Search Tips for Nursing

Nursing assignments usually require that sources are:

- Written by a nurse
- Published within the last 5 years
- Articles should be from sources on the approved list of nursing journals

1. Where to look for articles:
   - Databases with medical journals like...
   - CINAHL, which indexes all of the journals on the approved list plus hundreds more
   - ProQuest Nursing & Allied Health
   - Ovid Nursing Journals
   - If the full-text isn’t available in a database, use the **Find it button** to find a full-text version in another database or request it from another library.

2. Finding articles by nurses:
   - CINAHL’s search options include checkboxes to find articles written by nurses. On the **Advanced Search** screen, look under **Limit your results**.
   - Sometimes the only way to tell if an article is written by a nurse is to open the article and see if it lists the author’s credentials.

3. Finding items published in last 5 years:
   - Library catalogs and research databases have options that allow you to specify a date range for your search.

4. Approved nursing journals:
   - Focus on finding good articles, then...
   - Look at the source of the article (the name of the journal) and check to see if it’s on the approved list.
   - Not on the approved list? Print out the article you want to use and ask your instructor for permission to use an article from a non-approved journal source.
Boolean Operators & Truncation
Use with Library Catalog & Research Databases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AND</th>
<th>OR</th>
<th>NOT</th>
<th>*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>narrows search</td>
<td>expands search</td>
<td>narrows search</td>
<td>expands search</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| women AND heart disease AND diet | diet OR nutrition | diet NOT cookbook | prevent* finds prevents, preventing, prevention...

Too many results? Narrow your search:

Use more specific terms to describe what you are looking for:
Use the specific term **heart disease**, instead of the general term **health**

Add more terms to your search using AND:
heart disease AND exercise AND diet
*Tells database that you only want items that contain ALL of the terms*

Exclude words from your search using NOT:
heart disease AND diet NOT cookbook
*Tells database that you want everything that contains heart disease and diet, but you don’t want anything that contains the word cookbook*

Too few results? Broaden your search:

Use less specific terms to describe what you are looking for:
Use the broader term **heart disease** instead of the more specific term **arrhythmia**

Search for synonyms and related terms using OR:
heart disease OR cardiovascular disease

Use fewer keywords:
stick to the most essential keywords: heart disease

Bad results?
Think of different words to describe your topic:

Exercise  Physical fitness  Activity level
Aerobics   Physical activity   Obesity

COLUMBIA GORGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
400 E. Scenic Drive  www.cgcc.edu/library
Building 1, 2nd Floor  541-506-8061
The Dalles, OR 97058  library@cgcc.edu

Columbia Gorge Community College is an equal opportunity educator and employer.