# Thesaurus Searching using British Nursing Database

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## Is this the guide you need?

If you aren’t sure what a thesaurus term is and why you might want to use one, have a look at the Thesaurus Searching guide

If you haven’t ever used British Nursing Database before, you may find it helpful to start with the Searching using British Nursing Database guide first.

If you’re ready to start using thesaurus terms on BND….

## Find Thesaurus

On BND, thesaurus terms are known as Thesaurus

Click the Thesaurus option

## Thesaurus search screen

Put the term you are looking for into the box and click Find

Unfortunately, the database uses the general Proquest Thesaurus which contains terms for all subject areas, so you might not get quite what you’re looking for first time. If your search doesn’t come up with anything useful, try another term.

## Finding the exact term

If the database doesn’t have that term in its index list, it might suggest an alternative.

I asked for all articles indexed under Cancer.

Clicking on Cancer gave me the following list

At the top is the main heading

but you also have Broader terms

Or Narrower terms.

Tick the box next to whichever term best matches your search topic. You can tick more than one if you’re interested in several areas.

## Notes

If you’re not sure from the name whether you have the right term, you can click on the Notes to tell you more about what the database indexes under a specific topic.

The Notes might suggest alternative terms, or – if a term is quite new to the index – say what date it was introduced and let you know what term to look under for older articles.

## Search the database

When you’re happy you’ve clicked the boxes next to the right terms for you

Click Add to search

## Advanced Search Screen

Your selected term or terms will appear in the search box.

Click Search

## Results Screen

Your results will appear on screen

Don’t forget that these are only results for one of your keywords. You’ll need to combine them with other keywords or other thesaurus terms to get the results you need.

## Combining Results

To find articles about body image and cancer

You could combine with keywords

Or with another thesaurus term

Just write the search numbers in the box above the table, with AND between them, and click Search

## Further help

For more help with what AND and OR mean and when to use them look at our When to use AND and OR guide

If want help with what search words to use, watch Constructing a Search Strategy

If you’re ready to try your thesaurus search on another database, have a look at the Thesaurus searching using… guide

If you have questions you’d like to ask a librarian…

## Any Questions?

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Ask for help if you need it.