Info-RN: a Newsletter for Nurses
September 2009

Meeting the Information Needs of Winnipeg's Nurses

From the Editor

This month Info-RN will focus on Nursing Research. In this issue, learn how to find quantitative and qualitative nursing research. Find out how Twitter can be used in a professional capacity and how the University of Manitoba Libraries' proxy bookmarklet can make researching on the world wide web easier. Check out the webliography, the featured new books and electronic resources, all highlighting nursing research resources. With the flu season almost here, make sure to take a look at the featured videos which remind us of the importance of handwashing and other personal precautions in preventing the spread of infections. And For Your Patient, we have information on clinical trials.

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News

How to Find Qualitative Research
Sep 8, 2009 9:40 AM
It can be difficult to find qualitative research articles in the literature but with these tips and a well thought out search strategy the results are achievable.

Finding and Understanding Quantitative Research
Sep 8, 2009 9:35 AM
Learn some techniques for finding quantitative research in PubMed and CINAHL.

Twitter for Nurses
Sep 8, 2009 9:30 AM
Twitter is a free social networking and micro-blogging service that enables its users to send and read messages known as tweets. The value of Twitter is it opens up and expands communication.

Taking the Library with You When Searching the Web: the Proxy Bookmarklet
Sep 8, 2009 9:25 AM
Learn how the UML's Proxy Bookmarklet can help you in your online search.
The **Health Sciences Libraries** support the teaching, research, and patient care activities of the staff and students of the Faculties of Dentistry, Medicine, and the Schools of Dental Hygiene and Medical Rehabilitation.

The **Elizabeth Dafoe Library** supports the research, study, and teaching requirements of the staff and students of the Faculty of Nursing. Other faculties served by the Elizabeth Dafoe Library include the Faculties of Art, Education, Human Ecology, Physical Education and Recreational Studies, and Social Work.

Working with the **Winnipeg Regional Health Authority**, the University of Manitoba provides library services to Winnipeg hospitals and longterm care centres. The Health Sciences Libraries now include the **Neil John Maclean Health Sciences Library** (Health Sciences Centre), and the libraries of **Concordia, Grace, Seven Oaks, St. Boniface, Victoria, Deer Lodge Centre, Misercordia Health Centre** and the virtual library at **Riverview Health Centre**.

The Health Sciences Libraries and the Elizabeth Dafoe Library offer a wide range of services — including document delivery, literature searches, and training — and provide access to an extensive collection of monographs, journals, videos, and health databases.

**Publication Information**

*Info-RN* is an electronic newsletter of the University of Manitoba Libraries dedicated to informing nurses in Winnipeg of services or resources that will help them access quality health information. *Info-RN* is published three times a year by the University of Manitoba Health Sciences Libraries. Comments, questions, or letters to the editor should be addressed to: **njm_ref@umanitoba.ca**

*Editor:* Melissa Raynard, Concordia Hospital Library  
*Regular Contributors:* Analyn Cohen Baker, Lisa Demczuk, Christine Shaw-Daigle, Angela Osterreicher, Lesley Mackey, Michelle Brown, Andrea Szwajcer
Defined qualitative research is "an approach for generating knowledge using methods of inquiry that emphasize subjectivity and the meaning of an experience for the individual." In the movement towards evidence based practice, this type of research is becoming increasingly important "because it seeks to illuminate and provide interpretations of personal experiences, behaviors interactions and social contexts, that is it represents the human experiences and dimension of the consumers of health care". Qualitative research methods are narrative involving data as text instead of numbers and include a number of research methodologies including: grounded theory, case study, historical research, ethnography, phenomenology participatory action research, interviews, and focus groups. It can be difficult to find qualitative research articles in the literature but with these tips and a well thought out search strategy the results are achievable.

Which database is best when looking for qualitative research?

Most searches require using multiple databases to find all relevant articles, however because CINAHL is primarily a nursing and allied health database and these fields are strong in qualitative research CINAHL is the best starting place. CINAHL provides better indexing and gives more subject headings to qualitative research articles than PubMed/Medline therefore making it easier to find qualitative research articles.

