

Comments on Search Strategies Used

Searches were conducted of the following databases: Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL), ERIC, Library and Information Science Abstracts (LISA), MEDLINE, PsycINFO, Wilson Social Sciences Abstracts, and Social Work Abstracts.

None of the databases seemed to have a specific subject heading for “parent communication” *per se*. Some databases do not recognize the term “communication” and will return entries containing words such as “community” instead of “communication.”

The biomedical/nursing/allied health community seems to have a number of resources related to communicating with parents about health/medical issues. CINAHL and MEDLINE are powerful databases that allow “explosions” of terms such as “professional-family relations” (to get the major term and all narrower terms) with “communication” type terms: “communication in medicine” with “parent” terms, etc.

For example, the CINAHL search proceeded as follows:

- 1 Professional-Family Relations/ (2877)
- 2 exp COMMUNICATION/ (21210)
- 3 1 and 2 (455)
- 4 limit 3 to yr=1990-2002 (413)
- 5 *professional-family relations/ (1475)
- 6 exp *communication/ (12455)
- 7 5 and 6 (157)
- 8 limit 7 to yr=1990-2002 (129).

When a database did not accept the terms “communication” or “communicating,” alternative strategies were tried. Certain terms imply communication and were effective in identifying relevant resources, such as “parent education” in ERIC and Wilson Social Sciences Abstracts. For example, “parent school relationship,” “family school relationship,” “parent education,” “parent teacher cooperation,” “parent counseling,” and “parent teacher conferences” all returned some potentially useful resources in searches of the ERIC

