**Objective:** This guide will show you how to conduct a basic search in CINAHL. For further information please view the list of additional guides on our website (link).

**Directions:**

**Basic Searching**

1. Enter your keywords
2. Select Your Boolean Operators (AND, OR, NOT)
3. Fields determine where in the citations the database searches for your Keywords (ex. Title, Author, All Text).
4. The plus symbol will “add more fields” if needed.

**Search Strategies:**

1. **Phrase Searching**
   a. “find these words in this order”
   b. **For Example:** “breast cancer” will retrieve only items wherein “breast” and “cancer” appear together.

2. **Truncation searching**
   a. Truncation or wildcard symbols can broaden your search and allow you to look for variations of words.
   b. **For Example:** Pregnan* will retrieve the following words:
      i. pregnant, pregnancy and pregnancies.

**Using Filters & Limits**

1. Use filters to refine your search.
2. The most used Nursing Filters are:
   a. Peer Reviewed Journal
   b. Any Author is a Nurse
   c. Evidence Based Medicine
   d. Randomized Control Trials
   e. Clinical Queries

**Additional Resources:**

Additional information can be found on this topic at the following outside resources (ctrl+click to open):

- [EBSCO CINAHL Database – Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [CINAHL Plus with Full Text Help Sheet](#)