Nursing Research Guide

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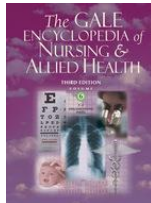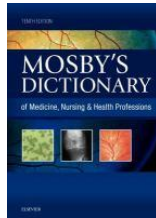
I.   Find Books

A) Reference Materials: Encyclopedias, Dictionaries, etc.
   Reference materials offer background information and broad overviews of subjects. This information is often helpful in narrowing your topic and in selecting a specific area to explore further. Reference materials such as almanacs and yearbooks also provide quick access to statistical data.

   1) Suggested Titles:

   [The Gale Encyclopedia of Nursing and Allied Health.](#) Detroit: Thomson Gale, 2018. (E-book) This set provides more than 1,000 entries covering topics in nursing and allied health written for students and professionals in the field. Covers all major health professions, including nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and respiratory therapy.

   [Mosby's Dictionary of Medicine, Nursing, & Health Professions](#). St. Louis: Elsevier, 2017.

B) [Library Catalog](#): Print and E-book Collections
   The online catalog offers convenient access to titles housed at all VC library locations. At the catalog screen, select "Search the Catalog" to locate titles or subjects that match your terms such as "**nursing theory**."

   > **E-books:** To search only for titles available electronically, from the "Search the Catalog" page, select "Online" as the desired location. Use the dropdown menu to choose your search method (author, subject terms, etc.), then enter your search term (ex. **nursing ethics**).
   >
   > *Helpful feature*: While viewing a book, select the "Search" tab to bring up a search bar which will allow you to locate a word or phrase within the entire content of the book.

C) Browse the Collection

Physically browse the nursing titles shelved by call number in the following Library of Congress Classification ranges:

R: General Medicine   RG: Obstetrics/Gynecology
RC: Internal Medicine   RJ: Pediatrics
RD: Surgery   RM: Pharmacology
                               RT: Nursing

II.   Find Articles

A) Article Databases: Locate articles by searching these databases on campus or remotely from any Internet connection.

1. Nursing Collection II**:** This database offers full text coverage of 43 notable nursing journals. Enter your keyword/s to search all journals simultaneously for articles addressing your topic. For example, if looking for information on **surgery and post-operative complications**, enter both terms/ phrases connected with the Boolean operator **AND**. Coverage includes the following titles and more:

- Nursing   *- Journal of Nursing Care Quality*
-Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing   *- AJN, American Journal of Nursing*
-Nursing Critical Care   *- MCN: The American Journal of*
-OR Nurse   *Maternal Child Nursing*
-Nursing Made Incredibly Easy

2. Health Source: Nursing/Academic Edition: The database offers comprehensive coverage of nursing and allied health information. Nursing specific journals include:
- Nurse Researcher   *- Nursing Children and Young People*
- Nursing Philosophy   *- Nursing Ethics*
- Journal of Nursing Management   *- Nursing Forum*

Helpful Feature: Citing the Articles: The database provides examples for citing the articles selected. For assistance in citing the articles, select the "Help" link in the upper right corner of the screen, scroll to view "Citation Styles" in the left menu bar, and then choose the documentation style of your choice.
Helpful Feature: Search Options: Customize your search by specifying the number of pages and/or date of publication. You may also limit your search to cover stories or articles published in specific journals.

4. Learning Express Library: This database offers access to practice tests based on current licensing exams for the **NCLEX-RN** and **NCLEX-PN**.

- Select the **Career Center Plus** for practice tests.

Suggested Websites

Get Body Smart: An Online Examination of Human Anatomy and Physiology. Animated Text Narrations and Quizzes to Explain the Structures and Functions of the Human Body Systems.

CDC: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: The CDC website includes information on diseases and conditions as well as coverage of a variety of health related issues and topics, i.e., disease prevention and healthy living, workplace safety, and environmental health topics. Information on diseases includes basic facts, symptoms, diagnosis/treatment, data and statistics, research, and scientific articles.

eMedicine from WebMD: This site allows you to look up information on specific topics such as anatomy, oncology, surgery and pediatrics. Current articles on different illnesses and diseases, such as influenza and diabetes, are provided on a regular basis.

FDA: United States Food and Drug Administration: The FDA regulates the safety and truthful labeling of food products, prescription and non-prescription drugs, vaccines, medical devices, cosmetics, veterinary products, and tobacco products. The website includes information on drug recalls/alerts, approvals, shortages, and safety.

HealthLine: HealthLine includes information on diseases and conditions with links to symptoms and treatments. Information on drug interactions and comparison is also included. With HealthLine's Body Maps, visitors can explore the body's organs and systems in 3-D along with related videos and articles on the various systems of the body.

Medline Plus: This website is a service of the U.S. National Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health. It can be searched for specific topics, provides a dictionary for searching medical terms, provides information in various languages, and much more.

Medscape: Nurses: Medscape is affiliated with WebMD and offers a wealth of information for the health professional. Information includes news stories, featured articles, and discussion. The website addresses topics concerning critical care, women's health, pain management, pediatrics & neonatal care, mental health and psychiatric nursing and other topics.

State Health Facts: Maintained by the Kaiser Foundation, the website offers health related statistics by state.

The Research Process

1) Select a topic that you find interesting and appropriate for the assignment.

2) Review reference sources such as subject encyclopedias for background information to help focus or narrow the search.

   For example, students interested in **perioperative nursing** may consult the *Encyclopedia of Surgery* for broad overviews of **preoperative procedures** and/or **postoperative care/complications**. This information will help the researcher in selecting an area to explore further.

3) Restate the topic as a question. Inquiry is at the heart of the research process, a quest to locate information which answers questions and leads researchers to a greater understanding of the topic.

   Restating the topic as a question will help in:
   - Locating information that is useful and relevant to the primary focus or thesis of your research.
   - Identifying the keywords or phrases to use in the search statement.

   Example: What are the **treatments** for **lupus**?

4) Develop a search statement by combining keywords or concepts from the research question. For example, **"lupus"** and **"treatments"** were identified as keywords in the question above. By connecting both terms with the Boolean operator **"and"**, the researcher will retrieve only those articles that discuss both concepts, thus improving the relevancy of the search.

   Enter in search field: **lupus and treatments**

5) Develop alternate search statements to improve the search results. Authors may use various terms to describe the same concept.

   For example, **treatment** is often used in the same context as **management**.

   By identifying and connecting alternate terms, researchers may expand the search results. As indicated below, consider brainstorming and listing synonyms or word variations to identify alternate keywords.

Concept 1		Concept 2
lupus	AND	treatments
lupus erythematosus	AND	nursing interventions
systemic lupus erythematosus	AND	management
SLE	AND	care

6) Evaluate information for objectivity and reliability.

7) Cite the information borrowed from other authors or informational sources. Careful documentation will ensure that credit is given with no intention to plagiarize or claim ownership of information belonging to other researchers. For explanations and examples, visit the Duke University Library's Citation page.

Questions?

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