



# A Guide to Searching Medical Databases at St. Joseph's College of Nursing

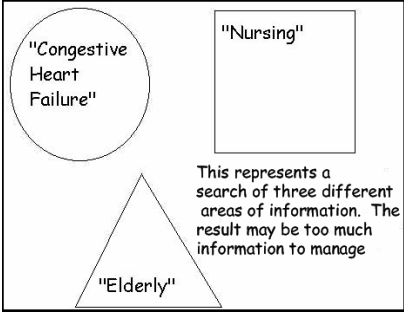
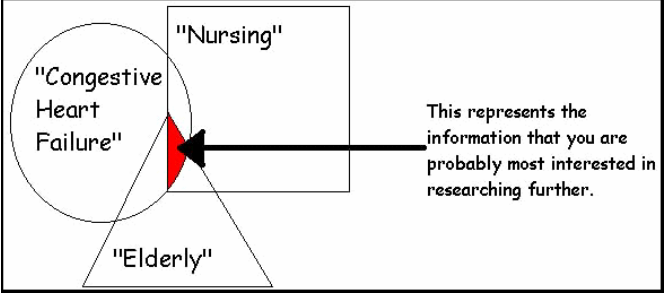
**Introduction** The library contains databases of articles published in accredited medical and nursing journals. These articles contain valuable, current research for practicing members of the medical community. The vastness of the databases may provide challenges for new users. This guide provides an overview for searching the databases, simple steps to take, and tips for completing a successful search.

**The Database** St. Joseph's School of Nursing provides you with access to several databases that you can use to search online for information. Among these databases are **CINAHL** (Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature), the National Library of Medicine, and others. To access the databases when you are using a computer in the library go to: [http://intranet/network2000/medlib/lib\\_Databases.html](http://intranet/network2000/medlib/lib_Databases.html).

**NOTE:** Before you start searching for information, it is important to plan your search.

Procedure							
<b>Step 1</b>	<p><b>Describe your topic in your own words and write it down.</b> For example, your topic might be "Nursing care of elderly patients who have experienced congestive heart failure."</p>						
<b>Step 2</b>	<p><b>Break your description down into several KEY TERMS.</b> Your topic would break down into the following three categories: "nursing," "elderly," and "congestive heart failure."</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td colspan="2">CINAHL has a "<b>controlled vocabulary</b>". That means when a journal publishes an article, that article is categorized based on the contents of the article and fit into predefined categories</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;">In order to check your <b>KEY TERMS</b> against CINAHL's <b>controlled vocabulary</b> follow these steps:</td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">1. Enter CINAHL, select the link labeled "CINAHL Headings"</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">2. Enter your <b>KEY TERM</b></td> </tr> </table>	CINAHL has a " <b>controlled vocabulary</b> ". That means when a journal publishes an article, that article is categorized based on the contents of the article and fit into predefined categories		In order to check your <b>KEY TERMS</b> against CINAHL's <b>controlled vocabulary</b> follow these steps:	1. Enter CINAHL, select the link labeled "CINAHL Headings"		2. Enter your <b>KEY TERM</b>
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<b>Step 3</b>	<p><b>The manner in which you enter your KEY TERMS into one of the databases is very important.</b> If you enter only "congestive heart failure," you will get 866 results. If you only enter the term "nursing" generates 29,1542 results. If you only enter "elderly" generates 14,076 results.</p>						



<p><b>Step 3</b> (Continued)</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><u>KEY TERM</u></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><u>Number of Results</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Congestive Heart Failure</td> <td>866</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nursing</td> <td>29,1542</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Elderly</td> <td>14,076</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;">  <p style="font-size: small;">This represents a search of three different areas of information. The result may be too much information to manage</p> </div>	<u>KEY TERM</u>	<u>Number of Results</u>	Congestive Heart Failure	866	Nursing	29,1542	Elderly	14,076
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<p><b>Step 4</b></p>	<p><b>Modify your search and combine the terms using the connector “AND” in order to search for all three of your KEY TERMS simultaneously.</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">  </div> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><u>KEY TERMS</u></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><u>Number of Results</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Congestive Heart Failure <b>AND</b> Nursing</td> <td>278</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Congestive Heart Failure <b>AND</b> Nursing <b>AND</b> Elderly</td> <td>34</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>KEY TERMS</u>	<u>Number of Results</u>	Congestive Heart Failure <b>AND</b> Nursing	278	Congestive Heart Failure <b>AND</b> Nursing <b>AND</b> Elderly	34		
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**Final Note**

You can search only the journals held by the St. Joseph's Library

To do so:

1. Enter the CINAHL database.
2. Find the box labeled “SEARCH OPTIONS”
3. Check the box labeled “Local Title for Nursing”

