In Fall 2013, selected members of the Council of Chief Librarians, Electronic Access and Resources Committee (CCL-EAR) undertook a comparative study of five healthcare and nursing databases:

- EBSCO CINAHL Complete
- EBSCO CINAHL Plus with Full Text
- Gale Nursing Resource Center AND Nursing + Allied Health (sold as a bundle)
- OVID Nursing Database
- ProQuest Nursing and Allied Health Source

The review focused on the subject coverage, search interface, cost, availability/accessibility of service, and customer service as well as customization, and mobile options.

The chart below summarizes our findings on our major review criteria. The following criteria were examined and rated on a four-point scale (1=Poor; 2=Fair; 3=Good; 4=Excellent). A short summary and analysis of each database will follow.

*N一夜*: Gale Nursing Resource Center and Nursing + Allied Health, two separate databases, are sold as a bundle to CCL members. The reviewers thought it was in the best interest of the League to review both databases.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRITERIA</th>
<th>EBSCO CINAHL Complete</th>
<th>EBSCO CINAHL Plus with Full Text</th>
<th>Gale Nursing Resource Center AND Nursing + Allied Health (sold as a bundle)</th>
<th>Ovid Nursing Database</th>
<th>ProQuest Nursing and Allied Health Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Content/Subject Coverage</td>
<td>4 5549 Titles indexed 3934 Peer-reviewed titles 1371 Full text titles 1116 Active full text titles 23 Subjects/topics 298 Embargoes 293 Open access titles</td>
<td>3 5318 Titles indexed 3644 Peer-reviewed titles 768 Full text titles 556 Active full text titles 23 Subjects/topics 187 Embargoes 287 Open access titles</td>
<td>1 1710 Titles indexed 1164 Peer-reviewed titles 1051 Full text titles 569 Active full text titles 53 Subjects/topics (but 15 of these contain only 1 title) 52 Embargoes 69 Open access titles</td>
<td>4 56 Titles indexed 21 Peer-reviewed titles 56 Full text titles 41 Active full text titles All nursing titles except for 3 multi-disciplinary medical titles. 0 Embargoes 0 Open access</td>
<td>3 1353 Titles indexed 806 Peer-reviewed titles 1141 Full text titles 728 Active full text titles 71 Subjects/Topics 299 Embargoes 69 Open access titles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CINHAL Complete covers the fields of nursing, biomedicine, health sciences librarianship, alternative/complementary medicine, consumer health and 17 allied health disciplines. Vendor reports 201 full-text journals are open access, but the reviewer found 293 for the entire database. Other periodicals include 1,259 magazine titles and 124 trade publications. Of the embargoes, 267 were delayed a year or more. Most full-text books are from American Nurses’ Association (ANA), but only 1 was published after 2000. Dissertations are indexed but not full text. Selected conference proceedings, evidenced based care sheets, quick lessons, and images are also available.</td>
<td>CINAHL Plus with Full Text covers the fields of nursing, biomedicine, health sciences librarianship, alternative/complementary medicine, consumer health and 17 allied health disciplines. Aside from journals, it includes 1,255 magazine titles and 115 trade publications. Of the embargoes, 177 were delayed a year or more. Most full-text books are from American Nurses’ Association (ANA), but only 1 was published after 2000. Dissertations are indexed but not full text. Selected conference proceedings, evidenced based care sheets, quick lessons, and images are also available.</td>
<td>Gale Nursing Resource Center with Nursing and Allied Health Collection covers the fields of biological sciences, health, the health care industry, medical law, nutrition, and the psychological and sociological sciences. Ironically, very few nursing titles are available. Aside from journals, it includes 546 magazine titles and 99 newsletters. Of the embargoes, 41 were delayed a year. Note that 34% of the titles indexed are from foreign publishers. The Nursing Reference Center includes 23 high quality reference works from Gale, Macmillan, and Delmar; however, 13 of the publication dates are more than 5 years old.</td>
<td>Ovid Nursing Database covers a sensible mix of academic and practical nursing literature ALL from Lippincott Williams and Wilkins. There are abstracts for several thousand video clips (ranging from 40 seconds to 17 minutes), but users can easily be misled as only the nursing titles are enabled.</td>
<td>ProQuest Nursing &amp; Allied Health Source covers the fields of nursing with 70 related topics including cytology, nutrition, oncology, pediatric care, pharmacology, public health and radiology. Aside from journals, it includes 57 magazine titles and 266 trade publications. Of the embargoes, 288 were delayed a year. Also included are 44 full textbooks, most from McGraw-Hill, Slack Inc., and Springer. Five of these titles had a publication date of 5 years or greater. Video training programs are provided for 171 topics, each containing varying numbers of small video segments from MEDCOM. Of all the databases in this review, ProQuest alone offers dissertations in full text – over 12,000 of them.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRITERIA</td>
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<td>EBSCO CINAHL plus with full text</td>
<td>Gale Nursing Resource Center AND Nursing + Allied Health (sold as a bundle)</td>
<td>Ovid Nursing Database</td>
<td>ProQuest Nursing and Allied Health</td>
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<td>----------------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Search Interface  (Consider functionality and ease of use) | 3 Search Options  
- Basic  
- Advanced Search  
- Publication  
- Subject (CINAHL Headings) | 3 Search Options  
- Basic  
- Advanced Search  
- Publication  
- Subject (CINAHL Headings) | 1 Search Options  
- Basic Search  
- Find Citation  
- Search tools  
- Search Fields  
- Advanced Search | 4 Search Options  
- Basic Search  
- Advanced Search  
- Figures and tables  
- Publications  
- Browse | The Basic Search page is simply designed with a search box with 2 options: full text and peer reviewed. The appearance of “Suggested subjects” box once you type in a word helps the user narrow a topic. The Command line Search under Advanced search gives an experienced user the ability to conduct precise searches using operators, fields and special characters. Unique in this database is a Figures & Tables search option, which allows one to view visual data. |
| The search interface is very clean and intuitive to use. Advanced searching is offered for power searchers to limit retrieval to very specific criteria. On the top navigation bar are search tabs/ headings that allow you to search the database by Publications, CINAHL headings, Evidence-based care sheets, and Quick Lessons. | The search interface is very clean and intuitive to use. Advanced searching is offered for power searchers to limit retrieval to very specific criteria. On the top navigation bar are search tabs/ headings that allow you to search the database by Publications, CINAHL headings, Evidence-based care sheets, and Quick Lessons. | Screen layout is clean which makes it very easy to use. Separate search boxes are supplied for Common Drugs and Common Diseases and conditions. Advanced guided search leads to easy fill-in boxes. Advanced search also allows one to limit to documents with images. Search results are organized into tabs that correspond to the different kinds of content - assessments, diseases and conditions, diagnostics, interventions, drugs, care plans, multimedia, journals, related articles. Drawback: When you limit your search to Publication subject area, choices include subject areas that do not pertain to nursing/ allied health. | Basic Search uses natural language and does not recognize Boolean operators. "Open access" result shows up on the right column on Basic Search that makes the screen look crowded and can cause confusion to users. Drawbacks: 1) In Basic Search: limiting your search result to FT requires looking around the screen. The arrow, located on the left of Limit to limit result to FT can easily be missed. 2) Ovid has a very busy screen of features loaded that any novice searcher would have difficulty maneuvering to look for information. 3) Another misleading feature is a tab labeled EBP Tools, which results in a message that the user is not subscribed to the content (evidence-based practice tools) from the Joanna Briggs Institute. | 1 Search Options  
- Basic Search  
- Subject guide  
- Publication  
- Advanced Search  
- Common Drugs  
- Common Diseases and conditions | The search interface design is simple and clean. "Search Tips" located on the right column is helpful to the user to perform search effectively. "Search assist" which can be turned off/on displays search term suggestions as you type in your topic. Drawbacks: 1) Features links to “Popular Articles.” However, articles are dated. 2) Does not allow multifaceted searching in limiting your result. | 2 Search Options  
- Basic  
- Subject guide  
- Publication  
- Advanced Search  
- Common Diseases and conditions | | |