Do I use keywords or subject headings to find qualitative research articles?

A combination of using keyword searching and subject headings will produce the best results. For example combining "qualitative studies" as a keyword and a CINAHL heading will retrieve more articles.

Use the "explode" subject feature if available. This will include all narrower subject headings in with your search; for example checking the explode box for the CINAHL heading qualitative studies will including the narrower headings of action research, ethnographic research, ethnological research, ethnonursing research, grounded theory, naturalistic inquiry and phenomenological research. Including the all other specific methodologies as keywords and CINAHL headings will also improve your search results.

Basic or Advanced searching?

Looking for this type of research requires a complex search strategy to retrieve the best results; it is easier and less confusing to construct this type of search in the Advance Search.

Do I use “AND” or “OR” Boolean operators?

Use the Boolean operator “OR” to gather all the possible keywords and subject headings for the qualitative research methodologies together.

Then "AND" with the topic in this case wound care.
Help?

Help is always available simply contact a University of Manitoba health library and make an appointment with a librarian.

Further Reading:


Wilczynski NL, Marks S, Haynes RB. Search strategies for identifying qualitative studies in CINAHL. Qual Health Res. 2007 May;17(5):705-10.

By Christine Shaw-Daigle, Librarian
St. Boniface General Hospital

2 Wilczynski, NL; Marks, S, Haynes, RB. Search strategies for identifying qualitative studies in CINHAL. Qualitative Health Research 2007; 17 : 705.
What is Quantitative Research?

Quantitative research is mainly concerned with observation and analysis through the use of the scientific method. That is to say that quantitative research aims to obtain test results that are consistently reproducible (reliable) as well as proven to test what they intend to test (valid). In order to achieve these goals, quantitative research requires freedom from outside influences that are difficult to measure – or “quantify” – such as the ideas, emotions and intentions of individuals. 1

How to Find Quantitative Research – Search Tips for Databases

There are some techniques for finding quantitative research while searching databases. However, each database is slightly different and may require different search strategies. Two databases which are often used for searching the nursing literature are PubMED and CINAHL.

PubMED
In order to limit our PubMED search to quantitative research, it is essential to make use of the limits tab. While there is no specific limit for quantitative research, it is possible to limit our search to the type of article. The types of articles that fall under the heading of quantitative research are as follows:

Clinical Trial
Meta-analysis
Randomized controlled trial
Review

Alternately, it is possible to use the MeSH database to search in PubMED for quantitative data. There are two MeSH headings that focus on quantitative research methods:

Clinical Trials as Topic
Randomized Controlled Trials as Topic

Of course, these are very specific and limited to only two methods of research.

Within the MeSH database it is necessary to send these subject headings to PubMED to search as a heading. It is possible to combine these MeSH headings with separate keyword searches through the use of the history tab.

CINAHL
The “search options” link will reveal the possible limits for a search. Two of the limits are Peer Reviewed and Research Article. These are potentially misleading as they may also contain qualitative research.

Within the limit clinical queries there are the following options:

Review – high sensitivity
Review – high specificity
Review – best balance

Within the limit publication types there are the following options:

Clinical trial
Research
Research instrument
Research term definition
Review
Systematic review
Selected Bibliography of Resources on Quantitative Research

**Reading, understanding, and applying nursing research** / James A. Fain.
Library / Call number:
Elizabeth Dafoe Library RT 81.5 F35 2009

**Quantitative data analysis using SPSS: an introduction for health & social science** / Pete Greasley.
Published: Maidenhead : Open University Press, 2008.
Library / Call number:
Elizabeth Dafoe Library HA 32 G74 2008

**Essentials of nursing research: methods, appraisal, and utilization** / Denise F. Polit.
Published: Philadelphia : Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, c2006.
Library / Call number:
Concordia Hospital Library WY 20.5 P769e6 2006
Elizabeth Dafoe Library RT 81.5 P63 2006
Seven Oaks General Hospital Library WY 20.5 P769e6 2006
St. Boniface General Hospital Library WY 20.5 P769e6 2006

By Michelle Brown, Librarian
Health Sciences Centre

“Twitter is a free social networking and micro-blogging service that enables its users to send and read messages known as tweets. Tweets are text-based posts of up to 140 characters displayed on the author's profile page and delivered to the author's subscribers who are known as followers. Senders can restrict delivery to those in their circle of friends or, by default, allow open access. Users can send and receive tweets via the Twitter website.”

