



Methodology

The Methodology field identifies the specific kind of methodology used in a research study (quantitative study, clinical case study, etc.). This field allows greater specificity in searching and is often used by advanced users of PsycINFO®. The field values for Methodologies were revised in 2005 by a team of PsycINFO staff and outside experts.

In 2007, the much-requested Systematic Review value was added to the Methodology field. Systematic Review is a subfield of Literature Review and is applied to articles that are identified as systematic reviews in the methodology section of the article. Systematic Review has been mapped back to older records to allow users to retrieve relevant older content.

Currently, there are 16 possible values in the Methodology field.

<input type="checkbox"/> Clinical Case Study
<input type="checkbox"/> Empirical Study
<input type="checkbox"/> Experimental Replication
<input type="checkbox"/> Followup Study
<input type="checkbox"/> Longitudinal Study
<input type="checkbox"/> Prospective Study
<input type="checkbox"/> Retrospective Study
<input type="checkbox"/> Field Study
<input type="checkbox"/> Literature Review
<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Review
<input type="checkbox"/> Mathematical Model
<input type="checkbox"/> Meta Analysis
<input type="checkbox"/> Nonclinical Case Study
<input type="checkbox"/> Qualitative Study
<input type="checkbox"/> Quantitative Study
<input type="checkbox"/> Treatment Outcome/Randomized Clinical Trial

Because PsycINFO is delivered on multiple vendor platforms, the implementation of this feature differs across the platforms. Most vendor platforms allow users to select methodology as a field value in the main search box (if you know the name of the research method you'd like to search) or to refine their search to a specific methodology in the limits section of the interface. In the limits section, the Methodology field values are provided in a clickable list. Many platforms also provide an index to the Methodology field that allows users to view all values for the field.



Search Example

Professors often teach their students about different research methods. A common assignment is for students to compare two different methodologies. In this example, a professor has asked students to compare a clinical case study and a randomized clinical trial.

To do this, the student has chosen to research depression in teens. He uses the index term “major depression”

LOOK FOR

major depression In: Index Terms

and In: Any Field

[Journals Lookup](#) [Authors Lookup](#)

in combination with limits for Age Group and Methodology.

ONLY SHOW CONTENT WHERE Hide

Age Group is Childhood (birth to 12 yrs)
Neonatal (birth to 1 mo)
Infancy (2 to 23 mo)
Preschool Age (2 to 5 yrs)
School Age (6 to 12 yrs)
Adolescence (13 to 17 yrs)
Adulthood (18 yrs & older)

Methodology is Clinical Case Study
Empirical Study
Experimental Replication
Followup Study
Longitudinal Study
Prospective Study
Retrospective Study

[+ Add a row](#)
[Clear form](#)

The student selected this citation for his clinical case study:

[Interpersonal Theory and Music Techniques: A Case Study for a Family With a Depressed Adolescent.](#)
By Hendricks, C. Bret; Bradley, Loretta J.
The Family Journal. Vol 13(4), Oct 2005, 400-405.

The type of methodology is listed in the full PsycINFO record:

The screenshot shows a PsycINFO record with the following fields:

- Index Terms:** *Adolescent Development; *Interpersonal Psychotherapy; *Major Depression; *Music Therapy; *Psychotherapeutic Techniques
- Classification Codes:** 3357 Art & Music & Movement Therapy
- Population Group:** Human; Male
- Age Group:** Adolescence (13-17 yrs)
- Methodology:** 0200 Clinical Case Study (highlighted with a red box)

Because the student needs to compare clinical case studies to randomized clinical trials, he runs the search again using Treatment Outcome/Randomized Clinical Trial as a limit.

The screenshot shows a search filter interface with the following elements:

- Header: ONLY SHOW CONTENT WHERE Hide
- Filter: Methodology is
- List of options: Systematic Review, Mathematical Model, Meta Analysis, Nonclinical Case Study, Qualitative Study, Quantitative Study, Treatment Outcome/Randomized Clinical Trial (selected)
- Buttons: + Add a row, Clear form

The student selected this citation for his randomized clinical trial:

[Attachment as moderator of treatment outcome in major depression: A randomized control trial of interpersonal psychotherapy versus cognitive behavior therapy.](#)
By McBride, Carolina; Atkinson, Leslie; Quilty, Lena C.; Bagby, R. Michael
Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology. Vol 74(6), Dec 2006, 1041-1054.

Again, the type of methodology is listed in the full PsycINFO record:

Index Terms
*Attachment Behavior ; *Cognitive Behavior Therapy ; *Interpersonal Psychotherapy ; *Major Depression ; *Treatment Outcomes
Classification Codes
3310 Psychotherapy & Psychotherapeutic Counseling
Population Group
Human; Male; Female
Age Group
Adolescence (13-17 yrs)
Methodology
0400 Empirical Study; 1800 Quantitative Study; 2000 Treatment Outcome/Clinical Trial
Tests and Measures
Beck Depression Inventory--II; Hamilton Rating Scale for Depression

Definitions of methodology field values are available at <http://www.apa.org/databases/training/method-values.html>. You can also download a PDF chart of the definitions for instructional use at <http://www.apa.org/databases/training/method-values.pdf>.