**CRITERIA**  
1=Poor; 2= Fair; 3=Good; 4=Excellent
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Customizations</strong> (Is it possible to customize the search interface/search results?)</th>
<th><strong>Offers considerable amount of customization and branding. Librarians can change search defaults, decide what limiters and expanders to include, run statistical reports, and add links to OPACs and other sources of information.</strong></th>
<th><strong>Offers considerable amount of customization and branding. Librarians can change search defaults, decide what limiters and expanders to include, run statistical reports, and add links to OPACs and other sources of information.</strong></th>
<th><strong>Gale Admin tool provides flexible access to database statistical usage reports, including configurable delivery dates for scheduled reports, on-demand reporting, the ability to customize and save report for future use and additional downloadable formats. It provides customization to branding and can also add links to OPACs and other sources of information. &quot;Interlibrary Loan&quot; link may also be added.</strong></th>
<th><strong>Ovid will work with college on customization of interface settings, branding, flexible statistical usage reports, and custom resource linking (such as linking to OPACs and other sources of information). May also add “PayPerView” feature, which allows users to purchase online articles.</strong></th>
<th><strong>Offers customization of interface settings (such as searching, display, citations, and email) branding, flexible statistical usage reports, and custom resource linking (such as linking to OPACs and other sources of information).</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mobile or Multimedia Options</strong></td>
<td><strong>Yes</strong></td>
<td><strong>Yes</strong></td>
<td><strong>Yes</strong></td>
<td><strong>Yes</strong></td>
<td><strong>Yes</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Help for users:</strong></td>
<td>Mobile access and viewing options.</td>
<td>Mobile access and viewing options.</td>
<td>Mobile access and viewing options.</td>
<td>Mobile access and viewing options.</td>
<td>Mobile access and viewing options.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Accessibility of Service (Closed-Captioned videos, WAVE, Alt tags, etc.)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Yes</strong></td>
<td><strong>Yes</strong></td>
<td><strong>Yes</strong></td>
<td><strong>Yes</strong></td>
<td><strong>Yes</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Compliant: Section 508</strong></td>
<td>Link to accessibility statement</td>
<td>Link to accessibility statement</td>
<td>Link to accessibility statement</td>
<td>Link to accessibility statement</td>
<td>Link to accessibility statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Customer Service and Technical Support</strong> (What types of customer and technical support are available for end user and administrator?)</td>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Help for users:</strong></td>
<td>Help guide available in product</td>
<td>Help guide available in product</td>
<td>Help guide available in product</td>
<td>Help guide available in product</td>
<td>Help guide available in product</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Technical Support is available to answer questions regarding access to EBSCO’s products and services by phone or email.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Training:</strong></td>
<td>EBSCO provides a Support Site (<a href="http://support.ebsco.com">http://support.ebsco.com</a>) with a variety of resources available for EBSCOHost training for administrators and end users.</td>
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<td>Ovid provides a Support Site (<a href="http://resourcecenter.ovid.com/site/resources/index_support.jsp">http://resourcecenter.ovid.com/site/resources/index_support.jsp</a>) and offers novice, intermediate, and advanced workshops.</td>
<td>Ovid provides a Support Site (<a href="http://resourcecenter.ovid.com/site/resources/index_support.jsp">http://resourcecenter.ovid.com/site/resources/index_support.jsp</a>) and offers novice, intermediate, and advanced workshops.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Video Training Programs are available under Browse tab arranged A-Z as part of competency and training resources.</strong></td>
<td>EBSCO provides a Support Site (<a href="http://support.ebsco.com">http://support.ebsco.com</a>) with a variety of resources available for EBSCOHost training for administrators and end users.</td>
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<td><strong>Ovid Nursing Database</strong></td>
<td><strong>ProQuest Nursing and Allied Health</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost (if cost is available, does it seem reasonable in terms of comparable products?)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVERALL RATING (Consider functionality and value to the California Community Colleges as a whole)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1Evidence-based care sheets – summaries of specific key points, which are focused on nursing practice. Each evidence based care sheet incorporates the latest evidence, statistics, research and references on a given topic. The references are ranked, using a coding matrix, according to the type of literature they represent (systematic reviews, meta-analysis, etc.)

