CINAHL – Full-Text limiter

Full-Text – this is a tempting limiter to choose as it means all the articles you’ll see in your search results will have the full-text of the article available to you. However, I highly recommend NOT choosing Full-Text to narrow as you can severely shrink your research window and lose access to valuable articles.

Let’s look at my example. I have 57 results displayed. If I elect to look at those articles that are only available full-text in this database, I am going to be left with 14 articles. This means that I no longer see the other 43 articles that matched my search. But what if the best article for my research was in those 43? By selecting Full-Text, I’ve removed the opportunity to see that article. I will admit it is easier to check the full-text box, but I think we can agree that doing what’s easy doesn’t mean it is the best.

So there are ways to get the full-text of the other 43 articles—either in another database that SMSU subscribes to, or by borrowing the article from another library through our Interlibrary Loan service. This service does not have a cost for you to get copies of the articles and most of the time they will come directly to your email; it just requires some pre-planning (i.e., not procrastinating!) on your part.

See the Interlibrary Loan tab in this Research Guide for additional information about how to borrow materials from other libraries.