

Search strategy

The search strategy was designed to comprehensively identify relevant studies for inclusion in the review titled "E-learning Experiences among Nursing Students." The search process was conducted across multiple databases, including CINAHL via EBSCO, PubMed, and ScienceDirect, to ensure a comprehensive coverage of the literature.

The search timeframe was restricted to English-language studies published between 2017 and 2022 to capture the most recent and relevant evidence. To ensure inclusivity, the primary search terms were carefully chosen to encompass a broad range of concepts related to e-learning and education, including all relevant synonyms and variations. These terms were selected based on their relevance to the topic and were applied using text word searching, allowing for the detection of keywords anywhere within the citation documents.

In addition to text word searching, secondary search terms were employed to further refine the search results. These secondary terms included specific terms related to the topic, such as "online learning" and "e-learning AND nursing student," as well as parameters such as article titles, journal names, and author names. Controlled vocabulary thesaurus terms, such as Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) in PubMed, were also utilized to enhance the search strategy. The Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT) were used to combine search terms. Truncations (*) were added at the end of word roots to capture variations such as learn*, nurs*, and instruct*.

Duplicate articles were identified and removed using EndNote X9 software to ensure that only unique studies were included in the analysis. Following this initial screening process, a total of 326 unique articles were identified. Among these, 40 duplicates or ineligible articles were excluded based on predetermined criteria.

Subsequently, the remaining articles underwent title and abstract screening to assess their relevance to the scoping review topic. A total of 176 articles underwent this screening process, with 70 articles being rejected based on their lack of relevance to the research question.

Following title and abstract screening, the remaining 106 articles were assessed for eligibility based on predefined inclusion criteria. A total of 38 articles were excluded at this stage due to non-compliance with the inclusion criteria.

The remaining 68 articles underwent full-text assessment to determine their suitability for inclusion in the scoping review. Nineteen studies were deemed eligible based on their full-text assessment. Finally, 14 papers were included in the final analysis, with five out of the 19 studies being excluded due to inconsistencies in the population criteria.

This comprehensive search strategy aimed to identify and select relevant studies that would contribute to a thorough and evidence-based review of e-learning experiences among nursing students.