2Quick Lessons (QL) are clinically organized nursing overviews, with information mapped to the nursing workflow (i.e. description/etiology, signs and symptoms, assessment, treatment goals, red flags, what to tell the patient/patient’s family).
SUMMARY REVIEWS:

**EBSCO CINAHL Complete**

CINAHL stands for Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature. Established in 1961 as a print source, it has a long and respected legacy, often considered by accreditation teams as an important indicator of a library’s commitment to a nursing program. Though EBSCO acquired CINAHL Information Systems in 2003, CINAHL was still available through Ovid and ProQuest for a few more years until 2009 when EBSCO became the sole distributor of CINAHL’s online content. *CINAHL Complete* is one of three versions offered by EBSCO. It provides indexing for 5,544 titles (1,116 active full text) covering a wide spectrum of resources in the fields of nursing, biomedicine, health sciences librarianship, alternative/complementary medicine, consumer health and 17 allied health disciplines. Also included are 78 full text health care books – most from the American Nurses’ Association but note that only one had a publication date newer than 2000. Dissertations are indexed but the full text is not included. Selected conference proceedings, evidence-based care sheets, quick lessons, and images are also available. Of the active full text titles, 1,200 are not found with full text in any version of *Academic Search*, *Health Source*, or *Nursing & Allied Health Collection*.

