Quick Reference Guide
PsycINFO® on EBSCO*host*®

PsycINFO is an electronic bibliographic database that provides abstracts and citations for the scholarly literature in the field of behavioral sciences and mental health. It contains more than 2.2 million references of peer-reviewed literature from early 1800s–present.

PsycINFO • American Psychological Association
psycinfo@apa.org • http://www.apa.org/psycinfo

EBSCO Publishing
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About this Guide

Access EBSCO*host* through your library's web page. If you need assistance, contact your librarian.

This quick reference guide will demonstrate how to search PsycINFO on the EBSCO*host* platform in **Advanced Search** mode. Select the **Advanced Search** tab to get started.

Title Search (Title of article, book, book chapter, or dissertation)

Enter the title (or the words you want contained in the title) in the Find field. Choose **TI Title** from the drop down list.

For example, typing "amygdala" and selecting title will bring back results with "amygdala" in the titles. If you know the complete title, you can type that into the Find field (such as *The role of the amygdala in human fear*).

Author Search

Authors are listed last name, first initial/first name.

Enter the author's name using last name, first initial or first name in the Find field, and choose **AU Author** from the drop down list.

Use an asterisk [*] to return all names that begin with that letter. For example McClelland, D*, Field: Author

Find: McClelland, D*   in   AU Author

Results: Author citations for: *McClelland, D*avid C.; *McClelland, D*. C.; and *McClelland, D*awn Elizabeth

Index Term Search

Index Terms are taken from the *Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms*. This forms a controlled vocabulary for the database.

In EBSCO*host*, Index Terms are referred to as Subjects. Select **SU Subjects** from the drop down list and enter your search terms in the Find field.

Find: obsessive compulsive disorder   in   SU Subjects

Source Search

Source refers to a journal or a book. Do not confuse Source Search with Title Search. For example, the article or chaper title is searched using a Title Search. The journal or book (that a particular article or chapter is in) is searched using a Source Search.

Enter publication title (or the words you want contained in the title) in the Find field. Choose **SO Journal Title** from the drop down list.

Find: American Psychologist   in   SO Journal Title

Definitions of Selected Fields

Default Fields: automatically search Title, Translated Title, Abstract, Key Phrase, Subjects, Table of Contents, and Author

KW Keywords: natural language terms describing document's content

AB Abstract: brief summary of the article

AF Author Affiliation: institutional affiliation of authors

PB Publisher: organization/company that publishes the journal or book

TM Tests & Measures: indicates if a test is used in the methodology of a study or featured as the subject of discussion

CC Classification: Classification Code numbers (available at http://www.apa.org/psycinfo/about/classcodes.html)

How to Limit Your Search

Below are examples of options that are available to help you focus your search — this is not the complete list. If you scroll down past the fielded search you will find these limiters. These options are available when you are in PsycINFO only.

Publication Year: allows you to set a date range.

Publication Type: limit your search to specific publications, such as peer reviewed journal, authored book, encyclopedia, etc.

Age Groups: limit your search to the age of participants in a research study (this applies to humans).
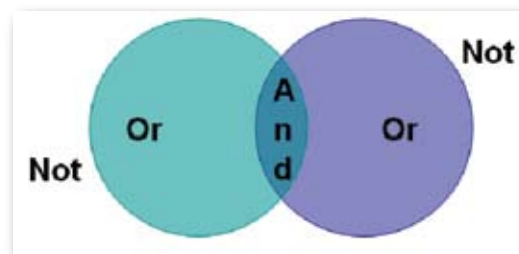
Population Group: limit your search to the group of participants in a research study (human, animal, female, male, etc).

Document Type: limit your search to specific document types, such as bibliography, editorial, review, etc.

Methodology: limit your search to the methodology used in a research study, such as clinical case study, literature review, meta analysis, etc.

Search Basics

Boolean Operators (And, Or, Not) combine search terms to narrow or broaden results.

Wildcard (?): The "?" replaces one character for example "ne?t" finds neat, nest or next, but will not find net.

Truncation (*): The "*" replaces any number of characters and will find all forms of a word root, for example, "therap*" finds therapy, therapies, therapist, therapists, therapeutic, therapeutically.

Print/Save/Email

Add any items you are interested in to your folder by clicking on the

You can manage your items in the folder. You have the option to print the items you selected, save them, or email them.

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