The value of Twitter and other social media such as blogs, wikis, and Facebook is it opens up and expands communication. It frees us from the one-to-one communication model and allows us to communicate from one-to-many. Improved communication can lead to improved quality, collaboration, innovation, learning, knowledge translation, and empowerment.

Issues that healthcare professionals have with Twitter include privacy, standards of care across borders, and costs both perceived and real. Some organizations block the use of social software tools making them inaccessible.

Twitter is accessible via the Internet so you can stay connected anytime, anywhere using a desktop or mobile device. While many people started using Twitter for social conversations -- corporations, governments and other organizations (e.g. universities, libraries, and hospitals) are beginning to see the potential benefits of Twitter.

In healthcare, for example, nurse educators can use Twitter to communicate with their students. Share nuggets of knowledge, share ideas gleaned from a conference, or let students know about curriculum changes. Check out http://twitter.com/onlinenursing as an example. It is possible to direct your “tweets” to intended recipients by using @username and by locking your account you can have a virtual classroom discussion.

Health science librarians at the J.W. Crane Memorial Library, University of Manitoba are using Twitter as a vehicle to disseminate health information. GeriNews is a forum for sharing news items relevant to healthcare professionals in geriatrics, gerontology and long-term care. GeriNews is attracting followers from around the world giving the Library a global presence and building a community for the Library to share work-related expertise, knowledge and skills. Using Twitter, you may also follow updates to the Info Long-Term Care Blog (Info LTC), a current awareness service from the J.W. Crane Memorial Library. Info-LTC alerts you to new web sites and web documents, online tools, recently received materials at the J.W. Crane Memorial Library, and newly published journal articles in the geriatric and gerontology journal literature. Info LTC Twitter is available at http://twitter.com/lblanchard.

Other uses for Twitter include: advertising; public relations; marketing; bookmarking your favourite sites; notes or reminders to yourself; follow industry experts; public announcements, etc. Using Twitter allows you to have conversations, ask questions, build relationships, get feedback on ideas, announce events, and create global networks.

Getting started with Twitter is easy:

- Visit the website at http://twitter.com;
- Create an account;
- Create your profile - a very brief bio to identify yourself;
- Set up your mobile device to receive tweets (optional);
- Start following others and watch your network grow.

Some examples of who uses Twitter:

- Top stories, features and viewpoints from CBCNews.ca
- The Dermatology Nursing Institute is an educational vehicle for dermatology nursing practice and patient care
- Nursing Standard - the UK's best selling nursing journal
- All the news, practice and opinion from NursingTimes.net
The American Journal of Nursing
Up to the hour Nursing News
The American Nephrology Nurses’ Association (ANNA) will advance nephrology nursing practice and positively influence outcomes for individuals w/ kidney disease.
US Federal Emergency Management Agency updates on disaster and emergency preparedness.
Official Twitter feed of the Prime Minister's Office
GeriNews - a current news awareness service for healthcare professionals in aging, geriatrics, gerontology and long-term care brought to you by the J.W. Crane Memorial Library
Updates to the Info Long-Term Care Blog (Info LTC), a current awareness service from the J. W. Crane Memorial Library.

Angela Osterreicher, Librarian
J.W. Crane Memorial Library

Taking the Library with You When Searching the Web: the Proxy Bookmarklet

Posted Tuesday, September 8, 2009 9:25 AM

Let's say you are searching Google Scholar for the relationship between peer support and health promotion but you didn't come through our databases list so it doesn't know you are affiliated with University of Manitoba. You find something in the journal of Social Science & Medicine. You would like to view the PDF and you are pretty sure the UM Libraries subscribes to the online version. You click the PDF link which takes you to a page requesting a username and password. You click the Proxy Bookmarklet which you have installed as a bookmark in your browser favourites (or on the menu/links toolbar so it's handy) and voilà! The PDF appears.