Vendor exclusives can make database selection frustrating. It should be noted that only *CINAHL Complete* (and *CINAHL Plus with Full Text*) offers RN magazine in full text with no embargo; coverage begins with 1937. EBSCO very recently announced six periodicals in process for full text access with no embargo for *CINAHL Complete* only. Three of these are currently available: *Journal of the American Academy of Audiology*, *Journal of Paramedic Medicine*, and *Professional Nursing Today*. Wong et al. found that that the top 50 most cited nursing articles from 1956 to 2011 are concentrated in only 10 journals (346-47). CINAHL Complete provides full text to 5 of them: *Advances in Nursing Science* (FT 03/01/99 – 12/31/05), *Birth* (FT 1998 + 12 mo. embargo), *Journal of Advanced Nursing* (FT 1981 + 12 mo. embargo), *Journal of Clinical Nursing* (FT 1992 + 12 mo. embargo), and *Research in Nursing & Health* (FT 06/01/05 +12 mo. embargo). Neither *Gale Nursing Reference Center with Nursing and Allied Health Collection* nor *ProQuest Nursing & Allied Health Source* had ANY full text titles appearing in the top ten ranking. These findings suggest that CINAHL is a very good source for both student and faculty research.

Under EBSCO’s stewardship, access to CINAHL has expanded and improved. Users benefit from the popular EBSCOhost platform features such as an intuitive search interface, yet, more serious medical researchers still have the ability to search under CINAHL headings as these are the basis for the database’s controlled vocabulary. U.S. National Library of Medicine’s Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) may be used for disease, drug, anatomical, and physiological concepts. EBSCO supports the same tools -- email, downloads, citation formatting, librarian-controlled customization, mobile access, and 508-compliance -- that it does with its other databases.

The impressive number of titles indexed makes this a good choice for institutions, which offer free, or low-cost inter-library loan for their students and faculty.

EBSCO CINAHL plus with full text

CINAHL stands for Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature. Established in 1961 as a print source, it has a long and respected legacy, often considered by accreditation teams as an important indicator of a library’s commitment to a nursing program. Though EBSCO acquired CINAHL Information Systems in 2003, CINAHL was still available through Ovid and ProQuest for a few more years until 2009 when EBSCO became the sole distributor of CINAHL’s online content. *CINAHL Plus with Full Text* is one of three versions offered by EBSCO. It provides indexing for 5,318 titles (556 active full text) covering a wide spectrum of resources in the fields of nursing, biomedicine, health sciences librarianship, alternative/complementary medicine, consumer health and 17 allied health disciplines. Also included are 78 full text health care books – most from the American Nurses’ Association but note that only one had a publication date newer than 2000. Dissertations are indexed but the full text is not included. Selected conference proceedings, evidenced based care sheets, quick lessons, and images are also available. Of the active full text titles, 454 are not found with full text in any version of *Academic Search, Health Source* or *Nursing & Allied Health Collection*.

Vendor exclusives can make database selection frustrating. It should be noted that only *CINAHL Plus with Full Text* (and *CINAHL Complete*) offers *RN* magazine in full text with no embargo; coverage begins with 1937.
Wong et al. found that the top 50 most cited nursing articles from 1956 to 2011 are concentrated in only 10 journals (346-47). CINAHL Plus with Full Text provides full text to 5 of them: *Advances in Nursing Science* (FT 03/01/99 – 12/31/05), *Birth* (FT 1998 + 12 mo. embargo), *Journal of Advanced Nursing* (FT 1981 + 12 mo. embargo), *Journal of Clinical Nursing* (FT 1992 + 12 mo. embargo), and *Research in Nursing & Health* (FT 06/01/05 + 12 mo. embargo). Neither Gale Nursing Reference Center with Nursing and Allied Health Collection nor ProQuest Nursing & Allied Health Source had ANY full text titles appearing in the top ten ranking. These findings suggest that CINAHL Plus with Full Text is a good source for both student and faculty research.

Under EBSCO’s stewardship, access to CINAHL has expanded and improved. Users benefit from the popular EBSCOhost platform features such as an intuitive search interface, yet, more serious medical researchers still have the ability to search under CINAHL headings as these are the basis for the database’s controlled vocabulary. U.S. National Library of Medicine’s Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) may be used for disease, drug, anatomical, and physiological concepts. EBSCO supports the same tools -- email, downloads, citation formatting, librarian-controlled customization, mobile access, and 508-compliance -- that it does with its other databases.

