Subject Headings:
CINAHL® subject headings are used to index the literature contained in the database. These subject headings were developed to reflect the terminology used by nursing and the allied health professionals. CINAHL subject headings follow the structure of the Medical Subject Headings, or MeSH, used by the National Library of Medicine. This structure has been used to develop 12,714 CINAHL subject headings. These subject headings are used to effectively search the database and retrieve literature citations on a specific topic.

Subject Coverage:
The CINAHL database covers nursing and allied health literature from 1981 to the present. Here's a complete list of the disciplines covered.

The nursing disciplines covered include the following:

- Addictions Nursing
- Ambulatory Care Nursing
- Anesthesia Nursing
- Burn Nursing
- Camp Nursing
- Cardiovascular Nursing
- Community Health Nursing
- Community Mental Health Nursing
- Coronary Care Nursing
- Correctional Health Nursing
- Critical Care Nursing
- Dermatology Nursing
- Emergency Nursing
- Enterostomal Therapy Nursing
- Family Nursing
- Flight Nursing
- Forensic Nursing
- Gastroenterology Nursing
- Genetics Nursing
- Gerontologic Nursing
- Geropsychiatric Nursing
- Gynecologic Nursing
- HIV-AIDS Nursing
- Holistic Nursing
- Home Nursing, Professional
- Hospice and Palliative Nursing
- Intravenous Nursing
- Maternal-Child Nursing
- Medical-Surgical Nursing
- Military Nursing
- Neonatal Intensive Care Nursing
- Neonatal Nursing
- Nephrology Nursing
- Neuroscience Nursing
- Nurse Midwifery Nursing
- Obstetric Nursing
- Occupational Health Nursing
- Office Nursing
- Oncologic Nursing
- Ophthalmic Nursing
- Orthopedic Nursing
- Otorhinolaryngology and Head-Neck Nursing
- Parish Nursing
- Pediatric Critical Care Nursing
- Pediatric Nursing
- Pediatric Oncology Nursing
- Perianesthesia Nursing
- Perinatal Nursing
- Perioperative Nursing
- Practical Nursing
- Private Duty Nursing
- Psychiatric Nursing
- Radiological Nursing
- Rehabilitation Nursing
- Respiratory Nursing
- Rural Health Nursing
- School Health Nursing
- Spinal Cord Injury Nursing
- Surgical Nursing, Plastic
- Trauma Nursing
- Urologic Nursing
The allied health disciplines include the following:

- Athletic Training
- Audiology
- Cardiopulmonary Technology
- Dental Hygiene
- Emergency Services
- Health Information Management
- Medical Assisting
- Medical/Laboratory Technology
- Nutrition & Dietetics
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation
- Physician Assistants
- Radiologic Technology
- Respiratory Therapy
- Social Service in Health Care
- Speech-Language Pathology
- Surgical Technology

Other subject areas include the following:

- AIDS Care
- Alternative/Complementary Medicine
- Behavioral Science
- Biomedicine
- Chiropractic
- Consumer Health
- Gerontology
- Health Promotion and Education
- Health Sciences Librarianship
- Health Services Administration
- Law and Legal Issues in Health Care
- Oncology
- Optometry
- Podiatry
- Women's Health