Introduction to using the British Nursing Index (BNI) database
Accessing BNI

British Nursing Index (BNI) is a UK nursing and midwifery database and contains references to thousands of articles. You can also link to full text articles where available.

To access BNI, firstly go to the RCN Library and Archive Service website www.rcn.org.uk/library and click on the Books Journals and Databases heading.

On the next screen, scroll down the page and click on British Nursing Index.
Login using your MyRCN password. If you don’t have a password, follow the links to ‘Forgotten your password’ or ‘register using your membership number’
Carrying out a basic BNI search

The database opens in **basic search**

- Type **keywords** e.g. nutrition AND diabetes into the search box and click on the magnifying glass to **search**.
- use double inverted commas “ ” to search as a phrase, for example “community nursing”

**Tips:**
- search using keywords rather than typing in a sentence
- think of related words such e.g. elderly or older
- search using acronyms as well as full names e.g. NHS OR National Health Service
Search results

The search results matching the keywords are displayed on the next page with the most recent references appearing first.

You can narrow your search further by selecting the various filters on the left hand side e.g. full text, peer reviewed, publication date etc.

noft means not full text. BNI searches for keywords in the title field, the abstract and database subject headings. It means that we find only articles focussed on our topic which is what we need. Noft is something that’s generated automatically by the database.
• Click on preview to get more information on the reference. This will include an abstract where available.

• If you want to keep any of the references in your search results, click on the numbered box and the reference will be added to a folder.

• To remove the reference, simply click on the numbered box again and it will be removed.

• To view all selected items click on the folder icon at the top of the page.
This is the folder view and from here you can **delete**, **cite**, **e-mail**, **print** or **save** selected items.
Full text

Not all 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. This will open the full article.

This will take you to one of the following:

- The full text of the article online
- Details of print holdings in RCN Libraries
- A message of indicating that the article is not available

Help

For further help click on the ? button in the top right hand corner of the page. This will take you through to the ProQuest help pages.

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

Contact us

Telephone: 0345 337 3368
Web: www.rcn.org.uk/library