CINAHL — the “Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature” — is an excellent source of literature in the disciplines of nursing and allied health. CINAHL COMPLETE includes full-text journal articles from approximately ½ of the 3,000 publications indexed in CINAHL.

Use CINAHL when you want to search literature for: nursing and midwifery (primary subjects); allied health and social care (other subjects).

Go to hselibrary.ie and click on RESOURCES | EBSCO | EBSCOHOST WEB | CINAHL COMPLETE.

Before you begin searching, analyze your topic for key concepts. Example: you wish to search for journal articles on asthma in pregnancy. Your key concepts are:

- ASTHMA
- PREGNANCY

It's best to search for one concept at a time. Enter a keyword for your first concept in the search box at the top of the screen. Click SEARCH.
On the next screen, CINAHL prompts you to choose a subject term to correspond with your keyword. Here, the standard subject term is **ASTHMA**. Tick the box next to **ASTHMA**. It’s also usually a good idea to choose **EXPLODE** to retrieve more specific related subject terms.

Your **SEARCH RESULTS** display near the bottom of the next screen. A record of your search also displays in **SEARCH HISTORY** in the middle of the screen.
Enter your second keyword, PREGNANCY. Click SEARCH.

Tick the box next to the standard subject term, PREGNANCY. Choose EXPLODE and click SEARCH DATABASE.

Subject Term
Select the most relevant subject term(s).

Search Box
Enter your second search term in the search box.

Search
Click SEARCH.

Explode
Select EXPLODE to expand your search. The EXPLODE function will include more specific related subject terms.

Search
Click SEARCH DATABASE.
Your **SEARCH RESULTS** display near the bottom of the next screen. A record of your search also displays in **SEARCH HISTORY** in the middle of the screen.

**Search Results**

Search results are **HERE**.

**Search History**

Search history is **HERE**.

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**Combine**

Combine your searches to retrieve more targeted results.

**Boolean Operators** are used to connect and define the relationship between your search terms. You can use **Boolean Operators** to either narrow or broaden your search results.

![Diagram of Boolean Operators](image)

**Use AND in a search to:**

- Narrow your results
- Instruct the database that all search terms must be present in the resulting records
- Example: cloning AND humans AND ethics (CEH).

**Use OR in a search to:**

- Combine two or more similar concepts or synonyms
- Broaden your results, instructing the database that any of your search terms may be present in the resulting records
- Example: cloning OR ethics OR human.

Here, you wish to retrieve journal articles that discuss both **asthma** and **pregnancy**. In **search history**, tick the boxes next to **search 1 (s1)** and **search 2 (s2)**. Click **search with and**.

The results of your combined searches display in the **search history** panel and near the bottom of the next screen. On the left-hand side of the screen, you have options to narrow your results, for example to full-text journal articles or to a specific date range.

**search results**

Limit and manage your search results.

**limits**

Limit your search results: eg to full-text available articles only or to a specific date range.
Use the subject categories on the left-hand side of the screen to further refine your search. For example, click on PREGNANCY COMPLICATIONS to retrieve articles on: ASTHMA + PREGNANCY + PREGNANCY COMPLICATIONS.

There are also options on the left-hand side of the screen to narrow your results to specific journals or specific age groups. Hover over the magnifying glass to view the citation and abstract of any given journal article.

Some results will also display a link to PDF or other full text. Click on the link or PDF symbol to view the full-text journal article.
For more advanced ways of narrowing your results, click **SHOW MORE** under **REFINE RESULTS**.

Please note: the screen will become shaded and you may need to scroll down.
Example: to retrieve systematic reviews, select **SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS** under **PUBLICATION TYPE** and click **SEARCH**.
Click the folder symbol to add journal articles you're interested in to the folder for use later in your search session. When you click ADD TO FOLDER the symbol will change to a yellow colour.

When you've finished adding journal articles to the folder, click on FOLDER at the top of the screen.

Once in FOLDER CONTENTS select the tick-boxes next to any of the journal articles you wish to keep. Selected journal articles may be emailed, printed or saved.

You may also set up a personal EbscoHost account to save articles, searches and alerts for future sessions.

Contact your local HSE South library for assistance: see www.hselibrary.ie | Your Local Library.

See also the advanced searching tutorial video below: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dAsMhC7uQ0.