Overview of the Library Resources and searching the medical literature with your Eskind Librarian Rachel Lane Walden
The easiest way to get to our website the first time is to Google “Eskind Library” our website will be at the top of the results.
On the webpage we have quick links to PubMed, CINAHL, and UpToDate. The Most Used Resources page will lead you to the rest of our databases and the Nursing Research Guide. The search bar on the homepage can be used to find books and eBooks. To find specific Journals use the Journal search. To get the full text of articles use the Advanced Search bar, from there choose articles and then search by title. If we don't own the full text of an article that you need request it through Document delivery. To reserve a study room please use the Study Rooms link. Our daily hours will also be listed on the homepage.
On the most used resources page you will find the link to the research guides. Check out the Nursing Research guide to find helpful resources along with hyperlinked textbook lists for all of the School of Nursing programs.
To find the full text of an article go to the advanced search bar which is located on the homepage. Then search articles using the title. If you can't find the article search for the specific journal title using the journal search bar.

Full instructions with screenshots are posted to the Nursing Research Guide

http://researchguides.library.vanderbilt.edu/nursing_researchguide
Our tutorials can be found using the Training button on the home page.
Here is a list of some of our online resources, you will want to become familiar with them but understand that your list of resources may change depending on where you practice professionally. You also have an extraordinary number of resources available to you from the other Vanderbilt libraries. Feel free to inquire with the library staff about any of these resources.
Here is a list of resources that you will be able to use as long as you have internet access.

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What is a literature search. A literature search is a key step in performing good authentic research. It helps in formulating a research question and planning the study (Rau, 2004).

Rau JL. Searching the literature and selecting the right references. Respir Care. 2004;49:1242–5.[PubMed]
The primary types of evidence are listed here. Journal articles and case reports will be the most plentiful and, occasionally, your only option. Companies who specialize in Summaries, such as UpToDate and DynaMed, are encyclopedic and meant for quick retrieval for patient care and review. Guidelines from governmental and non-governmental agencies are developed from extensive literature reviews and consensus. They also provide practitioners with the ability to quickly locate recommendations. Systematic Reviews are developed from a strict research methodology and considered the highest of the forms of evidence.

To fill information gaps, background information may also be required. This can be found in textbooks or other credible web resources.
Searching Basics can be broken down into the 6 main questions; who, what, when, where, why, and how. Which can then used to build a question touching on the main concepts of your research: patient, intervention, comparison and outcome.
Now on to hold to form a research question
The PICO framework is used to assist practitioners with formulating a clinical question and a search strategy. It can be used for questions pertaining to diagnostic, therapeutics, and prognosis. The vast majority of questions will contain the PIO so don’t feel compelled to include comparisons if it is not relevant or appropriate to your patient. The concept of Time has been mentioned in the literature but can be difficult to search because of the many ways it can be expressed. Time may be best considered while evaluating your search results.

**Take Note:** Including time as an element of your search can be a particular challenge. There is no set unit for measuring time in clinical experiments. If you search for an experiment that ran for 1 month, you will miss experiments that ran for 4 weeks or 30 days. You may need to run multiple searches using different terms for your period of time, or you may need to construct a more complex search using Boolean operators.

([http://guides.library.uwm.edu/EBPtutorial/picot](http://guides.library.uwm.edu/EBPtutorial/picot))
An example of a PICO question

Patient is an Adult pregnant female with hypertension
Looking at using a Hypertension medication
Comparing it to either Alternate medication / diet & exercise
Trying to decrease Death/injury to mother and/or fetus
Searching the Literature
Step one determining question and breaking it down into concepts
In surgical patients, does listening to music in the perioperative setting impact anxiety and postoperative pain?

What are the 4 most important terms in this question? Music, perioperative, anxiety, pain
In breaking it down into the PICO format our patients are patients undergoing surgery in the perioperative setting, music is our intervention, no comparison for this question and our outcome is reduce anxiety and postoperative pain.
Basic database searching logic that can be used throughout all of the licensed library resources and the world wide web search engines, i.e. Google/Google Scholar are AND, OR, NOT

They must be capitalized in PubMed.

