

Library Databases: An introduction

In this presentation you will learn about library databases - what they are, why you should use them, how to find them and which ones are best for your nursing topics.

What are Library Databases?

Library databases act as an index to journal articles and are the easiest way to find up to date current information which is scholarly and therefore suitable for you to use in your assignments. Journals, also known as serials or periodicals are published on a regular basis, cover academic subjects and as they go through an editorial process, contain authoritative, reliable information.

Which ones are best for my topic?

The core databases for nursing are:

CINAHL (Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Literature) - core nursing database

Medline - core database for medicine.

Meditext – Australian medical information

APA-FT (Australian Public Affairs Full Text)

ASTIhealth – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

The Nursing Reference Center is useful as a reference source for information on diseases & conditions, drugs & practice guidelines.

How do I access these databases?

There are several ways to access these databases.

If you are coming through the Student portal, click on **Meta Quest**.

Use the drop down menu in the first box to select Subject Headings.

Use the drop down menu in the second box to select Health Sciences.

Select Nursing to display the full list of relevant databases.

To fully research a topic we recommend that you search one database at a time. To do this, click on the title of the database.

If you want to search several databases at once, enter your search terms into the text box and then select the databases you want to search. This can be useful as it shows you which databases cover the topic.

The library databases can also be accessed via the Library page. To do this click on the link at the bottom of the ECU Home Page

Once again, there are multiple options to choose. You can enter the name of the database into the catalogue or click on these links for a list of databases by title or subject.

You can also do a quick search across several databases by entering the search terms and limiting the search to the broad subject area of Health Sciences.

Where do I go for online help?

For additional information and help, click on **Information for Students**.

This connects you to the **Library Assistance page**. If you click on the link **Resources by Faculty & Subject**, and follow the prompts, you will find links to the nursing databases as well as links to online guides and related web sites.

If you would like more information on searching CINAHL and tips on how to do a keyword search, you can view the following video clips:

- *CINAHL: Features and functions*
- *How to do a keyword search*

A full list of our video clips can be viewed at www.ecu.edu.au/library.