# Searching using British Nursing Database

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## Before you start searching

To search on the database it will help you if you’ve thought about what terms you are going to put in and how you are going to enter them.

If you haven’t already done so, I recommend having a look at the Constructing a Search Strategy tutorial and, if you find it helpful, completing your own Constructing a Search Strategy Support Sheet.

Throughout your studies, you can access both of these on the Library Health and Social Work subject pages in our How to… Guides section

## Why British Nursing Database?

It’s good if you're looking specifically for something which happens in the UK or within the NHS

It’s the only one of our main databases which is produced in the UK

It covers some UK journals which aren't indexed elsewhere

CINAHL is a great database to choose as your starting point as …

## How do I find BND?

Go to the Library homepage http://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/

Click on Subject Help

Choose Health and Social Work

Click Databases

## You’ll need to log in

To access any Brookes electronic resource you’ll need to log in

using your Brookes student number and portal password.

## BND Search Screen

There are lots of different ways of searching for your topic and lots of different options.

To begin with, ignore everything on the screen, except the top search box.

## Entering your search

You need to enter the search strategy you’ve already prepared.

Begin by typing (or copying and pasting) all of the alternative terms you’ve thought of for your first keyword, all separated by OR.

If this doesn’t sound familiar and make sense, then you need to have a look again at When to use AND and OR and Constructing a Search Strategy.

## Choose the except full text option

Before you do anything else

select Anywhere except full text from the drop down menu on the right

This is because BND defaults to searching through the full text of articles. If handwashing only appears on page 17, the article isn’t going to be relevant to us. Anywhere except full text means look in the title/abstract etc. which makes the article much more likely to be all about our topic.

Then click Search

## Entering another search

Next, click back onto Advanced Search

and do exactly the same thing with the terms identified for your next keyword.

If you have another line of terms, repeat the process again.

British Nursing Database stores each set of terms ready for you to work with.

Click on either Recent Searches

Or the clock icon to see…

Entering another search

## Recent Searches

BND has kept a list of your entered searches in Recent Searches

At the moment there are 2 separate searches, one finds us all the articles on the database which have to do with handwashing and one that finds all the articles on complying with something. They aren’t linked in any way.

Look at the numbers of results for each search on the right. If these are very low (unless it’s a very niche topic) try and think of some more alternative terms as you probably haven’t yet thought of the term that the majority of people are using.

## Combining Terms

To get a list of the articles on the database which are about handwashing AND compliance

Type the number given to each search into the search box separated by AND

Click on Search

## BND Results

The results of your search will be displayed with the newest article at the top

If you’re very lucky, the top one will be just what you’re looking for.

Remember, no matter how good your search terms you’ll always get some results which aren’t relevant to you.

## Adding limits to your search

Options to limit what results are displayed appear on the left of the results screen.

You can choose things like

Date

Peer Reviewed

Don’t use the full text option as you’ll limit yourself to only what is available in full text on this database and might miss a really good article which you could access through Brookes, but which isn’t on this database.

If you’re still struggling with too many results, try our Too many results? guide

## Finding full text

On British Nursing Database, the following symbols below an article record mean that we definitely have it available through the database in full text.

Just click on the symbol to gain access.

If for any reason a link isn’t working, please email healthcarelibrarians@brookes.ac.uk and let us know.

If you see other articles which interest you, you can always search for the journal using the Journal titles option in the search box on the Library homepage.

You can use the Cairns Library at the John Radcliffe hospital to get access to additional resources, and also the Great Western Hospital library in Swindon if you are a Swindon student.

## Further help

For more help with forming a search strategy look at the Constructing a Search Strategy guide

If you’re wondering what the \* means, then you can look at our guide Truncation and Wildcards

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 to try your search on a different database, look at the database specific guides on our How to… guides pages

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

## Any Questions?

healthcarelibrarians@brookes.ac.uk

Ask for help if you need it.