looking for and can put it into a simple descriptive sentence. If you can’t, then spend a bit more time thinking about it.

*e.g. The relationship between diet and gestational diabetes*

Accessing the CINAHL and Medline databases

Go to the Database and log-in. Log-in using your usual student log-in details.

1. Go to the Library website. 2. Find

   3. Click, and then find ‘C’. 4. Click ‘C’. Go down the list of till you find CINAHL

5. Click on CINAHL Complete. Now look for Choose Databases and select Medline

Formulating a search

We need to be able to convert our topic sentence to a form that can be entered into the database.

What are the subjects in our topic? What are the subjects which relate to each other in our topic?

Our example search has three subjects: a. diet b. Gestational Diabetes

*We can enter these into the database’s search boxes*

| diet* OR nutrition* |

| AND | "gestational diabetes" |

Note the speech marks which allow you to specify that you are searching for a phrase specifically.

Hints: Try adding other possible words or phrases into each box like this: e.g. diet OR nutrition

Use * to include all possible forms of the word
e.g. diet* will include results using diet OR diets OR dietetics

nutrition* includes nutrition and nutritional
To exclude out of date material, use the "Limit To" feature by sliding the date slider. For instance, limiting to 2007 will filter results to that year. The 'Show More' option will let you limit to English and Research studies.

Clicking 'Search' will display a list of references to journal articles about your topic, like the one above. Each reference includes a title (blue) and additional details such as the authors and the journal it was published in. The example reference is published in the journal 'Diabetes Care' issue 8 of volume 36.

Read through the references and save the ones you want by clicking on the blue folder. The folder containing your saved references is at the top of the screen. You can e-mail them to yourself from there. Don't forget to use the 'E-Journal' tab to access the full article.

Now do the search above and answer some questions:

Complete the search shown above and answer the following questions:

1. diet* OR nutrition* AND "gestational diabetes" yielded how many references? _________

2. Removing the stars from the two words and running the search again yielded how many references? _________

3. If there’s a difference in the number of references found? Can you say why? ________________