To make this “magic” happen for you go to Proxy Bookmarklet webpage and follow the instructions appropriate to the browser(s) you use. I recommend that you include the bookmark for all the browsers you use as it is an aggravation to be searching along and then you want to access an article and realize that you have the bookmark on another browser you use.

A few things to note about the Proxy Bookmarklet:

- You may be prompted to enter your library number and password before it continues you through to the PDF; this may happen for each time you access an article especially if you have a new window and/or tab open for each journal you access
- This only works for journals for which the UM Libraries has an online institutional subscription. Any limitations we have with our institutional subscription will apply; for example if the journal doesn't allow us to access the most recent 6 months, you will not suddenly get access to these months with the bookmarklet.
- Sometimes the bookmarklet doesn't always work depending on how the publisher has set up their website and other technological weirdness. If you have any questions or problems with it contact us
- You do not need to have administrator access to your computer to “install” the bookmarklet. Just follow the instructions carefully – do NOT bookmark the above page link as this will NOT work.

Other examples of how using the Proxy Bookmarklet can come in handy, in case you needed any more reasons why you should do this RIGHT NOW:

- You receive the tables of contents via email or RSS (see the note above on UML subscription), and you want to go straight to the full-text of the article from the tables of contents
- You've bookmarked a few publisher sites e.g. Science and you want to go straight to the full-text
- You're in the middle of using a library resource, you clicked something and somehow you have gotten dropped from the library connection.

By Andrea Szwajcer, Librarian
St. Boniface General Hospital
The following is a selected list of resources available from the UM Libraries on the topic of Nursing Research. Each book title is linked to the Library’s catalogue where you may “place a request” for a title of interest. The articles are available online or can be requested from any UM library using the UM Links button. Links to the online resources are also provided.

More webliographies can be found on the Health Sciences Libraries Webliographies web page. Webliographies can be used by practicing nurses for continuing education and professional development purposes. Nursing students and other health professionals may find them useful as a starting point for research on a particular topic.

Journal articles

Palmer JA. (2009). Nursing research: understanding the basics. Plastic Surgical Nursing, Apr-Jun; 29(2): 115-21. Abstract: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed framework methods provide a foundation for research premises, ideas, and theories. This article provides a basic overview of the underlying principles and describes the benefits and limitations of qualitative, quantitative, and mixed framework research.

Sousa VD, Driessnack M, and Mendes IAC. (2007). An overview of research designs relevant to nursing: part 1: quantitative research designs. Revista Latino-Americana de Enfermagem, 2007 May-Jun; 15(3): 502-7. Abstract: This three part series of articles provides a brief overview of relevant research designs in nursing. The first article in the series presents the most frequently used quantitative research designs. Strategies for non-experimental and experimental research designs used to generate and refine nursing knowledge are described. In addition, the importance of quantitative designs and the role they play in developing evidence-based practice are discussed. Nursing care needs to be determined by the results of sound research rather than by clinical preferences or tradition.

Driessnack M, Sousa VD, and Mendes IAC. (2007). An overview of research designs relevant to nursing: part 2: qualitative research designs. Revista Latino-Americana de Enfermagem, Jul-Aug; 15(4): 684-8. Abstract: This second article of the series "An Overview of Research Designs Relevant to Nursing" presents qualitative research designs. Phenomenological, ground theory, ethnography, narrative inquiry, and other related qualitative-related research methodologies are described. In addition, the importance of qualitative research as groundwork for quantitative studies is discussed. This link between qualitative and quantitative research is fundamental to promote evidence-based nursing practice.

Driessnack M, Sousa VD, and Mendes IAC. (2007). An overview of research designs relevant to nursing: part 3: mixed and multiple methods. Revista Latino-Americana de Enfermagem, 2007 Sep-Oct; 15(5): 1046-9. Abstract: This third article of the series "An Overview of Research Designs Relevant to Nursing" presents the use of mixed or multiple methods in nursing research. The use of mixed or multiple methods is a growing trend that offers another option for researchers in addressing the complex health problems faced in nursing today. Understanding of all methods and all combinations of methods facilitate the conduction and dissemination of research to serve nursing practice.
Pierce LL. (2009). **Twelve steps for success in the nursing research journey.** *Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing,* Apr; 40(4): 154-64.

