Brief Guide to Searching British Nursing Index (BNI)

1. What is British Nursing Index?

British Nursing Index (BNI) is a leading UK nursing database providing references to journal articles from all the major British nursing and midwifery journals, as well as a selection of English-language international journals. It is available to RCN members at: https://www.rcn.org.uk/library/collections/search-collections

2. Searching

Define your search by identifying the main concepts or keywords of your topic. For example, if you want to find journal articles about nutrition for patients with diabetes, break down your search into nutrition and diabetes.

- **Type** keywords (e.g. nutrition AND diabetes) in the search box (1) and click on the Search symbol (2).
- To search for a phrase use double inverted commas e.g. “community nursing”.
- You can **Search within** (3) your results. This enables you to narrow your search by adding another keyword. e.g. adding “type 2” will find articles relating to type 2 diabetes and nutrition.
- **Narrow** your search results further if needed (4). To narrow by date slide the grey tab along the foot of the date graph and then press update.
3. Full text

Please note that not all journal articles are available as full text online. To check if an article is available:

- Look for a link to Full text or Full text – PDF (1). This will open full text available within the British Nursing Index database.

- Alternatively to check if an article is available by linking to another website click on the Find a copy button (2).

- Follow on screen links which will take you to one of the following:
  - the full text of the article online
  - details of print holdings in RCN libraries (‘Journal shelves’)
  - a message indicating the article is not available online.

Our postal photocopying service may be used to request articles not available online. See our Library services from home web page for details.

4. Help

For further help select the ‘Help and support’ button within BNI. There is a link at the top right hand corner of every page.

If you have any questions please contact us and our team of information professionals will be happy to help.

5. Contact us

Telephone: 0345 337 3368       Email: rcn.library@rcn.org.uk

Webchat: https://www.rcn.org.uk/library/contact/rcn-library-and-heritage-centre

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October 2016