Library lab: Finding Journal Articles in CINAHL

Scenario for your search topic:

→ An internationally-educated nurse doesn't catch all the pertinent information during a change of shift report. When an emergency situation arises, she is able to refer to the excellent documentation in the patient's chart to make sense of what is going on.

→ You need to find and summarize two relevant articles published in peer-reviewed journals. Your articles should be no more than 5 years old.

Your search topic: the role of documentation in ensuring patient safety during handover

Step 1. Identify main ideas / search terms
There are three main ideas in your research topic – fill in the blanks:

___ documentation ___ AND __________________ AND __________________

Step 2. Go to CINAHL
a) Start from the library’s home page at http://www.langara.ca/library/
b) Click on Articles in Journals
c) From the list of article databases, click on the link to CINAHL

Step 3. Try a keyword search
a) Enter your search terms from Step 1. Put each concept in a separate search box and combine them with AND, as shown below:

    *document*  will search for document, documents, documentation, etc.

    AND between boxes means that ALL your terms must be found in search results.

    Search tip: * is the truncation symbol used in Google and most library databases

b) Limit your results to 2013-, Peer Reviewed, and click on ‘Search’
How many articles did you find? ______________
Do the ones on the 1st page seem useful? ______
Do you think there are more articles to find? __________
Step 4. Examine an article record
a) Click on the link for the 8th article: *Comparing nursing handover and documentation*...

The Detailed Record will give you a good description of the article, including Major Subjects and an Abstract.

b) Under Tools, Click on *Add to folder*. Note other Tools available (Email, Cite, etc.).
c) Look at the Major Subjects.
d) Write down the Major Subject related to the concept of:
   documentation: ____________________
   handover: ____________________

Step 5. Find more articles: Add Major Subject terms to your search
a) Go to the top of the Detailed Record page. You’ll see your 3 search boxes there.
b) Add the 2 Major Subject terms to your search using OR, as below:

OR means that ANY term inside the box can be in the search results.

c) Click on *Search*.
How many articles did you find? ___________________
d) Choose 2 more articles on the first page of results and add them to your folder.

Step 6. Save your work!
Your saved articles are in the folder. Now email them to yourself!
a) Click on the folder link
c) Select the articles & email them to yourself, choosing APA citation

You can also save a search and email it to yourself:

- Click on
- Under Add to folder, click on the link next to Current Search:
- The search is now saved in your folder and can be emailed from there
Help with APA Style

Library Nursing Guide: APA Style
Links to resources and examples.

APA References: Common examples

*Entire book with multiple authors/editors:*


*Chapter or section from Potter & Perry:*


*Online journal article with DOI:*


*Online journal article without DOI:*


Library Nursing Guides

These guides offer help on a variety of nursing-specific topics. To find the nursing guides, go to:

- Library home page: http://www.langara.ca/library
- Assignment Help
- Nursing