Information retrieval

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The information search process

- Define the subject and the information need
- Choose search terms
- Choose information sources
- Choose search techniques
- Evaluate the search results and process
- Limit or broaden the search
More information

http://uva.libguides.com/searching_information/techniques

Searching Information: Search techniques

The information search process
- Subject and search terms
- Information sources
- Search techniques
- Limiting or broadening the search
- Evaluating the search results

Choosing search techniques

Once you have found useful information sources for your subject and determined which search terms to use, you can make your information search more effective by using various techniques.

Various information search techniques
- Boolean operators
- Truncation symbols and wildcard symbols
- Phrase searching
- Subject terms

Phrase searching

Phrase searching is the most convenient way to search for two or more words as an exact phrase, by using:

Example:
"renewable energy"
"human resource management"
Subject terms / key words

- One of the most important stages of the information search process is **finding search terms**, since they are crucial for a successful search.
- Key words **describe the content** of the material, e.g. of articles and books. They are very useful when searching for materials.
- When choosing search terms, consider synonyms and broader/narrower terms, words and abbreviations. Try making a mind map and write down all words in the field that come to mind.
Subject terms / key words

- Subject terms / keywords – when you find good ones, use them as search terms
- Reflect on the meaning of the words.
- Can you use synonyms?
- British English – American English
- Terminology in the specific scientific field
- The use of subject terms makes the information search process easier - if you choose your subject term well, you will probably find many useful resources in one search.
Subject terms / key words

• The same article can be described in different ways depending on the databases.
• Always try various terms in order to find the most relevant articles.
• If you are searching information about elderly and how they are treated in nursing homes. Example of terms:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Professional-Patient Relations</th>
<th>Nursing Health Care</th>
<th>Geriatric Nursing Geriatrics Geriatric care</th>
<th>Elderly Older People Nursing homes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relationship Social interaction Human relations Communications</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Peer reviewed article

What impedes or enhances my studying? The interrelation between approaches to learning, factors influencing study progress and earned credits.

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**Document Type:** Article

**Subject Terms:**
- *LEARNING*
- *METHODOLOGY*
- *COLLEGE student attitudes*
- *STUDY skills*
- *TEACHING methods research*
- *ORGANIZATION*
- *PSYCHOLOGY of college students*
- *HIGHER education*

**Author-Supplied Keywords:**
- approaches to learning
- enhancing
- factors
- impeding
- self-regulation

- Subject terms / key words are describing the article.
- Different key words can be used to describe the same article depending on the databases.
- Always use various terms when searching.
- Be creative and flexible.
Use of physical restraints in nursing homes: a multicentre cross-sectional study

Hedi Hofmann1,2*, Ewald Schorro3,4, Burkhard Haastert4 and Gabriele Meyer5,2

Abstract

Background: Although many countries have implemented strict legal rules, the prevalence of physical restraints in nursing homes seems to remain high. In Switzerland, data related to the frequency of physical restraints are scarce and little is known about associations with resident and nursing home characteristics. The aim of this study was to investigate the prevalence and types of physical restraints in nursing homes in two Swiss cantons and to explore whether resident-related and organisational factors are associated with the use of physical restraints.

Methods: We conducted a multicentre cross-sectional study. Twenty nursing homes with 1362 residents from two culturally different cantons were included. Data on physical restraints and residents’ characteristics were extracted from residents’ records (11/2013 to 2/2014). Organisational data were collected by questionnaires addressing nursing home directors or nursing managers. Sample size calculation and outcome analysis took cluster-adjustment into account. Descriptive statistics and multiple logistic regression analysis with nursing homes as random effect were used for investigation.

Results: The prevalence of residents with at least one physical restraint was 26.8% (95% confidence interval 23.8–30.3). Centre prevalence ranged from 2.6 to 61.2%. Bilateral bedrails were most frequently used (67.3%, CI 62.3–72.3). Length of residence, degrees of care dependency and mobility limitation were significantly associated with the use of physical restraint, but none of the organisational characteristics were associated.

