



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

PsycINFO NEWS

VOLUME 26 ISSUE 1
WINTER 2007

PsycEXTRA Addresses Problems with Gray Literature

Problems with Gray Literature

The very nature of gray literature makes it problematic for both users and library professionals. A short shelf life often makes it difficult to identify, find, catalog, store, and retrieve. Most librarians agree that the acquisition, evaluation, and archiving of such materials compound the issue.

While the Internet has provided an excellent storage medium for some of these publications, many librarians and researchers have discovered that it is not always reliable. Users must first search multiple sources to find information and then evaluate the credibility of those sources.

In addition to the fact that actual retrieval of these items can be troublesome, most librarians have had the experience of locating key information on the web one day, only to find it gone the next. The “here today, gone tomorrow” phenomenon occurs frequently with government documents, but other materials can also disappear. What happens when a researcher retires or moves to another university? How are online materials preserved when an organization suffers funding problems or policy changes? What happens to information when a university repository decides that it wants only the final draft before publication, but not working documents, curricula, or other materials?

Another circumstance of “phantom information” involves research projects that lose their funding in the middle of the initiative. Without a single source for access, much of the initial research, papers, and working documents can get shoved in a box or stuck on a shelf.

How PsycEXTRA Addresses These Issues

PsycEXTRA addresses these problems with gray literature by acquiring authoritative content, archiving these materials, and providing online access through a search interface. The interface provides access to more than 100,000 unique publications, most in full text. To streamline searching, the database enables users to search by

content provider, document type, conference name, age group, and more.

PsycEXTRA indexes a wide range of document types, including conference proceedings and papers, newsletters, policy papers, annual and technical

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reports, curricula, brochures, pamphlets, and more. Materials are indexed using the *Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms*, and original abstracts are created for each record to provide the researcher with a simplified way to access each publication.

The following example demonstrates how users can access conference proceedings in the database:

Suppose a graduate student is looking for work on ADHD in children. The student knows that research on this topic was presented at an annual meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association and wants to know how she can find the papers. These conference papers are found in PsycEXTRA.

The screenshot shows the 'Search PsycEXTRA' interface. It includes a 'Look for:' field, two 'and' dropdown menus, a 'Limit to:' dropdown menu, and a 'Date:' field. The 'Limit to:' dropdown menu is open, showing options: None Selected, Age Group, Classification Code, Content Provider, Document Type, Language Availability, Location, and Population Group.

Search: "Midwestern Psychological Association" as **Content Owner**

AND

Search: "attention deficit disorder with hyperactivity" as **Index Terms**

Limit: Document Type: Conference Abstracts

Limit: Document Type: Conference Papers

Sample Results:

Effect of Training on the Attributions for the Problem Behaviors of Children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) (Conference Paper)
By Bagge, Courtney L.; Osman, Augustine

Parent Training with Families of Children with ADHD: A Meta-Analysis (Conference Paper) By Myket, Susan B.; Lundahl, Brad; Behl, Leah E.; Wezner, Kelley C.

Psychological Profiles of University Students With and Without ADHD (Conference Paper) By Konyk, Debra; Thomas, Michael R.; Garinger, Jennifer

Before material is indexed, the content provider is evaluated based on its track record of publishing authoritative research in an area relevant to the behavioral sciences and allied disciplines. Substantive content is selected based on quality, relevance, and provenance.

Currently, the database receives materials from 125 content owners. The PsycEXTRA Content Development team continually conducts searches for new providers and additional materials.

How to Use PsycEXTRA

PsycEXTRA gives researchers access to information and data that may be overlooked, such as experimental results, data sets, field studies, and information generated from testing. For example, a researcher is interested in analyzing data collected about teen pregnancy. The search below shows examples of what the researcher might find.

Search: "data set" as **Any Field**

AND

Search: "pregnancy" as **Keyword**

Limit: Age Group: Adolescence (13-17 yrs)

Sample Results:

1966-1972 Baltimore Study of Unplanned Teen Parenthood (Data Set) By Furstenberg, Frank

Evaluation of Pregnancy Prevention Programs for Urban Teens, 1981-1984 (Data Set) By Zabin, Laurie S.; Hirsch, Marilyn B.; Smith, Edward A.; Emerson, Mark R.

Re-Evaluating the Costs of Teenage Childbearing, 1988-1991 (Data Set) By Hoffman, Saul D.; Foster, E. Michael; Furstenberg, Frank F.

