



NURSING BASICS

Pathfinder

Your guide to finding resources on nursing and health topics in the PTC Library

Finding Books

Begin your research by locating books in the library collection on your topic.

How to Do a Basic Search

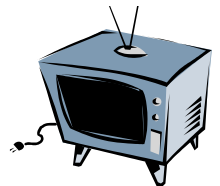
Visit the Library Web site at <http://www.ptc.edu/library> and click on the **Library Catalog** link. Begin your search on the **Basic Search** page. Here, you can do different types of searches and access all types of information.

1. To begin, type a term in the search box.
2. To narrow a search, select one of the following options before clicking the **Search** button:
 - Keyword (word or phrase)
 - Author
 - Title
 - Subject
 - Series
 - Periodical title
3. Select a library to search in the **Library** box, or select **Piedmont Technical College Libraries** to include all branches in the search.
4. Select **PTC Libraries and E_RESOURCES** to search for electronic books in addition to print books.

Remember to write down the whole call number!

DVDs & Videos

The Library loans most DVDs and VHS tapes to students; those that may not be loaned are clearly marked. Students may borrow up to 2 of these items at a time and keep them for a week. DVD/VHS players are available in the Library's Viewing Rooms and at the Laurens Center's LRC on a first come, first served basis.



To find DVDs or Videos: Use the library catalog's Power Search, and select either *DVD* or *VHS Video* format before submitting your search.

Don't Forget E-Books!

The Library offers 30,000+ full-text electronic books that are completely searchable and accessible from home! To use e-books, visit <http://www.ptc.edu/library/ebooks.htm>. If working from home, you must enter a password which is available from PTC Pathway (Library tab) or from the library staff.

Good Internet Sources

American Nurses Association — NursingWorld
<http://www.nursingworld.org>

This site offers many links that would be of interest to a professional nurse including online journals and news, conference information, nursing advocacy groups and an online bookstore.

National Institute of Nursing Research
<http://ninr.nih.gov/ninr>

Information from the nursing branch of the National Institute of Health. You will find news, research, career opportunities, government legislation, conference information and links to online medical resources.

Discover Nursing
<http://www.discovernursing.com>

This site has been created by Johnson & Johnson to recruit and inform prospective nursing professionals. You will find links to professional organizations, advanced educational opportunities, scholarship information, nursing publications and career trends and profiles.

Keywords

Try to combine your topic with some of these keywords to search for books, e-books, articles or Internet sites:

Care
Cause
Diagnosis
Ethics
History
Issues
Legal Issues
Legislation
Nursing
Nutrition
Patients
Privacy
Reports
Research
Society
Statistics
Symptoms
Treatment
Trends

Health-Related Databases

Visit <http://www.ptc.edu/library> to access over 40 article databases, including those related to health topics. Many are full-text.

Academic Search Premiere. More health articles than any other PTC database.

CINAHL. Covers 1,700+ nursing and health journals and publications.

Clinical Pharmacology. Covers prescription drugs, herbal and nutritional supplements, OTC products, new and trial drugs.

Health Reference Center Academic. Scholarly articles on a wide range of health topics.

Health Source: Nursing/Academic Edition. Full text access to 550+ scholarly journals and abstracts for 800+ titles.

Health & Wellness Resource Center. Offers current reference materials as well as full-text articles and pamphlets from respected medical sources.

Medline. References biomedical lit including research, clinical practice, administration, policy issues and healthcare services. Offers citations for articles from 4,600 journals from the U.S. and internationally.

Access databases from home with passwords displayed in PTC Pathway!

Checklist

Have you done all that you can do to find information on your topic?

- ___ Encyclopedias
- ___ Books
- ___ DVDs
- ___ Video Tapes
- ___ E-Books
- ___ Online Databases
- ___ Print Magazines and Journals
- ___ Newspapers
- ___ Vertical File (Pamphlets)
- ___ Web Sites
- ___ Interviews

Evaluating Web Resources

A recent *Consumer Reports* article states that up to 90% of online health information may be incomplete or inaccurate.

Source: "Expertise online: finding reliable information."
Consumer Reports. Sept. 2005, p. 48.

Before using a source, consider each of the following:

- Does the Web address indicate that the site is commercial (.com), government (.gov), educational (.edu), or other?
- Have I heard of the people who offer this site?
- Am I expected to do, believe, or buy something?
- Is the source current?
- Is the information professionally presented?
- Does the provider acknowledge his sources?

If you are still in doubt after considering each of these points, then find other sources that back up what the site is saying.



Magazines & Journals

Magazines and journals in the PTC Library that are likely to print health and nursing articles include:

American Journal of Nursing
AORN Journal
AWHONN Lifelines
Current Health 2
Geriatric Nursing
Harvard Health Letter
Health
JAMA
Journal of Gerontological Nursing
Journal of Pediatric Health Care
LPN
MCN
MedSurg Nursing
The Nation's Health
Nursing
Nursing Made Incredibly Easy
Nursing Management
Nursing Outlook
Pediatric Nursing
Prevention
Radiology
Respiratory Care
RN
Surgical Technologists

Don't forget to also check our online database for articles!

Current magazines and journal issues are kept in the sitting area near the large windows. Older issues are housed on the short shelves at the back of the library.

