Searching CINAHL

I’ll begin this video clip by stating there are too many variables about searching to cover in a short video clip, so I encourage you to reach out to a librarian if you have questions about searching. I’ll be demonstrating only a handful of tips to get you started with CINAHL.

We begin with a basic search box. There are many ways to narrow your search on this initial search page; those options are also available after you’ve conducted a search. In other video clips, I’ll be demonstrating a few of limiters on the search results page.

What you type in the box is important...you don’t want to put in a full question or statement. You want to choose the primary keywords or phrases for your topic. For example, if your research topic is about neuromuscular electrical stimulation for patients who are receiving stroke rehabilitation, you would want to select the keywords from your topic: neuromuscular electrical stimulation stroke rehabilitation. And to be even more precise, you could search for the two primary phrases “neuromuscular electrical stimulation” AND “stroke rehabilitation.”

So let’s see how the search results are impacted by the different ways we enter the search:

So if I just have the 5 keywords neuromuscular electrical stimulation stroke rehabilitation and select search, I can see 168 results.

If I were to change these to phrases “neuromuscular electrical stimulation” AND “stroke rehabilitation” my search brings back 57 results.

Using phrase searching targets your results to the exact words within the quotation marks. See the Phrase Searching tips in this Research Guide for more information.

From your initial results, I encourage you to use the Refine Results options on the left to further narrow your results. In other video clips, I will focus on four of the ways to limit: Full-Text, Publication Date, Source Type, and Subject Heading.