



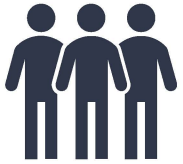
$$(a+b)^2 = a^2 + b^2 + 2ab$$

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# HOW DO I DEVELOP A RESEARCH QUESTION?

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Try phrasing the topic as a question



Health care personnel



Handwashing or hand sanitizer use



U.S. hospitals



Does handwashing or hand sanitizer use among health care personnel reduce cross infection rates in U.S. hospitals?

## Project Planner

### Developing a Researchable Question

 Tools

Introduction

+

How Do I Develop a Research Question?

+

When Will I Know What My Research Question Is?

+

How Do I Know if My Research Question Is Suitable?

+

Types of Research Questions: Why? When? Who? How? Where?

+

If you're having trouble with this step, check out the [Project Planner](#) in the [SAGE Research Methods](#) database.

This tool can help you think about the type of question you want to ask and help you ensure you're choosing a manageable research question.

# SAGE Research Methods



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You can access SAGE Research Methods from the [Databases A-Z](#) list on the library website.



<p>Databases A-Z</p> A grey icon representing a database, consisting of three stacked cylinders.	<p>E-Journals A-Z</p> A grey icon representing e-journals, showing a document with a folded corner.	<p>Research Subject Guides</p> A grey icon representing research subject guides, featuring a play button symbol inside a circle.	<p>Citations &amp; Bibliographies</p> A grey icon representing citations and bibliographies, showing a pencil writing on a document.
<p>Archives &amp; Special Collections</p> A grey icon representing archives and special collections, showing a folder.	<p>Digital Repository Service</p> A grey icon representing a digital repository service, showing a server rack.	<p>Google Scholar</p> A grey icon representing Google Scholar, featuring a large letter 'G'.	<p>WorldCat</p> A grey icon representing WorldCat, showing a globe.

## Search for additional resources

Once you have a question, look for additional sources of information. These sources will help you further understand your topic and refine your research question.



Keep in mind your assignment requirements—do you need books, articles, data?

Search for additional resources



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Research Subject Guides

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Google Scholar

WorldCat

You may want to begin searching in databases specific to your subject area to find the most tailored results.

You can find a list of the best databases for your subject area by clicking on the [Research Subject Guides](#) link on the library website.

# Search for additional resources

Library / Subject Guides / Home

ALL GUIDES

BY SUBJECT

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Enter Search Words

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Alphabetically

Go

[Advanced Writing in the Disciplines \(AWD\)](#) ⓘ

📅 Jul 14, 2017 👁 4,028

[African American Studies](#) ⓘ

📅 Jul 19, 2017 👁 421

[American Sign Language \(ASL\)](#) ⓘ

📅 Jul 24, 2017 👁 319

Browse or search the list of guides to find a guide appropriate to your topic.

# Search for additional resources

## Nursing: Start Here

A guide to online and print resources in nursing & nurse anesthesia.

Start Here | Articles ▾ | Books + Nursing Standards ▾ | Clinical Resources: Diag  
Cite Your Sources | Data/Statistics & Visualization | Multimedia | Profession  
Publishing in Nursing | Nurse Anesthesia | Course Materials ▾

### Key Resources in this Guide

**Articles in journals:** search [CINAHL Complete](#), the most comprehensive database for articles covering all aspects of nursing, including articles written by nurses.

**Looking for a specific journal?** search the [E-journal Finder](#)

**Books & print journals:** search in [Scholar OneSearch](#), limiting your search to "Library Catalog"

**Encyclopedia articles:** search [Encyclopedia of Nursing Research](#)

### Key Databases

- [CINAHL Complete \(Cumulative Index to Nursing & Allied Health Literature\)](#)  
The world's most comprehensive index for nursing & allied health journals, indexes 5,300 journals; providing full text for more than 1,400 journals. Covers 1937-present.
- [Medline \(EBSCO\)](#)  
Authoritative biomedical and health articles from 5,600 worldwide journals in 60 languages; also including some nursing, dentistry, veterinary, health policy, pre-clinical sciences. The majority of the publications covered are scholarly journals.

