



## Nursing Research



### Literature Review: an introduction

The concept of a literature review is intended to promote understanding (of a subject or topic) through analysis of published works.

For example, to begin work on the subject of vitamin C deficiencies in elderly Americans one would first research and examine articles already written to gather historic perspective on the topic as well as become acquainted with related and modern prevailing attitudes, concepts, and research.

Subsequently, it is clear that your own research success is directly pursuant to the literature review in that a well-done review ensures a well-informed thesis and research endeavor.

There are a number of databases available for this type of research; however, beginning research in the field of nursing will be best accomplished by thorough use of the **CINAHL** database—so start there.

Begin by visiting the “Nursing” **Subject Guide**, available via the Subject Guides link at [www.library.armstrong.edu](http://www.library.armstrong.edu). From there, you will find direct links to **CINAHL (Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health)** as well as **Medline** and **HealthSource Nursing/Academic** databases.

Each of these is a searchable database of thoroughly indexed (and often abstracted, with full text access) literature pertinent to the field of nursing, comprised of thousands of journal titles.

Because these are all hosted through the Ebsco platform, they will appear quite similar however they do differ in content. You will want to perform a separate “Advanced Search” in each (available from the tabs at the top) as that type of search allows greater flexibility in combining terms so give yourself plenty of time to perform your research, allowing ample time to search databases as necessary.

**Don't forget, we're here to help!**  
**Contact library staff at 912-921-5478/9**  
**or via e-mail at [refdesk@mail.armstrong.edu](mailto:refdesk@mail.armstrong.edu).**

**Thank you and good luck!**