- AND brings together different concepts. Your results will decrease. Both terms included in any result
- OR is used for synonymous terms. Your results will increase. It is imperative that your OR statements are, nested with parentheses, ex. (term OR term) for proper interpretation by the search engine. Will retrieve articles if either term is included
- NOT will exclude certain results. Your results may or may not decrease. Excludes any result containing the term
List Keywords for Major Concepts

**Perioperative:** preoperative, intraoperative, preoperative, pre-anesthesia, postoperative, post-anesthesia, recovery room, PACU,

**Music:** music therapy, music

**Anxiety:** stress, distress

**Pain:** pain, pains, ache, aches, suffering

For each essential concept, list out other names/words/phrases that describe it.

- Try to also include British spellings
MeSH stands for Medical Subject Heading and represents a special database tag applied to articles about your topic regardless of an author's particular wording.

Use the MeSH Database on the PubMed homepage to find appropriate MeSH terms.

You will want to use MeSH and not just keywords because a keyword may only be a casual mention in an article versus a representative topic which is what MeSH does.
Trisomy 21, Down's Syndrome and Down Syndrome are all possible synonyms for the same topic. The MeSH term Down Syndrome covers all of the variations. Lung cancer, lung tumor, lung neoplasm, and pulmonary cancer are all possible synonyms for the same topic. The MeSH term Lung Neoplasm covers all of the variations.
Possible MeSH terms for the concept of perioperative include:

- "Perioperative Period"[Mesh] (which encompasses preoperative, intraoperative, postoperative and anesthesia recovery periods)
- "Perioperative Care"[Mesh]
- "Operating Rooms"[Mesh]
- "Recovery Room"[Mesh]

- The quotes around the words/phrases and [Mesh] in square brackets distinguish the MeSH term from a regular keyword.
Build out your strategy with both MeSH terms and keywords for a more inclusive search.

- Use OR to connect similar MeSH terms and keywords
- Use AND to connect distinct groups of concepts
- Use balanced parentheses ( ) around concept sets with multiple terms.

Example:

("Perioperative Period"[Mesh] OR "Perioperative Care"[Mesh] OR preoperative OR intraoperative OR preoperative OR “pre-anesthesia” OR postoperative OR “post-anesthesia” OR “recovery room” OR “PACU”)

AND

("Music"[Mesh] OR "Music Therapy"[Mesh] OR “music therapy” OR music)

AND

("Anxiety"[Mesh] OR anxiety OR stress OR distress OR "Pain, Postoperative"[Mesh] OR pain OR pains OR ache OR aches OR suffering)
On the Eskind Home page there is a quick link to PubMed
Evidence hierarchies provide a short-cut to help you filter your searches to the most likely best evidence for the kind of question you are asking.

For prevention and treatment questions, start by searching for evidence at the top of the list.

Consider the publication date in the selection process.

If the systematic review you find was published a number of years ago and found inconclusive evidence, then look for newer randomized trials as your next step.

If no evidence is found at the top levels, move down the list looking for systematic reviews and then single studies of first cohort studies and then case-series or case-control studies.

Remember that all evidence must be critically appraised. A poorly conducted or reported randomized trial does not provide stronger evidence than the results of a well conducted cohort study.
Critical appraisal is the systematic evaluation of clinical research papers in order to establish:
Does this study address a **clearly focused question**?
Did the study use valid methods to address this question?
Are the valid results of this study important?
Are these valid, important results applicable to my patient or population?

If the answer to any of these questions is “no”, you can save yourself the trouble of reading the rest of it.
Did you know the library provides access to biomedical mobile app?

Such as drug interactions tools, pill identifiers, clinical summaries
Drug Databases: Micromedex, Epocrates, Lexicomp

UpToDate- ebp clinical summaries

Stat!Ref- Access the latest AAFP Conditions, AFHS Drug Information, and MedCalc 3000.

http://researchguides.library.vanderbilt.edu/mobileapps
Ask the room.....

What Citation Managers are you using?
- Enndote (desktop version & online)
- Mendeley
- Zotero
You can contact the library at 614-936-1410 or email me at rachel.l.walden@vanderbilt.edu