PsycEXTRA provides researchers and clinicians with an "archaeological record" of evolving materials (like policies or standards), and allows them to follow the progression of thought and discovery. Scholars can use PsycEXTRA to understand the development of mental health care policies over time or explore the differences among state recidivism policies. In the following search example, a researcher is interested in studying mental health care policies for different states.

Search: "Mental Health Services" as **Index Terms**

Limit: Document Type: Amicus Briefs, Standards, Policies

Limit: Content Provider: Government: State

Sample Results:

The Statewide System of Care Plan for Adult Mental Health in Vermont: Fiscal Years 2002-2004 (Policy)
[Vermont Department of Developmental and Mental Health Services]

State Mental Health Plan 2002 (Policy)
Idaho Department of Health and Welfare]

Examples of ODMH Best Practices and Initiatives (Policy) [Ohio Department of Mental Health]

Problems with Gray Literature *continued from page 2*

PsycEXTRA allows wide dissemination of materials that are published outside of traditional publishing. The database also gives scholars a mechanism to share scholarship outside of the peer-reviewed publication process. Items include materials such as curricula, bibliographies, videos, and other materials that would never be published through conventional channels.

Clinicians can also look to PsycEXTRA for information relevant for professional development. The database contains contemporary information on professional ethics and how to grow a practice. There are also a number of patient education materials, such as fact sheets on attention deficit disorders and brochures about childhood obesity.

PsycEXTRA also has content for non-professionals. "PsycEXTRA is a dual-purpose database that appeals to both researchers and clinicians, but also to the general public," said Alvin Walker, Manager of Product Development. There are tip sheets on how to talk to teens about drugs, a variety of publications discussing treatment of depression in adolescents, and videos and other materials about coping with Alzheimer's.

For example, suppose a customer comes into the library looking for information about autism. Her neighbor has a child who may be autistic, but she doesn't want to overwhelm the neighbor with journal articles, and is instead interested in fact sheets or pamphlets on the condition. The search below shows a sample of the relevant material in PsycEXTRA.

Search: "autism" in Index Term

Limit: Document Type: Brochures, Pamphlets, Fact Sheets

Limit: Age Group: Childhood (Birth to 12 years)

Sample Search Results:

Autism Spectrum Disorders (Pervasive Developmental Disorders) (Brochure/Pamphlet) By Strock, Margaret [US Department of Health and Human Services National Institute of Mental Health]

Autism and Vaccine Research (Fact Sheet) [US Department of Health and Human Services National Institutes of Health; National Institute of Child Health and Human Development]

Facts About Autism (Fact Sheet) [US Department of Health and Human Services National Institutes of Health]

PsycEXTRA as an Archive

In the print world, it is difficult to catalog and maintain pamphlets, newsletters, proceedings, curricula, and reports. PsycEXTRA digitizes, indexes, and provides access to items that are either ephemeral or would otherwise be relegated to dusty boxes in a basement.

It provides a permanent, searchable archive for these materials. Although the database includes content in bibliographic format, most content providers choose to give PsycEXTRA permission to disseminate the full text of their materials, meeting their goals of disseminating their information to a much wider academic audience. There is no change in ownership for the publications; copyright remains with the original owner.



PsycEXTRA as an Early Alert System

PsycEXTRA preserves work that may be lost if unpublished, but the database can also make early research endeavors available to the community before they appear in journal literature. For example, PsycEXTRA has recently added timely documents from the U.S. Department of Defense on the mental health of military personnel returning from combat. This information has not appeared in any literature to date, though articles are likely forthcoming. A search for "battlemind" returns brochures and curricula for military leaders on how to address the issues of mental health and recovery in returning personnel.

Search: "battlemind" in Keywords

Sample Search Results:

Battlemind Training I: Transitioning from Combat to Home (Curriculum) [US Department of Defense]

Battlemind Training II: Continuing the Transition Home (Curriculum) [US Department of Defense]

PDHRA Battlemind Training: Continuing the Transition Home (Brochure/Pamphlet) [US Department of Defense]

For information on how to contribute content to PsycEXTRA, please contact psycextracontrib@apa.org.

PsycEXTRA has been available since 2004. For more information about PsycEXTRA, please visit <http://www.apa.org/psycextra>.

Psychology Focus: Terrorism



When you think about terrorism, the first thing that generally comes to mind is fear and anxiety. We all have experienced it. This fear and anxiety is often caused by our inability to comprehend the magnitude of the potential devastation that terrorism can cause and the uncertainty about the people who perpetrate these acts. Terrorism, by definition, uses force or violence to try to change the psychological mindset of its targets, which often leads to changes in day-to-day behavioral patterns and how we perceive and interact with the world around us.

