Finding Credible Academic Information
Where to start – Assignment Instructions

Sourcing information for your assignment:

**Inclusions:**
A MINIMUM of 10 current (5 years or less) credible academic references consisting of:

- Minimum 8 journal articles
- Minimum 2 books/e-books

**Exclusions:**
- Dictionaries
- Encyclopaedias
- Wikipedia!
- Lecture Notes

**But can include:**
- Credible websites

In-text and end-texted in the APA Referencing as sourced from the Library Referencing Guide.
Published Literature: Books/e-Books

**Dictionaries & Encyclopaedias:**
Use these to source the meaning of terminology. Some are e-versions.

- **Dictionaries**
  - Australian nurses’ dictionary
  - Black’s medical dictionary
    - Available online.
  - Dictionary of nursing theory and research
  - Mosby’s dictionary of medicine, nursing & health professions
  - Taber’s cyclopedic medical dictionary
    - Available online

- **Encyclopaedias**
  - The encyclopedia of elder care [electronic resource]: the comprehensive resource on geriatric health and social care
    - 3rd ed. 2014
  - Nursing leadership [electronic resource]: a concise encyclopedia
    - 2nd ed. 2012
  - The Sage encyclopedia of qualitative research methods
    - Available online
  - Encyclopedia of diseases and disorders
    - Available online

**Books:**
Are a good starting point for an introduction to the topic such as background information, theories, frameworks and overviews.

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NUM1102 Unit Specific page of the Nursing Library Guide
Assignment Resources

- Books/e-books
- Journal Articles and Academic information
- Websites
Published Literature: Journals/Journal Articles

*Journals/Journal Articles (and other academic information)*:
Provide information on current research, often specific to a topic. They are an online source of information sourced through the library and searchable from subscribed databases and/or the library search engine - ECU Worldsearch.

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**Key Databases**
- CINAHL Plus with Full Text
  International coverage, core database for nursing and allied health.
- Medline
  International coverage, core databases for medical sciences.

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**Some Key Australian Journals**
- ACORN: The journal of perioperative nursing in Australia
- Australasian Emergency Nursing Journal: AENJ
- Australian Critical care
- Australian Journal of Rural Health
- Australian nursing & midwifery journal
Journal Articles vs. Journals vs. Databases

- A Journal is a scholarly publication containing articles written by researchers, professors and other experts. Journals focus on a specific discipline or field of study. They are published on a regular basis (monthly, quarterly, etc.) and are sequentially numbered. Each copy is an issue; a set of issues makes a volume (usually a separate volume per year). They can also be called periodicals or serials.
  
  Source: https://www.uvic.ca/library/research/tips/journal/index.php

- A Journal Article appears in a Journal and will be written by subject matter experts as mentioned above. They add to the body of knowledge in a particular field or topic. Examples are research articles, review articles or articles that summarise past research, outline recent advances, or point out gaps in a body of knowledge. They can be used to provide complete and current information. Prior to publication, academic articles will go through a process of peer review. They are a credible source of information.
  
  Source: http://guides.library.utoronto.ca/c.php?g=250471&p=1670761

- A Database is a collection of information that is commonly used for research and writing. They include access to academic journals and journal articles. An example of a Nursing specific database is CINAHL Plus with Full text.
  
  Source: http://www.yourdictionary.com/academic-database
Where to source Journal Articles

Source databases that cover your topic area.

**Significant Health Science Databases:**

- CINAHL Plus Full Text
- PsycINFO
- MEDLINE

**Specific evidence-based health Databases:**

- Informit Health Collection
- Australian Public Affairs Full text
- THE JOANNA BRIGGS INSTITUTE
- Cochrane Library
- BMJ Best Practice

These databases can be sourced from the library homepage by clicking on the [Databases link](#).
Searching ECU Worldsearch and Databases

Learn how to create search strategies and find information in ECU Worldsearch.

Creating search strategies to find information in ECU Worldsearch & the CINAHL Database

Searching ECU Worldsearch and Databases
A reminder about searching concepts – Boolean Operators

• Use AND between concepts
  – Cystic fibrosis AND psychosocial - finds results that include both of these terms

• Use OR between synonyms/alternate terms
  – Cystic fibrosis OR fibro cystic disease of the pancreas
    – finds results that include either of these terms

• Put them together...
  (cystic fibrosis OR fibro cystic disease of the pancreas) AND psychosocial
A reminder about searching concepts – Smart Searching

Use smart searching to improve the efficiency of your search for information.

For a list of the common smart search strategy tips go to the Nursing Library Guide under the Getting started tab.

Every database has a help button. If you are using a database that you are not familiar with always check for specific smart searching tips.

1. Break your topic into concepts. e.g. The effect of diet on a person’s health:
   - Concept = Diet
   - Concept = Health

2. Consider alternative keywords:
   - diet, nutrition
   - health, wellbeing

3. Use truncation to search for variations of words:
   - infan* (infants,infantile, infancy)
   - child* (child, children, childhood)

4. Use AND to narrow the search:
   - diet AND health
   - nurs* AND best practice

5. Use OR to broaden the search:
   - diet OR nutrition
   - child* OR infan* OR toddler

6. Use inverted commas for phrases:
   - "pulmonary embolism"
   - "evidence based nursing"
Refining: too much information or too little?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I’m getting too many results...</th>
<th>I’m not getting enough results...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Add concepts (using AND)</td>
<td>Add synonyms/alternate terms (using OR) within each concept.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use more specific terms</td>
<td>Use a broader term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply limits in databases (e.g. publication year, age group, publication type)</td>
<td>Use truncation and wildcards (smart searching)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use a more specific information resource</td>
<td>Check spelling (inc. variant spellings)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Remove limits</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Use a broader information resource</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Assignment Resources

- Point of Care Resources
- Books/e-Books
- Journal Articles and Academic Information
- Websites
Websites

Refer to your Unit Outline/Plan for credible health websites recommended by your Unit Coordinator.

When selecting websites look for domains such as '.org' or '.gov' or '.edu'.

Google Advanced Search

Google Advanced search – for a more precise search engine search:


Hints and tips on how to power search in Google are available in the Nursing Library Guide under the Websites & Government Reports tab.
### Critical evaluation of Websites

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Currency</th>
<th>When was the page last updated? When was it written? How current are the references (if any)?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relevance</td>
<td>How well does it address the topic? Is it scholarly? Does it address your needs?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authority</td>
<td>Is the source of the information credible? Who wrote it? Who hosts/publishes the page? Who recommended it?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accuracy</td>
<td>Does the information appear logical? Are there significant typos or spelling errors? Are the links working? What research methods have been used? Are there references?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purpose &amp; Bias</td>
<td>Does the author have a hidden agenda? Is their intent to sell something? Is it all a hoax? What is the motivation behind the page?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more detailed help on how to evaluate a website, available click on this link: [Finding Credible Sources](#)
And finally – some useful links