Conclusion: Approximately a quarter of the nursing home residents included in the study showed physical restraint. Since variation between nursing homes was pronounced, it seems that residents in homes with particularly low and high use of physical restraints in future research should be investigated. There is a need for effective interventions aiming at restraint-free care. Nursing homes should consider specific residents characteristics associated with the use of physical restraints.

Keywords: Nursing, Physical restraint, Nursing homes, Epidemiology, Prevalence

The key words describe the content and main subject areas of the article. When finding a relevant article, check out the key words and use them for further searching.
Usually, scientific articles have the following parts

- Title
- Abstract
- Introduction
- Literature Review
- Methods
- Results
- Discussion/Conclusion
- References/Bibliography
- Few illustrations
- Tables, charts etc. may occur

What impedes or enhances my studying? The interrelation between approaches to learning, factors influencing study progress and earned credits

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The aim of the study is to explore how students' experiences of enhancing and impeding factors and approaches to learning are related to students' study progress. A total of 93 students from the Faculty of Arts and Humanities participated in the study by answering a 35-item questionnaire regarding their experiences of the enhancing and impeding factors and their approaches to learning. Regression analysis showed that working eastern study program and whether teaching enhanced it. However, the results revealed that the factors that enhance or impede studying are not necessarily characterized by students' approaches to learning. For example, working was not problematic for students with good organizing skills. The findings suggest that it may not be possible to identify the factors that would enhance or impede studying without taking individual differences into consideration. In addition, the results imply that the focus is teaching should be in developing students' self-regulation skills.

Introduction

The aim is to reduce the average study duration in higher education has been a matter of interest for academic developers and policy-makers for a long time. It has been observed that at a number of institutions both in Europe (e.g., Benet et al. and Werner 2007) and USA (Houtz, Lovenheim, and Turner 2007, U.S. Department of Education 2013) students take longer than that required to complete their university degree. Simultaneously, authorities are putting increasing demands on universities to shorten the graduation time and get the students into labour markets as soon as possible (OECD 2009). The universities internationally are forced to pay increasing attention to measuring students' study progress. In Poland, a prolonged study time is a particular challenge in the humanities and social sciences where master's students take more time to complete their degree than in the natural sciences (Kurtki 2006). During the years 2001–2009 at the University of Helsinki, the graduation time at the Faculty of Arts has been on average five to seven years (Student Database). Consequently, this prolonged study time raised the need to analyze in more detail the factors influencing students' study progress in the field of humanities. In the present study we define study progress as an accumulation of passed courses or credits during one study year.
Scientific journals

• A scientific article is quality checked before it is published.
• The article is peer reviewed by independent experts within the field and are published in scientific journals.
• NB! A scientific journal can also contain articles that are not peer reviewed.
• A scientific article can be found in Finna or in article databases.
• Scientific articles can also be found directly on the Internet.
Scientific journals

• Some databases allow you to limit the search to peer reviewed journals only.
• The terms “peer-reviewed” journals or “refereed journals” or “scholarly journals” or “academic journals” can be used.
• Check the official site of the journal for more information about the journal, its purpose and if it’s peer reviewed.
• Many different types of studies are published and it is important to pay attention to what kind of article it is and whether it suits the purpose.

WHO WHEN WHERE HOW WHY WHAT
Databases

• Many of Novia’s purchased – and most frequently used - databases are aimed at several fields.

• Also turning to databases outside your own field is always recommended.
  • Articles in related sciences may offer a different perspective on your subject.

• There are several databases with free access that offer full-text scientific articles. Several of these articles are accessible after some time, but also recently published material has been included.
E-book collections

- about 150 000 e-books from different fields of subject, mainly in English.
- about 50 e-books in English from various fields of subject.

