Using Nursing & Allied Health Database (ProQuest)

TO FIND PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

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What is Nursing & Allied Health Database (ProQuest)?

- It is one of the most important resources for peer-reviewed research in the fields of Nursing & Allied Health.
- ProQuest is an online database that contains the full text of thousands of scholarly journal articles.
- The version of ProQuest designed for the health sciences is called ProQuest Nursing & Allied Health Database.
- The majority of articles in ProQuest cannot be found through Google.
- Google only searches free websites. You have paid to access ProQuest as part of your tuition.
How do I access Nursing & Allied Health Database?

- Start on the BRCC home page, mybrcc.edu.
- Click on “Quick Links”
- Click on “BRCC Library”
- From the BRCC Library page, click on “Online Databases” on the left side of the screen.
How do I access Nursing & Allied Health Database?

- Once you are on the Online Databases page, scroll down to the section titled “Individual Database Access.”
- Nursing & Allied Health Database from ProQuest is #14 on this list.
- Click on the title of the database (in red) to proceed with your search.
How do I access Nursing & Allied Health Database Off Campus?

- From the BRCC Library homepage, click “Online Databases” and scroll down to find the link to Nursing & Allied Health Database.
- Please remember—You can access the databases on or off campus.
- If you are on campus, you will not need to login.

To access Nursing & Allied Health Database from ProQuest off campus, you will need to login using the following:
- Your Lnumber with a capital L (or your Nnumber, etc.) as your user ID
- Your 6-digit birthdate as your PIN.
- You can login off campus 24/7, as long as you have an internet connection.

Off-Campus login page for the Library’s Online Databases
UserID: Your Lnumber with a capital L.
PIN: Your 6-digit birthdate (mmddyy; ex:063091).
• ProQuest will automatically open to the basic search page, which only has one search bar and few options to limit your search.
• I recommend clicking on the Advanced Search link so that you can do a more precise search. There are two links to the Advanced Search page, but they both go to the same place.
The ProQuest Advanced Search page has 3 sections:

1) A group of three search bars that allow you to put in keywords or select the field you want to search in (title, author, subject headings, etc.).

2) Two smaller search bars that you can use to find subject headings to add to your search.

3) Options to limit your search to articles about people from specific age groups, or limit search results by source/document type or language.
Before You Search, Think about Your Search Terms

• For this example, let’s say you have a research assignment and your topic is strategies to prevent nurse fatigue in healthcare settings.

• I do not recommend typing the entire phrase strategies to prevent nurse fatigue in healthcare settings into the search box. If you do this, you will get thousands of results, but only a few of the articles in the results list will be related to your topic.

• I do not recommend this approach because you will get a large number of results that are not related to your topic. When you enter your search this way, the system searches for each individual word you entered as a separate keyword, which could be found anywhere in the record for an article.

• This means that your search will retrieve all records that include at least one of the words in the phrase strategies to prevent nurse fatigue in healthcare settings. You’ll have trouble finding the most useful articles from this long list, so I recommend another strategy.
Before You Search, Think about Your Search Terms

• Instead, you should determine the facets (main points) of your topic to identify which terms you should use in your search.
  • For the topic strategies to prevent nurse fatigue in healthcare settings, the main facets are nurse fatigue and prevention. These are the two terms that you need to use in your search.
  • Why leave out strategies and healthcare settings?
    • You should leave these words out of your search because they are redundant and might make your search too narrow.
    • Any article that deals with prevention of nurse fatigue will identify the strategies used to prevent fatigue.
    • We can also assume that most, or all, articles about nurses will involve some kind of healthcare setting, because nurses work in healthcare settings.
Setting Up Your Search

• For our topic **strategies to prevent nurse fatigue in healthcare settings**, the facets we will use to create our search are **nurse fatigue** and **prevention**.

• The facet nurse fatigue is a two-word phrase. **It’s important to put quotation marks around the phrase**, so that we will only retrieve articles where the two words are found together.

• Be sure to check the box for full text. If your instructor has asked you to find scholarly or peer-reviewed articles, then you should also check the box that says peer reviewed.

• Connect the two facets of your search with **AND**. Searching with **AND** will retrieve articles that include **both** facets of your search. Using **OR** instead would make your search broader—You’d retrieve all articles that include either “nurse fatigue” or prevention.
Our initial search came up with 17 results. We have set up a very precise search, all of the articles we’ve found are highly relevant to our topic.

Because of the limiters we set, all results are from peer-reviewed (scholarly) journals. Also, all of the articles are available in full text, which means that we can access the whole article in ProQuest.

We can make our search even more precise by using the “Narrow results” options on the left.
Narrow Your Results by Publication Year

- The publication date graph at the left of the results list shows that we’ve retrieved articles that were published between 2005 and 2015.
- For medical topics, you should try to restrict your search to articles that are no more than 5 years old. You risk using outdated information if you rely on anything older than that.
- We can limit our search to the past 5 years (2011-2015) by sliding the triangle under the publication date graph until we reach 2011.
- When you’ve done this, click update.
Viewing an Article

- To view an article from the results list, click on the title in blue.

- You can view the full text of the article on the screen or download it as a PDF.
- You also have the option of printing or saving a copy of the article.
Citing an Article

• You need to cite any articles that you use for your paper to give credit to your sources.
• To create an automatic citation, click the Cite button.
• In the popup window, click the arrow and scroll to the citation style that you need.
• The citation will appear in the popup window.
• You can copy and paste the citation into the works cited page of your paper.
Nursing & Allied Health Database has Videos Too!

- If you need videos on your topic, ProQuest has that too!
- To search for videos, choose “Audio & Video works” under “Source Types” on the Advanced Search page.
- If you are unable to find videos on your topic, try using fewer terms in your search.
Questions?

- The example shown here is a very basic search. There are many more advanced techniques that can be used to search ProQuest Nursing & Allied Health Database.

- If you would like to learn more advanced search techniques in ProQuest Nursing & Allied Health Database or would like help finding the articles you need, please contact Lauren McAdams (wadel2@mybrcc.edu or 225-216-8552).

- Please feel free to stop by for individual assistance during Frazier library hours. Please check the schedule for library hours at Frazier on the BRCC Libraries website.

- If you are on the Mid-City campus, please also feel free to stop by the reference desk on the second floor of the library. The librarian on duty will be happy to answer your questions. You may also call the reference desk at 216-8555.