

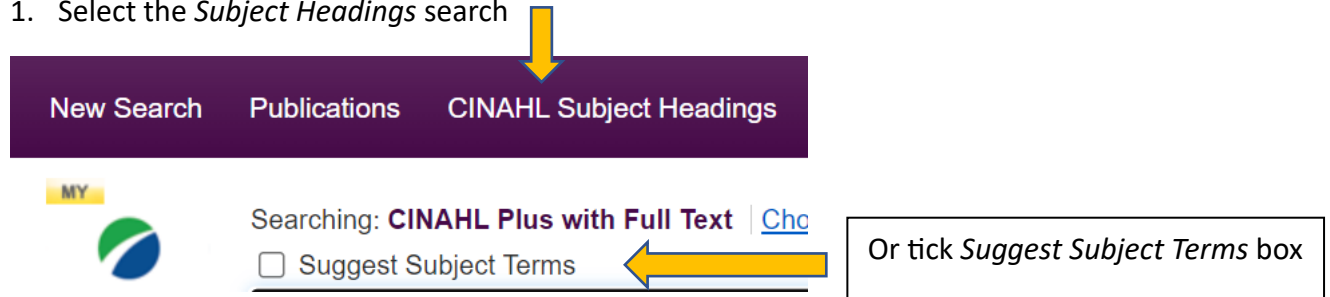
Subject searching in [CINAHL](#) and other Ebsco databases ([MEDLINE](#), [SocINDEX](#), [PsycARTICLES](#), [Academic Search Complete](#) etc.)


You can search the databases in two ways: **Keywords** and **Subject headings**.

Subject headings are categories or Tags that are assigned to an article by a human indexer. Searching them means that you may find articles that are about your topic but don't contain your specific keyword. It is good practice to run both kinds of searches.

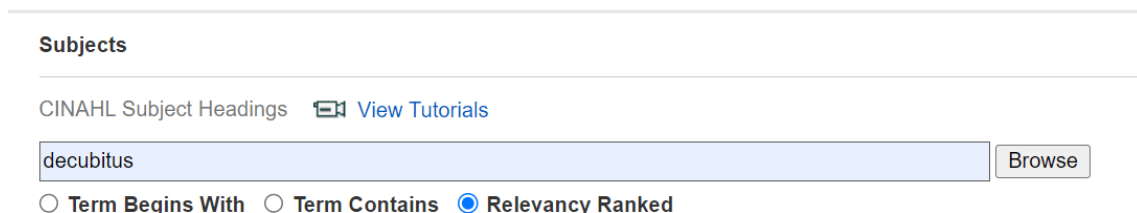
Each of the Ebsco databases has its own thesaurus of subject terms based on the terminology of its subject area. MedLine uses the medical MESH headings from Pubmed and CINAHL has its own more nursing focused headings. The examples below show CINAHL but the same process applies to all the Ebsco databases.

1. Select the *Subject Headings* search




MY  Searching: **CINAHL Plus with Full Text** | [Che](#)
 Suggest Subject Terms Or tick *Suggest Subject Terms* box

2. Enter your topic area and hit Browse

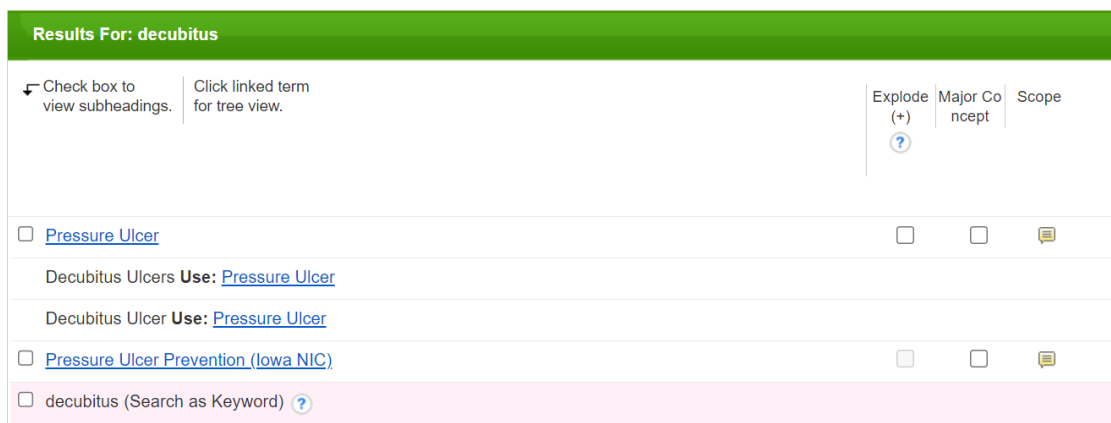


Subjects

CINAHL Subject Headings  [View Tutorials](#)

Term Begins With Term Contains Relevancy Ranked




3. This will hopefully map you to the relevant subject heading in the database. In this case **Decubitus** will take you to **Pressure ulcer**.



Results For: decubitus

Check box to view subheadings. | Click linked term for tree view.

Explode (+) | Major Concept | Scope

Subject Heading	Explode (+)	Major Concept	Scope
<input type="checkbox"/> Pressure Ulcer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Decubitus Ulcers Use: Pressure Ulcer			
Decubitus Ulcer Use: Pressure Ulcer			
<input type="checkbox"/> Pressure Ulcer Prevention (Iowa NIC)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> decubitus (Search as Keyword) 			

- Clicking on the heading will show you its place in the heading hierarchy. In this case below *Skin Ulcers*, with subheadings of *Deep tissue injury* and *Heel ulcer*.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Skin and Connective Tissue Diseases
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Skin Diseases
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Skin Ulcer
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Buruli Ulcer
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fungating Wounds
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Leg Ulcer
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pressure Ulcer
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deep Tissue Injury
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Heel Ulcer

- Tick the box on the left to access the Subheadings menu and tick any that apply. This is where you can really refine down your search.

The screenshot shows a web interface for a database search. On the left, a tree view for 'Pressure Ulcer' is displayed. The 'Pressure Ulcer' item is selected, and its subheadings are visible: 'Deep Tissue Injury', 'Heel Ulcer', and 'Pyoderma Gangrenosum'. The 'Explored' checkbox is checked, and the 'Major Concept' checkbox is unchecked. On the right, a 'Subheadings for: Pressure Ulcer' menu is open, showing a list of categories with checkboxes. The 'Include All Subheadings' checkbox is checked. Below this menu is a 'Search Database' box with a search term 'Pressure Ulcer', an 'Explored' checkbox checked, and a 'Major Concept' checkbox unchecked. Orange arrows point to the 'Explored' checkbox, the 'Major Concept' checkbox, and the 'Search Database' button.

If you tick Major concept it will only include *Pressure Ulcer* and not *Heel ulcer*. Ticking explore will include the sub headings as well.

Once you have made your selections, *Search the Database*.

- This will bring you back all of the articles that have been added to the database in your selected topic area, regardless of keywords.
- If you want to come back to your search later, use *Search History* to save it.
- You can also use the *Search History* to combine individual Subject heading searches.