




A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A DANA MEDICAL LIBRARIAN: *Anatomy of a Literature Search*

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A Day in the Life of a Dana Medical Librarian: Anatomy of a Literature Search

- A nurse calls the Nursing liaison at Dana Medical Library to request a literature search on urinary catheters and catheterization.
- She's interested in review articles and current best practices for her unit, which is reviewing and updating its policies with best evidence.

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- The librarian devises a strategy to search for current information on urinary catheters and catheterization to include
 - ▣ Reviews
 - ▣ Guidelines
 - ▣ Systematic reviews
 - ▣ Current research
 - ▣ Qualitative research
 - ▣ Best practices

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- Text words are used in PubMed or CINAHL to find the most useful terms for the search.
- Results are reviewed to find 1 or 2 good articles.
- The Subject Headings in those articles are reviewed to target the best terms.

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- The best PubMed Headings for this search are
 - ▣ Catheters, Indwelling
 - ▣ Urinary Catheterization

- The best subheadings for this search are
 - ▣ Standards
 - ▣ Methods
 - ▣ Nursing

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- The best CINAHL Headings for this search are
 - Catheter Care, Urinary
 - Catheters, Urinary
- The best subheadings in CINAHL are the same as those from PubMed
 - Standards
 - Methods
 - Nursing

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- These two databases are searched using these Heading and Subheadings to find the most appropriate articles. The results and abstracts are reviewed to assess
 - ▣ Relevance of the information
 - ▣ The quality of the journal
 - ▣ The type of article

- The search is limited to the most current articles, and several other databases will be checked to see if anything important is missing
 - ▣ Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews
 - ▣ National Guideline Clearinghouse

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- Cochrane Database has the systematic review already found on PubMed.
- The National Guideline Clearinghouse has a syntheses and comparison of two guidelines on urinary incontinence from different institutions. This will be included in the results sent to the nurse.
- Two qualitative studies will also be included to “round out” the librarian’s search, to acknowledge the art of nursing as well as the science.

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- Results sent to the nurse include
 - ▣ Five reviews
 - ▣ Two systematic reviews
 - ▣ Three meta-analyses
 - ▣ Two qualitative studies
 - ▣ One guidelines comparison
 - ▣ One randomized controlled trial

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- The titles and abstracts are emailed to the nurse and feedback is requested.
- The nurse replies with a hearty “thank you!”
- And the librarian looks forward to the next literature request.