The discipline of psychology is in a unique position to help shed light on this phenomenon and to help us determine all the influential factors that are at play, whether we are talking about pipe bombs in schools, biological warfare, or nuclear weapons. Terrorist attacks and the repercussions we have experienced recently with 9-11 and other events cut across a broad range of psychological science—from research on risk assessment, human factors and technology in aviation, and indoctrination into fanatical groups to psychological approaches to handling conflict resolution, managing cross-cultural differences, and preventing crimes of hate.

Learning more about terrorism and how to cope with our fears and anxieties is one way to become more resilient to the everyday threats and pressures. Psychology, often referred to as the 'study of the mind', can help us understand what motivates terrorists and teach us how to effectively respond to terrorist acts. Psychology provides insight into the psychological processes that create a terrorist as well as the psychological and emotional impact of terrorist activities on all of us. The many resources of psychological research and practice help us to understand terrorism by providing both research-based theories and interventions on how we can prevent terrorism, both nationally and internationally, and continue to lead our normal everyday lives free of the stress and anxiety.

Learning more about terrorism and how to cope with our fears and anxieties is one way to become more resilient to the everyday threats and pressures.

PsycEXTRA, our gray literature database in psychology and related disciplines, contains a wealth of hard-to-find content on the psychology of terrorism from credible sources such as the APA, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Defense, RAND Corporation, Department of Justice, the FBI and many others. Conference papers, reports, press releases, brochures, fact sheets, magazine articles, and other

documents provide the most up-to-date information on the psychodynamics of terrorism. Quality indexing from our experienced staff ensures precise retrieval.

For example, PsycEXTRA can be used to locate fact sheets to help children cope with the threat of terrorism.

Search: Terrorism in 'all fields'.

Limit: Document Types: Brochures, pamphlets, fact sheets

Limit: Age Group: Childhood

Sample Results:

Talking to Children about War and Terrorism (Fact Sheet)

[National Child Traumatic Stress Network]

Helping Children Cope (Fact Sheet)

[US Department of Health and Human Services

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services

Administration; Center for Substance Abuse Treatment]

Tips for teachers: The role of culture in helping children recover from a disaster. (Fact Sheet)

[US Department of Health and Human Services

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services

Administration; Center for Mental Health Services]

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PsycINFO

NEWS

PsycINFO News is published quarterly by

PsycINFO

American Psychological Association

750 First Street, NE

Washington, DC 20002-4242

Telephone: 800.374.2722 • 202.336.5650 • **Fax:** 202.336.5633

E-mail: psycinfo@apa.org • **Web:** www.apa.org/psycinfo

Printed in the United States of America.

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PsycEXTRA can also help to find the latest conference papers on psychology and terrorism.

Search: Terrorism in **'index terms'**.

Limit: Document Types: Conference Abstracts; Conference Papers

Sample Results:

Rallying Around the Flag: The Effects of Terrorism on Blind Patriotism (Conference Paper)

By Frantz, Joni A.; Perkins, James E.; Bourgeois, Martin J.
Program of the Seventy-Fourth Annual Meeting; 2002 [Midwestern Psychological Association]

Purification and Power: The Psycho-political Roots of Religious Terrorism (Conference Paper)

By Rubenstein, Richard
[American Psychological Association]

Post Traumatic Stress Symptoms as a Result of Indirect Exposure to the September 11, 2001 Terrorist Attack (Conference Paper)

By Meyer, Andrea Downs
Program of the Seventy-Fifth Annual Meeting; 2003 [Midwestern Psychological Association]

Because PsycEXTRA is a hybrid database with bibliographic data and 70% full text in PDF, it is a rich source of material for finding the latest information on very contemporary topics. ■

News Articles

PsycARTICLES Adds Two New Journals

17 October 2006

The PsycARTICLES database has added two journals: *Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts* and *Training and Education in Professional Psychology*. These are new titles published by the American Psychological Association.

Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts, which will be published quarterly, seeks to promote scholarship on how individuals participate in the creation and appreciation of artistic endeavor. The journal publishes articles whose subject matter includes research on aesthetic perception, creative behavior, production, thought, and development, and research on psychology and the arts, including the use of the arts in clinical practice.

Training and Education in Professional Psychology will also be published quarterly; it is devoted to enhancing supervision and training provided by psychologists. The journal publishes manuscripts that make a contribution to the advancement of professional psychology education.

