Help is available 24/7 via Ask a Librarian.

The concept analysis assignment will introduce you to many aspects of library research. This handout will help you get started.

First, to fully understand concept analysis and how to do one, read the Concept Analysis chapter (chapter 5, pages 63 – 84) in the Walker and Avant book mentioned on your syllabus. This book is on reserve in the Monroe Library; the full citation follows.


**Databases:**

Library databases contain citations for articles. Sometimes the full text of an article is available through the database you are searching. Sometimes the full text is available through another database or in print; the red Get it! button lets you know if this is the case. More information about Get it! is at the end of this handout.

The library databases are grouped by subject on this page. The Nursing & Health section lists databases that contain information related to the nursing profession and research.

CINAHL Plus with Full-Text is a useful database for many of your assignments. We’ll use it as an example of how to find articles in a database.

The basic search screen has a search box and ways to limit your search. Check the box next to these limits to retrieve articles that match only those criteria.
Put the following into the search box: [your topic] and concept analysis
For example, compassion and concept analysis

If you get too many results, you need to limit your search using the
advanced search screen.

The advanced search screen includes pull-down menus for Boolean
operators and for specific fields in the database. There are also more
options for limiting your search.

Often, your search will return more results than are actually relevant.
Limit your search to narrow the results. Consider limiting your search
- To research articles
- To journals published in the U.S. (under journal subset)
- To articles written in English (under language)

Some of these limiters are only available through the advanced search
screen, so you may want to make a habit of using this screen.

Please note: for best results, uncheck the Suggest Subject Terms box at
the top of the advanced search screen.

Other Databases to Search:
You can also search the Health Source: Nursing/Academic Edition and
EBSCO Medline databases for information for your concept analysis
assignment.

When you are ready to see how your concept relates to other disciplines,
return to the subject listing of databases. Business, Religious Studies,
Sociology, and Psychology/Counseling are good subjects to search.

Recommended databases within these subjects are listed below.

Academic Search Complete is a good general database that covers many
disciplines.
Within Business, search in the Business Source Complete and ABI/Inform
Global databases.
Within Religious Studies, search in the Catholic Periodical & Literature
Index and ATLA Religion Databases.
Within Psychology/Counseling, search in the PsycARTICLES database.
Within Sociology, search in the SocINDEX database.
**Boolean Operators:**
There are three Boolean operators: AND, OR, and NOT. These logical operators tell the database how to combine your search terms.

The **AND** operator tells the database to retrieve only articles that have both of your search terms. For example, if you want to find articles that mention both compassion and concept analysis, you would use the AND operator. This can be represented visually like so:

```
compassion →  concept analysis
```

The **OR** operator tells the database to retrieve articles that have either of your search terms. For example, if articles about either compassion or empathy will be helpful to your research, use the OR operator. The visual representation looks like this:

```
compassion →  empathy
```

The **NOT** operator tells the database to retrieve articles that have one but not the other of your search terms. For example, if you need articles that mention only compassion and not empathy, use the NOT operator. It looks like this:

```
compassion →  empathy
```
The Get it! button:
When an article is available in full text in the database you are searching, click on the link that says either PDF Full Text or HTML Full Text to access the article. If there is not a PDF Full Text or an HTML Full Text link, the red Get it! button will tell you if the article is available in another database or in print.

Managing Citations, Creating a Works Cited Page:
RefWorks can help you manage your citations, and it makes creating a bibliography or works cited page much easier. Information about using Refworks is available in this handout.

If you have questions about library research,
Ask A Librarian

Library Home