How to Find Nursing Theories and Research Instruments in CINAHL Complete

To locate and search by specific nursing theories, use the CINAHL Headings to access the Thesaurus and do a search for “nursing theory.” Leave the search on Relevancy Ranked and click the Browse button.

Click on the link for Nursing Theory to see the tree for that term:
Once in the tree, click on the link for “Nursing Models, Theoretical.”

You will get a list of all the nursing theories/models which are indexed in the database. You can search from the Thesaurus for a specific theory/model to see how many articles have used that theory/model.
The same can be done for research instruments. Access CINAHL Headings and do a search for “research instruments.” Leave the search on Relevancy Ranked and click the Browse button.

Click on the link for Research Instruments to see the tree for that term:
Once in the tree, you have a choice of selecting Instrument by Name, Instrument by Type, Instrument Construction and Instrument Scaling:

In the below example, Instrument by Name has been opened. A search for a specific instrument can be conducted from the Thesaurus by selecting the Instrument Name and clicking the Search Database button.