Abstract: The purpose of this article is to discuss 12 steps, offered as a road map, in the research process. Nurses can learn these steps for success and increase their ability to conduct the research that supports and develops nursing science.


Abstract: Helpful resources are available to nurses to facilitate the nursing research process. Tips and tools to simplify nursing research to allow dermatology nurses to identify ways to generate nursing research evidence to support nursing practice are presented.


Abstract: This article … explains the five stages of the systematic review process and describes how this method was applied to an analysis of studies dealing with nurse ‘teacherhood’. The authors argue that systematic review is an excellent method for summarising research knowledge and for highlighting evidence significant for nursing, nursing education and nursing research.


Abstract: A working understanding of the major fundamentals of statistical analysis is required to incorporate the findings of empirical research into nursing practice. The primary focus of this article is to describe common statistical terms, present some common statistical tests, and explain the interpretation of results from inferential statistics in nursing research.


Abstract: This paper is a report of an integrative review conducted to critically analyse the contemporary use of qualitative case study methodology in nursing research.


Abstract: Misconceptions and trepidation about research abound among practicing nurses. Innovative approaches to augment nurses’ training and education in research and evidence-based practice must be incorporated into continuing education programs. The Nursing Research and Evidence-Based Practice Committee of a large tertiary care teaching hospital in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, developed a series of opportunities for staff nurses to participate in research projects and have ongoing exposure to the steps in the research process.
Books

**Library/Call number:**
Elizabeth Dafoe Library RT 81.5 M57 2009
St. Boniface General Hospital Library WY 20.5 M685m 2009

**The practice of nursing research: appraisal, synthesis, and generation of evidence** / Nancy Burns, Susan K. Grove. Published: St. Louis, Mo. : Saunders/Elsevier, c2009.
**Library/Call number:**
Elizabeth Dafoe Library RT 81.5 B86 2009

**Library/Call number:**
Elizabeth Dafoe Library RT 81.5 N8724 2009
St. Boniface General Hospital Library WY 20.5 N974nc2 2009
Seven Oaks General Hospital Library WY 20.5 N974nc2 2009

**Library/Call number:**
Elizabeth Dafoe Library RT 81.5 N8663 2008

**Library/Call number:**
Elizabeth Dafoe Library RT 81.5 P27 2006

**Library/ Call number:**
Elizabeth Dafoe Library RT 81.5 P63 2010

**Library/Call number:**
Elizabeth Dafoe Library RT 81.5 F35 2009

By Melissa Raynard, Librarian
Concordia Hospital

Step-by-step, two noted authors and educators show you how to find specific research in the literature, evaluate the methods used, determine if the findings support the theories and models that define nursing practice and incorporate the results into the care you provide your patients. Using research studies from around the world, they also offer insights into the wide range of investigations nurses are conducting today.

Available at: Concordia Hospital Library, Elizabeth Dafoe Library, NJM Health Sciences Library and Seven Oaks Hospital Library.


This second edition of Nursing Research in Canada aims to provide nursing students with a comprehensive introduction to research concepts and methods. This new edition includes the examination of the various roles of research in nursing, application and analysis, and coverage of evidence-based practice. Easy-to-understand and set entirely within a Canadian context, readers will learn how to master important material and apply the principles of research to nursing practice. Students will also benefit from the NEW companion study guide that was designed to allow students to further practice and hone the critiquing skills discussed in the textbook. As well, additional exercises and review questions will be made available on the accompanying Evolve website for the book.

Available at: Elizabeth Dafoe Library, Seven Oaks Hospital Library, and St. Boniface Hospital Library.


This textbook explicitly links understanding of nursing research with evidence-based practice, and focuses on how to read, critique, and utilize research reports. Organized around questions students have when reading reports--how the conclusions were reached, what types of patients the conclusions apply to, how the study was done, and why it was done that way--the text explains the steps of the research process to answer these questions. Chapters include clinical vignettes, highlighted key concepts, and out-of-class exercises. Appendices present a variety of research examples. This edition includes significant new material on evidence-based practice and more distinction between qualitative and quantitative research.

