



Ron E. Lewis Library Guide

Library Orientation for Nursing Students

http://library.lsc.edu/04_GetHelp/PDF/Nursing/NewStudentOrientation.pdf

Welcome to the LSC-O library! We hope you will feel welcome when using the library for research, studying, viewing videos, or using the computers. This handout is designed to get you started using some of our online research tools.

In addition to the printed books and videos found by using our library catalog, the library subscribes to databases that provide articles on health care and medical research. These resources are delivered over the Web but are **NOT** freely available from off-campus. **You need to use your MyLSC-O logins to access them from off campus.** Database articles are from published nursing journals, professional nursing magazines, and other resources such as medical dictionaries and encyclopedias, or standard text books for health care professionals.

How do I find these databases? Go to our home page at <http://library.lsc.edu>

Look in the middle column under **Articles and Reference Information**

Click Databases by Subject then click **Nursing and Allied Health Databases**. Select a database and search. Each database is unique in what it offers and how it works. Read the descriptions below.

Alternate ways to find a database: If you know the **name** of the database, click Databases A-Z by name. Click the initial letter of the name of the database and click the name of your database.

If you want a general database (good for all topics) click the Databases by type link. Under Magazines and Journals click any one of those databases, or the newspaper category also will have health-related articles for the average person.

Here is a list of the most important databases for nursing students:

- **Stat!Ref:** Collection of many online books: basic text books and standard reference books for the health care field. Some are required text books for various allied health classes.
- **Health Source Nursing/Academic** nursing journals and professional magazines, too many to list here.
- **Health Reference Center/Academic** Articles from major medical journals and medical information resources such as a medical encyclopedia, plus other books.
- **ScienceDirect** from Elsevier has many medical and nursing journals not available elsewhere. These are *Applied Nursing Research, Geriatric Nursing, Heart & Lung, Journal of Emergency Nursing, Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health, Journal of Pediatric Health Care, Journal of Pediatric Nursing, Journal of Professional Nursing, Journal of Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nursing, Journal of the American Dietetic Association, Midwifery, and Nursing Outlook*
- **Health Source Nursing/Consumer edition** magazines articles designed for the average health care consumer. Good for patient education.
- **Consumer Health Complete** Magazines and books of health and medical information aimed at the average person, the health care consumer. Easier to read and understand for the non-professional or persons new to nursing. Good for patient education.
- **CINAHL** (stands for Cumulative Index of Nursing and Allied Health Literature pronounced "sin-all") Covers the most journals and magazines and provides article information such as their titles, subjects, authors names, with summaries of articles. This is called a citation. There are links into some of the other Ebsco databases where the full article is available. It provides full-text of articles from many of the state nursing association magazines such as *Texas Nursing* for Texas or *Pelican News* for Louisiana.
- **Databases on all topics:** You might not always need articles from nursing or medical databases. Use either **Academic Search Complete** or **Research Library** to research all subject such as current events & social issues. (health care reform, etc.)

How do I find a specific article if I know the title, date, and page numbers? In this case, use our Periodical list. Type the name of the magazine or journal there to see what, if any, dates we have for that magazine or journal. Then if your date is available in a database click the link to open the database. Then click the year, the volume, issue, or date, and find the article by the page number or title of the article.

How do I find books or videos to check out? The library catalog shows what books and videos the library has on its shelves and also contains many online books (ebooks) for accessing on the computer. At the library home page click the **Library Catalog** link or button. Type key words in the search box and click "words & phrase" button to search in all parts of the information. The results will show a call number, the shelf address for the item. Medicine is in the R call numbers. Nursing is in the RT call numbers. Write down the call number before going to the 2nd floor. Always **ASK FOR HELP** if you cannot find something!

Web pages: We recommend the freely available Web site MedlinePlus.gov for medical information. The site is sponsored by the National Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health, U.S. government agencies. The articles in this website are considered more authoritative than other Web medical sites (such as pages sponsored by a pharmaceutical company, for example) because the article authors are named or the articles are sponsored by government agencies or well-known and respected research facilities such as the Mayo Clinic, the articles all have dates, and the information sources are cited. This info is always required for citing in APA style.

Citing your sources: Good students know how to cite information in the correct style, which for nursing is APA style. We have created handouts and found Web pages for you to consult when a citation is needed. Look under **HELP!** at the library home page, and click the link **Citation Styles (APA, MLA)**

Searching in Library databases: All of the nursing databases require some special words to connect search keywords in searches. Connect your words or phrases with AND, OR, NOT:

- **Use AND to between words or phrases when you need ALL words or phrases.**
- **Use OR to combine words when you need ANY of the words or phrases.**
- **Use NOT to EXCLUDE certain words or phrases from your search.**

Examples:

1. You are interested in finding articles on west nile fever, its cause and treatment.
What are the key words? **west nile, causes, treatment**

You want articles with all three words present, so construct your search using **AND** between the key words as follows: **west nile and cause and treatment**
"west nile" will be searched as a phrase. Quotes are NOT needed around phrases in our databases.

Result: All articles that have all three words or phrases.

Tip: Use as few words as you can to still have your meaning clear. You can omit the word "fever" because the phrase "west nile" has few other meanings and you would miss any that say west nile virus or west nile disease.

2. You didn't get many articles using **AND** to combine all three terms. You can then use **OR** combining as follows: **west nile and (cause or treatment)**

Result: Articles with **west nile and causes** or articles with **west nile and treatment.**

Tip: Parentheses () are needed around words when you are using AND with OR to combine words. Parentheses state the **order** in which the words will be combined.

3. You want articles about west nile but **NOT** the Nile River. Use **NOT** to exclude words as follows: **west nile and (causes or treatment) not river**

Result: All articles containing the word "river" will be subtracted from the results.

Tip: Be careful using not because you can eliminate articles that you would want where that word was present. It is a handy thing to use if any word is causing a lot of stuff you don't want.