

## To Search a Nursing Database:

- 1) Go to the main college webpage at: <http://www.nmjc.edu>
- 2) There are (2) ways to access the library portal (website):
  - A) At the top of the college webpage, under the “Resources and Services” tab, scroll down to “Library” and click on it.
  - B) Or, on the main college webpage, scroll down toward the bottom right of the page until you see the large “Library” circle with a photograph of the Pannell Library and click on it.
- 3) After you have gained access to the library portal, you will see the main page with images/titles in large colorful blocks (or “tiles”). Click on the large tile with the title “Nursing Resources” that shows a stethoscope.
- 4) When you see the “Nursing Resources” page, there are (3) headings you can click on, which are “Nursing Databases”, “Nursing Study Guides” and “Nursing Videos”.
- 5) For academic journal articles (which are professional publications in the field of nursing), the Pannell Library Portal has (11) databases that contain such articles. Note: Ask your instructor(s) if they have particular ones they wish for you to use.
- 6) As an example of how to use a database, referring to the “Health Reference Center Academic” database (a GALE product), this is how to search for an article:
  - A) Pick a search topic, such as “Diabetes” and type it into the search bar after you’ve clicked on “Health Reference Center Academic”. When the page changes, there are ways for you to control your search using the “Filter Your Results” tools. One very important filter would be the “Publication Tool” since the medical field often limits research to articles five years

older or younger. To limit/control the date of publication you are seeking, click on the "Publication Date" bar, then see the "Custom Date Range" bars with "To" and "From". Use the small calendar symbols by each bar to set the month, day and year under "From" and "To". Now, under the search term of "Diabetes", you should see only articles that are in the date range you have set. (Always verify with your instructor the age of the articles you should research.)

B) Also, under "Filter Your Results", you will see several boxes, with the first two being of strong importance, starting with "Full Text Documents". This is usually checked automatically, but if you want a full article and not just an abstract, for any database you use, be sure the "Full Text Documents" is always checked.

C) The "Peer Reviewed Journals" box should be checked if you instructor(s) want only articles from a peer reviewed source. What is such a journal or article?

In academic/professional publishing, a peer reviewed article was deemed appropriate by a board of experts in the field that have high quality standards such as scholarly validity and rigor. Therefore, a peer reviewed article shares the best research practices in the profession.

7) For a more in-depth article search, by the topic search bar, Click on "Advance Search" to combine terms. For example, for an "Advance Search", you will see more than one search box. In the first box, type a topic, such as "Diabetes", but in the next box, you can type something such as "Pregnancy" for a more specific search.

8) Note: Most databases have additional tools that are very helpful. Look for symbols such as "Translate", "Font Size" (to

control the size of the type), a “Listen” or audio symbol so you can listen to the article being read to you, an email symbol (often the image of an envelope) that will allow you to email the article to yourself or someone else, and a printer symbol. Additionally, since these are intuitive searches, the database will make further article suggestions based on the topic.

Should you need further research assistance, please contact the librarian at: [lmuffley@nmjc.edu](mailto:lmuffley@nmjc.edu)