Available at: Elizabeth Dafoe Library, Grace Hospital Library, and St. Boniface Hospital Library.

**Reading research: a user-friendly guide for nurses and other health professionals** / Barbara Davies, Jo Logan. Published: Toronto : Mosby Elsevier, c2008.

Reading Research is the ideal tool for anyone new to research or perhaps intimidated by the subject. Perfect for students or anyone with an interest in health sciences research, this easy-to-use, compact guide introduces the essential elements of research and helps to bridge the gap between investigation and practice. Used by thousands of students, Reading Research introduces the basic steps for understanding and assessing research articles, and shows how research results are ultimately incorporated into clinical practice. Written to address both qualitative and quantitative research, the authors’ user-friendly approach provides advice on easier research access through clinical practice guidelines, meta-analysis and systematic reviews. A Canadian best-seller, Reading Research is the perfect companion for any student of nursing.
Available at: Grace Hospital Library, NJM Health Sciences Library, St. Boniface Hospital Library, Victoria Hospital Library, and Misericordia Health Centre Library.

(book descriptions taken from Amazon.com and Elsevier.com)

By Lesley Mackie, Librarian
Misericordia Health Centre Library
With the presence of the H1N1 virus and the flu season almost here, these videos are timely reminders of the important role of handwashing and other personal precautions in preventing the spread of infections.

**Break the Chain: your role in preventing the spread of infection.** Published: Seattle, WA: IlluminAge; Toronto: Kineticvideo [distributor], 2008

This comprehensive DVD production is divided into two sections. Section 1 (16 minutes) covers what infections are and how they are spread, with information on bloodborne, airborne and droplet infections, and contact infections including MRSA, Scabies, VRE, C-Difficile and Norovirus. Section 2 (13 minutes) discusses the role of staff in preventing infection and covers handwashing and alcohol gels, personal protective equipment, maintain a safe, clean environment and vaccination, lifestyle and teamwork. An additional supplementary section (19 minutes) covers specifics for frontline workers in home health and hospice, home care, and long term care and assisted living.

The video is accompanied by a 16-page presenter’s guide containing training goals, a sample lesson plan and copy-ready handouts.

**Why don't we do it in our sleeves?** [videorecording] / Ben Lounsbury, MD; OtoRhinnoLounsburgology Productions. Published: [Lewiston, ME]: OtoRhinoLounsburgology Productions, c2005

Still coughing into your hands? You won’t after you see this video. In only 5 minutes, this entertaining video demonstrates the best techniques for coughing and sneezing to reduce disease transmission. Suitable for any kind of audience, the humorously-presented lessons on cough and sneeze etiquette will stay with viewers for a long time.

*By Lisa Demzuk, Librarian*
*Victoria General Hospital Librarian*
Nursing research is essential for the development and advancement of nursing practice. In order to help support the research knowledge base in nursing practice we need to create access to the right research tools. The University of Manitoba Health Sciences Libraries provides access to an authoritative collection of nursing research ejournals.

Search the Library Catalogue with the keywords “research nursing ejournals” to view the complete list.

**Journal of Research in Nursing: JRN**
The Journal of Research in Nursing publishes original research aimed at encouraging evidence-based practice and improving the quality of patient care. Each issue covers a variety of topics on health care as well as covering current key health issues. The journal is supported by a board of academics and policy makers, as well as a panel of international advisors.

**Biological Research for Nursing**
Biological Research for Nursing journal offers original peer-reviewed articles and covers improvements in health care techniques developed through biological and physiological research, introduces new methods and techniques for biological and physiological health research and supports the pathophysiology and the biological foundations of nursing practice.

**Evidence-Based Nursing**
The Evidence-Based Nursing journal alerts practicing nurses to important and clinically relevant advances in treatment, diagnosis, etiology, and prognosis. Evidence-Based Nursing selects and examines the very best international nursing research and expert clinicians assess and publish the key research findings, including a commentary on the applicability of the findings to the clinical setting.