Then, look for the list of key databases in the guide.

These will be some of the best places to start your research.





# Evaluate search results

## 1. Frequency of Use of Alcohol-Based Hand Rubs by Nurses: A Systematic Review.



Academic Journal

(includes abstract) Boyce, John M.; Polgreen, Philip M.; Monsalve, Mauricio; Macinga, David R.; Arbogast, James W.; **Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology**, Feb2017; 38(2): 189-195. 7p. (Article) ISSN: 0899-823X

**Subjects:** **Cross Infection** Prevention and Control; Handwashing Equipment and Supplies; Handwashing Utilization; Alcohols; Antiinfective Agents; Occupational Exposure Evaluation; Nursing Staff, **Hospital**; Professional Compliance

Cited References: (29)



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## 2. USE OF A PATIENT HAND HYGIENE PROTOCOL TO REDUCE HOSPITAL-ACQUIRED INFECTIONS AND IMPROVE NURSES' HAND WASHING.



Academic Journal

(includes abstract) Fox, Cherie; Wavra, Teresa; Drake, Diane Ash; Mulligan, Debbie; Jones, Louise; Bennett, Yvonne Pacheco; Nelson, Carla; Kirkwood, Peggy; Bader, Mary Kay; **American Journal of Critical Care**, May2015; 24(3): 216-224. 9p. (Journal Article - research, tables/charts) ISSN: 1062-3264 PMID: 25934718

**Subjects:** Handwashing; Protocols Utilization; **Cross Infection** Prevention and Control; Critical Care Nursing; Critically Ill Patients; Catheter-Related Bloodstream **Infections** Prevention and Control; Urinary Tract **Infections**, Catheter-Related Prevention and Control; Middle Aged: 45-64 years; Aged: 65+ years; Aged, 80 & over; Male; Female

Show all 6 images



Cited References: (23) Times Cited in this Database: (1)



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## 3. Hand hygiene among nurses in Turkey: opinions and practices.



Academic Journal

(includes abstract) Akyol AD; **Journal of Clinical Nursing**, Mar2007; 16(3): 431-437. 7p. (Journal Article - research, tables/charts) ISSN: 0962-1067 PMID: 17335518

**Subjects:** **Cross Infection** Prevention and Control; Handwashing Evaluation; Nurse Attitudes Evaluation; Nursing Staff, **Hospital** Evaluation; Professional Compliance Evaluation; Adult: 19-44 years

Cited References: (38) Times Cited in this Database: (5)



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## 4. Nurses' hand decontamination practice: results of a local study.



(includes abstract) Gould D; Gould, D; **Journal of Hospital Infection**, 1994 Sep; 28(1): 15-30. 16p. (journal article - research) ISSN: 0195-6701 PMID: 7806865

**Subjects:** **Cross Infection** Prevention and Control; Handwashing Methods; Nursing Staff, **Hospital** Statistics and Numerical Data

As you continue your searching, evaluate your results. As you learn more about your topic, you may want to revise your research question.

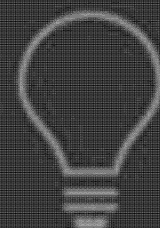
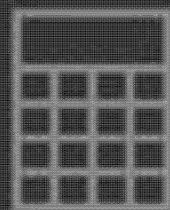
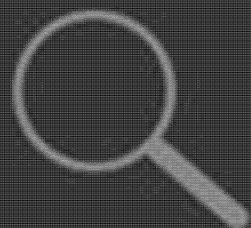
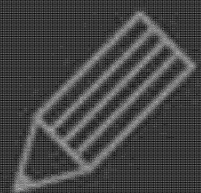
For example, during your research you may find more studies about nurses' hand hygiene and may choose to focus on nurses instead of health care personnel.

## Stay focused—are you asking a question?

As you continue exploring your question, check frequently: Are you describing a topic, offering opinions, or asking a question?



If your assignment requires you to ask and answer a research question, don't let yourself get sidetracked.



$$(a+b)^2 = a^2 + b^2 + 2ab$$

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# ASK A LIBRARIAN

[library.northeastern.edu/ask](http://library.northeastern.edu/ask)

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