Databases

Databases are used to find formally published articles.

If you’re unsure which database to use, check the list of databases in the Nursing LibGuide or ask your liaison librarian.
Boolean searching

Boolean searching (or Boolean logic) is the formal way to search a database.

This involves 3 steps: choosing concept keywords and connecting them with **AND**; choosing alternative words for the concepts and connecting them with **OR**; **truncation**.
Choosing the concepts

Initially choose words that represent the concepts directly from the problem statement.

You may have to rewrite the problem statement – *but don’t lose any meaning!!*
Choosing the concepts

Initially choose words that represent the concepts directly from the problem statement.

You may have to rewrite the problem statement – *but don’t lose any meaning!!*

Should cannabis be legalised for medicinal purposes?
Choosing the concepts

Initially choose words that represent the concepts directly from the problem statement.

You may have to rewrite the problem statement – *but don’t lose any meaning!!*

Should *cannabis* be *legalised for medicinal* purposes?
Connect the concepts with AND

Initially choose words that represent the concepts directly from the problem statement.

You may have to rewrite the problem statement – *but don’t lose any meaning!!*

Should *cannabis* be *legalised* for *medicinal* purposes?
Connect the concepts with AND

cannabis
AND
legalised
AND
medicinal
Connect alternative words with OR

cannabis
AND
legalised
AND
medicinal
Connect alternative words with OR

- cannabis OR marijuana
- legalised OR decriminalised
- medicinal OR pain relief OR palliative
Connect alternative words with OR

cannabis OR marijuana
AND
legalised OR decriminalised
AND
medicinal OR pain relief OR palliative

The database will now find at least one word from each line
cannabis  OR  marijuana
  AND
legalised  OR  decriminalised
  AND
medicinal  OR  pain relief  OR  palliative

The database will now find at least one word from each line
cannabis OR marijuana
AND
legali* OR decriminali*
AND
medic* OR pain relief OR palliative

The database will now find at least one word from each line
Truncate words

cannabis OR marijuana
AND
legali* OR decriminali*
AND
medic* OR pain relief OR palliative

The database will now also find variations of word stems
Boolean search in EBSCOhost

OR operator

Truncation

AND operator
Choose concepts from the problem statement and connect with AND.

Think of whatever alternative words you can and connect with OR.

Truncate.

Run the search, and look for vocabulary in the initial results to add to your search strategy.

Searching is iterative, imaginative and experimental!!!