Currently, both journals have produced one special issue. Full cycle of the journals will begin February 2007.

The full-text of both journals' special issues is available through PsycARTICLES. For a full list of the journal titles covered in PsycARTICLES, please visit <http://www.apa.org/psycarticles/covlist.html>.

MeSH Headings Added to MARC Records

MeSH headings have been added to MARC records for PsycBOOKS subscribers. The addition of the MeSH terms is in response to requests from health science libraries and will help with electronic resource management.

PsycNET subscribers can get the replacement MARC files with MeSH headings by visiting the APA Librarian's Reference Desk at www.psycinfo.com/library/refdesk/ and clicking on the **Downloads** button. Visitors will also find updated documentation for Library of Congress MARC 21 file as well as the MARC records file for the database and update files for each weekly release. PsycNET customers who have not visited

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Helpful Web Sites

- Librarian's Resource Center <http://www.apa.org/librarians/>
- Databases <http://www.apa.org/databases/>
- Application Guides <http://www.apa.org/librarians/toolkit/>
- Permissions <http://www.apa.org/about/permissions.html>
- Vendor News <http://www.apa.org/librarians/vendors/news.html>
- Coverage Lists <http://www.apa.org/databases/covlists.html>
- PsycINFO home page www.apa.org/psycinfo/
- APA Journals www.apa.org/journals
- APA Style Helper home page www.apastyle.org/stylehelper/

Librarian Focus: How are you using PsycINFO?



PsycINFO is always eager to learn how librarians are using the databases in the field. We recently spoke with Marie Paiva at the J. Willard Marriott Library at the University of Utah about her experiences using and teaching PsycINFO. Ms. Paiva is a reference librarian and subject selector for psychology, anthropology, and economics. The library subscribes to PsycINFO and PsycARTICLES on EBSCOhost.

The PsycINFO databases are used campus-wide at Utah, including at the general reference desk, in library instruction sessions, in research labs, and in one-on-one research consultations. "Everybody uses and loves PsycINFO," says Paiva, "Folks in psychology, anthropology, sociology, family and consumer studies, education, social work, health sciences, business, communication and more use it."

The most common question asked about PsycINFO is "Why is it not full text?"

The library has recently acquired a subscription to PsycARTICLES, APA's full-text article database, and Paiva refers students to that database.

Ms. Paiva prefers to teach patrons how to use the databases by conducting hands-on sessions with students. She demonstrates searches while the class follows along, and then has the students perform their own searches while she walks around and helps them individually. "I like this interactive method and find that students enjoy it as well," she says.

Paiva shows the students how to locate items found in PsycINFO in the library catalog and how to access full text links. She teaches the students to enhance their search strategies and focus their results by demonstrating how to use *Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms*, Boolean operators, nesting, and truncating.

"I use relevant examples from the psychology faculty that are in the news (such as cell phone usage studies) to show different search structures and their results," says Paiva, "I also like doing foreign language searches to see what they yield, and some students really like that."

Paiva would like to conduct longer classes in order to "do more," but those rarely happen. She notes that graduate students and faculty who claim to be familiar with PsycINFO always leave her sessions saying they learned something useful. ■

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this informational web page can email iaccess@apa.org to establish an account.

If you subscribe to PsycBOOKS through CSA, EBSCO, OCLC, OVID, or ProQuest, please check with your representative for information on MARC records delivery.

Counter 2 Compliance

The American Psychological Association's PsycINFO databases are now COUNTER Release 2 compliant. This compliance enhances APA's services to libraries and publishers by providing them with usage information in the industry standard format. These enhancements will allow librarians to produce usage reports more precisely suiting their needs for collection decision-making.

COUNTER is an international initiative that facilitates the collection and exchange of online usage statistics. APA has been a member of Counter Online Metrics, a not-for-profit company, since 2003. ■

January 2007 Exhibit and Training Schedule

American Library Association – Midwinter

January 19–24 • Seattle, WA

Special Events:

Saturday, January 20 – 4 to 6:00 pm

APA Focus Group • W Seattle – Studio 8
1112 4th Avenue • Seattle, WA
By invitation only

Sunday, January 21 – 8 to 10:00 am

APA's Librarian Roundtable Breakfast
Washington State Convention & Trade Center
– Room 606 • Seattle, WA

Monday, January 22 – noon to 1:30 pm

APA's Lunch & Learn • Hotel Andra – Ballroom
2000 4th Ave • Seattle, WA

For more information or to enroll please email PsycINFO at psycinfo@apa.org