Content: WebSPIRS offers a variety of databases covering subjects such as medicine, nursing and allied health, psychology, sciences, business, and education.

Access: WebSPIRS may be reached via any computer with web access that is either located on the LSUHSC-S campus or connected to the Internet through the LSUHSC-S system. The URL for the library home page is http://lib.sh.lsuhsc.edu/. If you are an employee or student at LSUHSC-S but are not connected to the Internet through LSUHSC-S, you may request a password for WebSPIRS from the Assistant Director for Systems of the Library.

Selecting a Database: At the library home page, click on the DATABASES button. From the library’s database menu, select WebSPIRS by clicking on it. A list of available databases appears. You can use the Suggest Databases feature to find the ones that are most relevant to your search. Type in a word or phrase, then Suggest Databases to identify those that contain the term(s) you plan to search for. The Cancel button will take you back to the list of available databases.

Note: WebSPIRS will not allow you to search all databases at once, so choose those that are most relevant.

Basic Searches: Once the database(s) has been selected, click on the Start Searching button. On the search screen, several tabs are available (these may differ depending on the database you are searching):

Use Search for a search as simple or complex as you like.
Use Advanced to combine search terms and specific fields.
Use the Index to locate specific terms within a database.
Use Suggest (on the Search page) to get suggested alternatives to your search terms.
Use the Thesaurus to search for synonyms, related terms, and preferred terms using the databases' controlled vocabulary.

Clicking on any linked term in the list of Thesaurus terms will provide a definition and any related terms (broader or narrower) will be displayed. Explode Marked retrieves citations indexed to that term plus the narrower terms under that subject.

You can use subheadings to focus your search on a specialized area of interest, such as epidemiology or psychology. If the database you are using includes subheadings, they appear automatically before you search for a Thesaurus term.

Use the Table of Contents to look up and display full text records (this option is not available for every database).
Wildcards/Truncation:  
* replaces 0 or any number of characters  
? replaces 0 or 1 characters  
Examples:  
child* retrieves child, childhood, children  
wom?n retrieves woman, women  
tumo?r retrieves tumor, tumour

Operators:  
and must include both terms  
or includes either or both terms  
not excludes the second term  
adj includes both terms in the order entered  
with includes both terms in the same field  
near includes both terms in the same sentence, in either order  
near# specifies how close terms appear to each other in the same sentence in any order  
Examples:  
heart and lung [narrows retrieval]  
heart or lung [broadens retrieval]  
heart not lung [narrows retrieval]  
bipolar adj disorder  
catheter with placement  
fracture* near tibia  
rupture* near3 spleen

Limits: In the drop-down menu box you have the option to select Find Terms: Anywhere, in Subject, in Title, or in Author. You may click any limits that appear on the search screen, e.g., publication year >1997, records with full text, URL, or PDF fields. For additional limiting options, click the Change button. Depending on the database you are searching, you will be able to apply further limits, such as document type, language, and year of publication. Click OK when you have set the required limits.

Working with Results: Whenever you display retrieved records, you may click the box beside the record number of any citation you wish to keep. There are three icons at the top of the citation list on the right-hand side for output of the results: Print, Save, or E-mail. Click the button for the desired form of output and select from among the options offered on the ensuing screen.

Logging Out: When you are finished searching, you must logout of WebSPIRS to end your search session completely. Closing individual WebSPIRS windows (by clicking the X button in the upper-right corner) will not log you out of WebSPIRS. You must click Logout to close WebSPIRS properly and make it ready for the next user.