Start Here: Physical Therapy Library Guide @
http://libguides.northshore.edu/physicaltherapy

Finding Research Studies Published in Professional Journals

Use CINAHL find evidence based research articles. Click on the Finding Articles Tab in the PT LibGuide, and select CINAHL Complete under Subject Specific Databases.

Search Strategies:
1. Define your observed diagnosis (patient population) and intervention
2. Use CINAHL Headings to identify preferred terminology in the database
3. Use the Advanced Search with the AND connector to combine searches

Use limiters to consider the following: (In CINAHL click on “Show More” to view the full list of limiters.)

- Does the article need to be current? ____________________________ (Publication Date)
- How do you know it is peer-reviewed? ____________________________ (Peer Review or Publication Source Information)
- How do you know it is research-based? ____________________________ (Research Article)
- Does it matter if the journal is published or are the studies conducted in the United States or Commonwealth Countries - UK, Canada, Australia? ____________________________ (Geography)

What is the type of study? Is it an evidence based review article (filtered and synthesized systematic review of many studies, e.g. meta-analysis or systematic review) or a single original research study? For your clinical observation paper you are looking for a single research study.

- Does the article contain:
  Abstract
  Question to Be Studied
  Methodology
  # of Study Participants
  IMRD Organization (see page 2)

- Should the article be from a physical therapy or rehabilitation journal? ______________
- Is an author / lead author a Physical Therapist? ______________
- Is it available in Full-text? Or will you need to request it through InterLibrary Loan? ______________
- Have you emailed the article to yourself with the citation? ______________
IMRD Structure (from page 1)

Introduction: Will include a literature review, i.e. what is currently known about the topic through a discussion of previously conducted relevant studies. May include a theoretical / conceptual framework. Provides the research question or hypothesis being studied.

Methodology: This is the research study design. Explains how one would recreate or replicate the study. A description of the population, research process, and analytical tools used are given in this section.

Results - Study findings. What was learned through the study. Delivered through statistical data (charts, graphs, tables) or as substantial quotations from research participants.

Discussion - May include related headings conclusion, implications. These areas describe how the study results could influence professional practice or future similar studies.

Finding Summaries of Research Studies in Professional / Trade Magazines

Use the **Health and Medicine** database to find research study summaries. Click on the Finding Articles Tab in the PT LibGuide, and select Health and Medicine under Subject Specific Databases.

Inside the database:

- Click on Advanced Search to show the Publication Title field
- Type in **PT in Motion** and select the publication
- Enter your patient diagnosis as a term (e.g. Total Knee Arthroplasty)
- Select an article where a study is referenced in the title of the article. Use these as examples for writing your research study summary.