**Clinical Nursing Research**
Clinical Nursing Research addresses issues of clinical research that are meaningful to practicing nurses. Clinical Nursing Research has an international focus and provides an international forum for encouraging discussion on potential clinical applications of the latest nursing scholarly research.

**Nurse Researcher**
Nurse researcher was designed to help nurses understand research techniques. Its main focus is to help demystify the research process and provide sound advice for understanding and conducting research. Written by experts specifically for nurses, it covers a wide variety of international topics.

**Western Journal of Nursing Research**
Western Journal of Nursing Research provides a forum for nurse researchers, students and clinical practitioners to participate in ongoing scholarly debate. It offers clinical research reports with researcher’s commentaries and responses. It also supports professional growth and career development by supplying information on developing research projects, grant availability and conference information.
Nursing Science Quarterly
Nursing Science Quarterly publishes original manuscripts whose primary focus is nursing knowledge including nursing theory development, nursing theory-based practice and quantitative and qualitative research by leading theorists, researchers and nurse practitioners.

Research in Nursing & Health
Research in Nursing & Health is a general, peer-reviewed, research journal focusing on research and theory that supports the practice of nursing and other health disciplines, including nursing practice administration, history and education.

The Canadian Journal of Nursing Research (Revue canadienne de recherche en sciences infirmières)
The CJNR is a peer-reviewed journal published by McGill University School of Nursing. Its mandate is to publish original nursing research that develops a basic knowledge for the nursing practice and examines the application of that knowledge in nursing practice.

By Dulce Viegas, Librarian
St. Boniface General Hospital
What is a clinical trial?

- A clinical trial is a research study done with human subjects to test new treatments, new therapies, or new drugs.
- Clinical trials also look at new ways to utilize existing treatments or medications.

What is the goal of a clinical trial?

- Researchers use clinical trials to help find new and better treatments.
- Clinical trials aim to improve the diagnosis and treatment of disease and the quality of life.
- Before treatments are made widely available, they must be proven to be safe and effective.

What is a protocol?

- A protocol is the action plan for how the trial will be carried out.
- A protocol is designed to monitor and protect the participants’ health and to find answers to the research questions being studied.
- A protocol includes the following:
  - Details about eligibility of participants
  - Details about procedures, medications, and tests
  - Details about how long the study will take
  - Details about what information will be collected

What are the phases of a clinical trial?

- Clinical trials are carried out in several stages or phases.
- Each phase helps the researcher answer different questions.
  - Phase I - first time that humans are included in testing a drug or treatment and usually involves a small sample of people. The goal is to evaluate the safety and possible adverse effects.
  - Phase II - the drug or treatment is given to a larger group of people (100-300) to see if it is effective and to further evaluate its safety.
  - Phase III - the drug or treatment is given to large groups of people (1,000-3,000) to confirm its effectiveness, monitor side effects, compare it to commonly used treatments, and collect information that will allow the experimental drug or treatment to be used safely.

Who can participate in a clinical trial?

- Researchers typically look for people with the specific disease they are studying.
- Some trials are limited to people who haven’t started treatment, while other trials focus on people for whom standard treatment has failed.
- For certain research trials, healthy volunteers are recruited.
- Researchers may also consider age, sex and race, among other factors, when selecting people for clinical trials.

What is Informed Consent?

- Informed consent is the process of providing potential participants with key facts about a clinical trial before they decide whether to participate.
- Members of the research team should explain all the details of the study so that participants can make an informed decision whether or not to participate.
- The research team provides potential participants with an informed consent document that includes details about the study, such as its purpose, duration, required procedures, and who to contact for further information.
- The informed consent document also explains risks and potential benefits.
- Clinical trials require that participants sign an informed consent form in order to participate.
- Informed consent is not a contract.
- Volunteers are free to withdraw from the study completely or to refuse particular treatments or tests at any time.
Where can I find more information about clinical trials?

- Visit the following websites:
  - CentreWatch: [http://www.centerwatch.com/](http://www.centerwatch.com/)

*By Analyn Cohen Baker, Librarian*

*Seven Oaks General Hospital Library*