When compared to the other databases in this review, CINAHL Plus with Full Text offers the best value for the community college dollar.


Image of EBSCO CINAHL Plus with Full Text homepage (example of possible customization)


**Gale Nursing Resource Center and Nursing + Allied Health**

The Gale Nursing Resource Center (NRC) + Nursing and Allied Health Collection provides access to 1710 titles covering the biological sciences, health, the health care industry, medical law, nutrition, and the psychological and sociological sciences. There are about 1,164 titles, which are peer-reviewed. Of the 1051 full text titles, 569 are active, and 69 are open access. Other periodicals include 546 magazine titles and 99 newsletters. Wong et al. found that that the top 50 most cited nursing articles from 1956 to 2011 are concentrated in only 10 journals (346-47). *Gale Nursing Reference Center and Allied Health Collection* does not
have ANY full text titles appearing in the top ten ranking. This suggests that Gale is limited in its ability to support student and faculty research.

The Nursing Resource Center includes 23 high quality reference works, however, 13 of the publication dates are more than 5 years old. It is important to note that NRC’s content is taken from reference works only and that the Nursing and Allied Health Collection complements NRC’s content by providing full-text access to peer-reviewed journals. The vendor’s current offer to CCLC is a bundled subscription to both databases.

Although the reviewers find the screen layout simple and clean, which makes the interface very intuitive and easy to use, it is difficult to overcome the outdated publication of reference sources included. It would definitely pose a concern especially for those community colleges with accredited nursing programs as well as students who will be taking licensure exams in nursing. Not recommended for community colleges with accredited nursing programs.


Link to CCL-EAR full Gale Nursing + Allied Health review:
http://cclibraries.org/reviews/Documents/NRCReviewFinal.pdf
Ovid Nursing Database

Ovid Nursing Database provides indexing and full text for 56 respected nursing titles (one is a single issue), and video clips. Twenty-one titles are peer-reviewed. Of the 56 titles in this database, 41 are active, and none are open source. Active titles represent the most current issue dispatched in print. The titles represent a mix of academic and practical nursing literature all from Lippincott Williams and Wilkins. Wong et al. found that that the top 50 most cited nursing articles from 1956 to 2011 are concentrated in only 10 journals (346-47). Ovid provides the full text to 4 of them: Advances in Nursing Science (1995+ no embargo), American Journal of Nursing (1996+ no embargo), Cancer Nursing (1996+ no embargo), and Nursing Research 1996+ no embargo). These findings suggest that Ovid is a very good source for both student and faculty research.

Search results in multimedia bring up content not available to subscribers. Media is not captioned and the database is not ADA compliant. The My Pay Per View option implies that there is an opportunity to purchase additional information but the reviewers were unable to determine what that content might include and not able to find a way to hide this option in the database. The customizations options report the My Pay Per View is a feature that can be added to allow users to purchase online articles.

The small collection of content is good but the search interface is poor and confusing to users. Compared to its competitors, the cost of this product is quite high.


Image of Ovid Nursing Database homepage


ProQuest Nursing and Allied Health
ProQuest Nursing & Allied Health Source provides indexing and abstracting for 1,352 full text titles covering a wide spectrum of resources from the field of nursing with 70 related topics including cytology, nutrition, oncology, pediatric care, pharmacology, public health and radiology. Some 806 titles are peer-reviewed. Of the 728 active periodical titles, 69 are from the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) collection. Other periodicals include 57 magazine titles and 266 trade publications. Includes 299 embargoes (228 delayed a year). Wong et al. found that the top 50 most cited nursing articles from 1956 to 2011 are concentrated in only 10 journals (346-47). ProQuest Nursing & Allied Health Source does not have ANY full text titles appearing in the top ten ranking. This suggests that ProQuest is limited in its ability to support student and faculty research.

Video training programs are provided for 171 topics, each containing varying numbers of small video segments from MEDCOM. Neither closed captions nor transcripts are provided for these videos. Of all the databases in this review, ProQuest alone offers full text dissertations.

ProQuest Nursing & Allied Health Source receives high marks for the inclusion of full text dissertations, as these would be of interest to the nursing faculty. There are sufficient active full text titles in ProQuest Nursing & Allied Health Source to support student coursework and faculty research. However, compared to its competitors, the cost of this product is quite high.


Image of ProQuest Nursing and Allied Health homepage
Link to CCL-EAR HEALTH / NURSING DATABASES CONTENT ANALYSIS OCTOBER, 2007

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