Locating Qualitative or Quantitative Research Articles in CINAHL

Currently, there is no single approach to recommend for locating qualitative or quantitative research articles in CINAHL. Try these strategies.

Using “MH Exact Subject Heading” field options

CINAHL uses “qualitative studies,” not qualitative research and “quantitative studies,” not quantitative research as exact subject heading.

Conducting an Advanced Search, enter the type of study of interest in the first search field, and from the “Select a Field (optional)” drop down menu, select “MH Exact Subject Heading.”

In the subsequent fields, enter appropriate keywords; select appropriate limiters, and click “Search.”

SAMPLE SEARCH

Keywords (diabetes and adults) are added to complete the Advanced Search.

Publication date range ensures professor’s requirement for currency is met.

Peer-Reviewed limit helps ensure retrieval of scholarly material.
Using “Clinical Queries” limiter for Qualitative studies.

On the Advanced Search screen, enter appropriate keywords and select “Qualitative-Best Balance” from the “Clinical Queries” limiter.

SAMPLE SEARCH

Keywords (diabetes and adults) are added to begin the Advanced Search.

Clinical Queries are specific search strategies which can be applied to retrieve clinically-relevant and scientifically-sound results from the CINAHL databases.

Using Related subject headings.

When building a keyword search, try these closely related subject headings.

In CINAHL, these subject headings are closely related to “qualitative studies”:
Action Research, Ethnographic Research, Ethnological Research, Ethnonursing Research, Grounded Theory, Naturalistic Inquiry, Phenomenological Research.

In CINAHL, these subject headings are closely related to “quantitative studies”:
Quasi-Experimental Studies, Multiple Time Series, Nonequivalent Control Group, Time Series, Repeated Measures, Retrospective Design, Time and Motion Studies, Work Sampling.

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