Accessing the CINAHL database

Go to the Database and log-in. Log-in using your usual student log-in details.
1. Go to the Library website. 2. Find
   Databases A-Z
3. Click, and then find ‘C’. 4. Click ‘C’. Go down the list of till you find CINAHL
5. Click on CINAHL Complete
6. Click Choose Databases to select Academic Search Elite and Medline

Developing a search strategy

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 four subjects: 1. effectiveness, 2. interventions, 3. prevention, 4. drug abuse. We can enter these into the search boxes (creating and extra 1 from the three given).

However we also need to make sure we include words or phrases of similar meaning so that we don’t miss articles which use those instead of the 5 we’ve listed above. Use OR to link them.

1. effectiveness OR successful
2. interventions OR programmes OR education
3. prevention OR control OR reduction
4. “drug abuse” OR “substance abuse” OR cocaine OR heroin OR crack OR amphetamines

We can enter these into the database’s search boxes

Note the speech marks around “young people” etc which tells the database to look for the phrase.

We can now click Search. N.B. Entering effective* (the first few letters with a star on the end) rather than effectiveness will include articles which use other forms of the word and so increase your result. E.g. effective. The star is called a ‘truncation’ symbol. Teenag* is another example

You can also change ‘Select a Field’ to ‘Title’ to focus a large result to those most relevant.
The Search - and applying ‘limits’

Use ‘Limit To’ to exclude out of date material by sliding the slide across from the left to the date you wish to limit to. e.g. 2007. ‘Show More’ underneath the date slide will let you limit to English and Research studies.

References


Clicking ‘Search’ will give a list of references to journal articles about your topic like the one above. Each consists of a title (blue) and other details including the authors and which journal it was published in. The one above is in the journal “International Journal of Drug Policy” issue 4 of volume 26.

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.

Finding the Full Article

Go to e-journals and enter the name of the journal the article is located in. If we have access, the journal will come up together with a search box. Enter the title of the article. A reference for the article will appear with a full-text link.

If we don’t have access to the journal in e-journals, then scroll to the bottom of the library webpage and find ‘Interlibrary-Loan’. Click and then select the article application link. Fill out the form with the article details and your own personal details and click apply. It’s free and takes about 2 days on average.

Now do the search above and answer some questions

Complete the search shown above and answer the following questions:

1. The search yielded how many references? __________
2. If you changed ‘Title’ back to ‘Select a Field’ in each case it yielded how many references? __________
3. If there’s a difference in the number of references found? Can you say why? ____________________