- You can read e-books in your web browser directly or download them to your computer or mobile device.
- You can find e-books in Finna and learn more about them in this LibGuide.
Novia Finna Portal

What is Finna?

In the Tritonia Finna portal you can find all the library resources, renew your loans and make reservations. You can also save your searches and favourites for later use.

Tritonia Novia Finna is the local view of the national Finna service for Novia University of Applied Sciences in Vaasa and Jakobstad. Novia in Turku is served by Abo Akademi University Library and the collections can be searched in Alma-Novia. The printed collections in Raseborg can be found in Lukas.

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Browse databases

Browse e-journals

Browse e-book services
1) Write your search term in the search field.

2) In the result list you can see if the book is available and in which shelf.

3) Click on the shelf location to open a map showing where the book is placed.

4) The book is in the shelf according to the author or the title. Check Finna.

By clicking on the title of the book in the result list you will get further information about availability and due dates for borrowed books.
E-resources can be found in different ways:

1) By searching for the name of the database or the journal
2) By browsing databases, e-journals or e-book services
3) Choose “Search for articles” when you want to search for e.g. articles by subject.
Key Nursing databases

- **Medic** (inhemsk)
- **Academic search elite** (Ebsco)
- **Cinahl with fulltext** (Ebsco)
- **Medline** (Ebsco)
- **Springer Link**

- Samtliga hittas antingen via [Finna](#) eller [LibGuides](#).
Cinahl with Full Text

• The world’s most extensive and authoritarian database in care, nursing, allied health and related fields.
• References to articles from about 3,000 journals, theses and books.
• The full-text version contains full-text material from 600 journals.
• Full-text from 1981
• Updated daily

CINAH®L
Available via EBSCOhost®
Medic

• Domestic reference database on health sciences
• Contains an amount of full-text material
• Articles, books, theses, research reports
• Beside scientific journals, articles may be chosen from vocational and patient journals. Articles may be chosen from a total of 70 journals.
• Founded 1978, today over 100,000 references and about 4000 are added every year.
EBM guidelines

• Evidence-based medical guidelines.
• Includes medical photos and pictures.
• An important source for practical information regarding primary care and a powerful tool that reflects true clinical experience.
• Video clips on procedures and clinical discoveries.
The Cochrane Library

• The Cochrane Library is an evidence-based decision supporting system with the purpose to collect, assess the quality of and summarize clinical studies about the effects of different treatments.

• The Cochrane Library holds seven databases, of which the most important one, The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews contains the so called Cochrane reports which is worked out in collaboration between researchers.

• In the Cochrane Library you can search for information about effects and side effects of treatments or preventive measures.
Interlibrary loans

- The Interlibrary loans service enables you to borrow, or order photocopies of material, which cannot be found in our library collections.
- Students writing their thesis are entitled to free interlibrary loans.

Open access means that research results are made freely accessible in digital form, which promotes the dissemination of research results both within the scientific community and to the public at large.
Source criticism
Evaluation and source criticism

- Whether you are searching the library database, international databases or the internet, you always have to evaluate your search results.
- Reflect on: usefulness, relevance, objectivity, reliability, probability, accuracy etc.
- Is it true?
- Why? What’s the reason behind?
- What’s the purpose?
- Who is it intended for?

Learn more

http://uva.libguides.com/searching_information
http://kib.ki.se/en/search-evaluate/evaluating-information
Information retrieval in a nutshell

- A good search strategy saves time and effort and leads to a quicker find of relevant sources.
- The extent of the information retrieval should be in proportion to the size of the assignment.
- Think creatively, be inventive in your choice of key words. Do not focus on one single key word.
- Create an overview of the subject in question, map important concepts.
- What different kinds of information sources will be required?
- Use different kinds of search strategies and benefit from the many search possibilities of the databases.
- Be critical, observant and question your sources. Be open to new ideas and perspectives.
- Ask yourself: Is this up-to-date, relevant, objective and reliable? What is the purpose?
Good luck!

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