CINAHL Tutorial 1: Searching Example

Information Request: *I need articles on teaching insulin administration to diabetics.*

Topic Concepts for Literature Searching: Diabetes, Insulin, Education

1. Enter the search term “Diabetes” into the search box. Check that “Suggest Subject Headings” is selected.
2. Click on “Search”.

3. Check off one of the suggested subject headings, “Diabetes Mellitus.”

4. Select “Explode” to include other, more specific terms specific to Diabetes Mellitus (e.g., Non-Insulin Dependent or Insulin-Dependent, Diabetic Acidosis)

5. Select the term as a “Major Concept,” so that articles that you retrieve will use your terms as major points of discussion.

6. Check that “Combine selections with” is set to “or” and click on “Search Database.”
7. The search results for “Diabetes Mellitus” as a major concept will be displayed. From the column to the left, select “Insulin” from “Subject: Major Heading” to narrow the results.

8. The more narrow results will be displayed. The results now include “Diabetes Mellitus” and “Insulin,” combined with AND.
9. To add a new search term, enter “Patient Education” in the top search box. Check that “Suggest Subject Terms” is selected.

10. Click on the “Search” button.

11. Check off one of the suggested subject terms, “Patient Education.”

12. Select the term as a “Major Concept.”

13. Check that “Combine selections with” is set to “or” and click on “Search Database.”
14. The search results for “Patient Education” as a major concept, combined with “Insulin” with AND, will be displayed. Select “Search History/Alerts.”

15. The Search History page will be displayed. Select the check box next to your last search for “Diabetes Mellitus.” You DO NOT need to select the check box for your most recent search for “Patient Education”.

16. Select the “Search with AND” button. Your search for “Diabetes Mellitus” will be automatically combined with your search for “Patient Education” because it is still in the Search Box.
17. The results will be displayed again. Scroll down the page or click the “View Results” button to the right of your search history to view the results. The results now include the results for “Patient Education” as a major concept relating to your previous search terms, “Diabetes Mellitus” as a major concept and “Insulin” as a major concept.

18. From the “Limit your results” column to the right, drag the arrows on the “Filter by Publication Date” so the date range is “2003” to “2008.” You can also apply other limits from this column. Click the “Update Results” button.
19. The results page will be displayed with the results for “Patient Education” AND “Diabetes Mellitus” AND “Insulin,” Limited to articles published between “2003” and “2009.” Because no matching articles were published in 2009 at this time, the date range under “Filter by Publication Date” will now say “2003” to “2008.”

20. Make any selections from your results by clicking Add to Folder, and refer to Tutorial 2 to Save, Print, Email or Export your selected citations.