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ASSOCIATION

PsycINFO NEWS

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Building Tools for Efficient Searching: Updating the Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms®

There is no question that the index terms found in the *Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms* provide targeted information retrieval for PsycINFO® and its related databases.

As Brenda Evans, PsycINFO's Manager of Bibliographic Production, explains:

I think the most important point of index terms is that they bring a level of consistency to the indexing. And that is both for the person who is doing the indexing and for people searching the database. It gives us a standardized vocabulary with which we can train people to focus on the most important elements in a document—its “about-ness”—as main concepts are translated to index terms. So one of the main things we do in training is to help people understand “What is this about? What is the most important thing here?” And index terms, because you have to choose them, force you to that level of conceptualization.

The *Thesaurus* also gives us a way to bring a level of user-focus to the way that we think about what we index—we need to put records into the database using a language that will enable searchers to find them. The English language is very broad, and many words mean the same thing. It gives us a common language with which to index, and it removes the ambiguity or the synonyms surrounding a word's use.

Alvin Walker, PsycINFO's Manager of Product Development, edited five editions of the *Thesaurus*. As he explains, “The most important part of the controlled vocabulary in the *Thesaurus* is that it does allow you to zero in on specific concepts, without the noise, without the garbage, that you get without using a controlled vocabulary.”

But as the language of science changes and evolves, tools such as the index terms used in the APA databases naturally need to evolve in response. As Evans explains, “One thing we find important is that we constantly need new terms to describe the language, to describe the material that we're covering. We're always evaluating, ‘Do we

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AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

American Psychological Association
750 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002-4242

(800) 374-3723 / (202) 336-3630
indefn@apa.org / www.apa.org/indefn

Building Tools for Efficient Searching

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need a new term? Is this something we're just going to get once in a while or are we going to see this consistently?"

So how do terms get added to the thesaurus? The process to get into the highly respected *Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms* takes an interesting combination of relevance, research trends, and popularity.

Gathering Candidate Index Terms

The person who guides the process of determining what terms are selected for consideration and eventually make it to inclusion in the *Thesaurus* is Ian Galloway, PsycINFO's Senior Specialist for Vocabulary Development. Galloway's background is in computational linguistics, an [interdisciplinary](#) field dealing with the statistical or rule-based modeling of [natural language](#) from a computational perspective.

Galloway explains that the first step of the process is to gather candidate terms. These come primarily from six sources:

PsycINFO Indexers. Because the indexers are the ones who work most closely with the index terms, they are the ones who are most aware when concepts that may warrant inclusion arise.

Machine Aided Indexing. PsycINFO employs an overall Machine Aided Indexing tool that reviews all the content indexed in PsycINFO. Data from the tool provides a macro overview of terms associated with information going into the database. However, the tool suggests terms that the indexers review, supplement, and often change.

Database Users. PsycINFO users will often have strong opinions both about what terms should be added and what terms should be dropped.

Incoming Journals. New journals being added to the PsycINFO database are scrutinized for the impact that their inclusion will have on the *Thesaurus*. For example when PsycINFO expanded its neuroscience coverage several years ago, it necessitated the addition of more neuroscience-related index terms.

Subject Matter Experts. Subject matter experts, who are often former editors of the prominent

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About the *Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms*

The indexing in APA databases is based on the *Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms*, one of the oldest and best-respected reference works in the behavioral sciences.

The First Edition of the *Thesaurus* appeared in print in 1974. It has since been a constantly growing and evolving reference work (see article above). The print *Thesaurus* was retired after the publication of the 11th edition.

The screenshot displays the following information for the term 'Seizures' (6600):

- Year introduced:** 2005
- PsycINFO Posting Notes:** 6600
- Scope Note:** The disruption of motor and sensory functions due to sudden and abnormal electrical discharge of brain cells.
- Historical Note:** In August 2005, this term replaced the discontinued term CONVULSIONS. CONVULSIONS was removed from all records containing it, and was replaced with SEIZURES, its postable counterpart.
- Used For:** [Convulsions](#)
- Broader Terms:**
 - [Nervous System Disorders](#)
 - [Symptoms](#)
- Narrower Terms:**
 - [Audiogenic Seizures](#)
 - [Epileptic Seizures](#)
 - [Grand Mal Seizures](#)
 - [Petit Mal Seizures](#)
 - [Status Epilepticus](#)
- Related Terms:**
 - [Anticonvulsive Drugs](#)
 - [Brain Disorders](#)
 - [Experimental Epilepsy](#)
 - [Hydrocephalus](#)
 - [Spasms](#)

It is currently available as an electronic utility for users searching APA database products on multiple platforms, including APA PsycNET®, CSA Illumina, EBSCOhost, OvidSP, and ProQuest. In addition to suggesting terms from the controlled vocabulary to search, entries in the *Thesaurus* may contain the following individual items that provide insight into the terms:

Index Term – including date of entry

Subject Code – unique five-digit code

PsycINFO Posting Notes – number of articles with the term in PsycINFO

Scope Note – definition and/or information about the proper use of the term

Historical Note – information about the historical usage of a term since its introduction to the *Thesaurus*

Used For – related terms that are not official index terms

Broader Terms – more general index terms

Narrower Terms – more specific index terms

Related Terms – other index terms to consider

An Index Term by Any Other Name...

Index terms are given various names by various platforms, and the way to access the *Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms* is unique on each platform, too:

APA PsycNET

Use “Index Terms” to search *Thesaurus* terms.

To access the *Thesaurus* on APA PsycNET, click “TERM FINDER” in the top blue tool bar.



This will take you to the *Thesaurus*.



CSA Illumina

Use “Descriptor” to search *Thesaurus* terms.

To access the *Thesaurus* on CSA Illumina, click “Search Tools” in the top blue tool bar.



Click the “Thesaurus” tab on the next menu.

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Building Tools for Efficient Searching

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scholarly journals, are consulted periodically to help APA identify trends in research and, ultimately, the vocabulary of the science.

Related Lexicons. Lexicons in many of the disciplines covered by PsycINFO are consulted to identify the use of terminology and disambiguate the use of the same term that may have totally different meanings to scholars in different fields.

Researching the Candidate Terms

Once the candidate list is established, the work begins. As Galloway explains, “I’ll review that list. There are often some that I can disregard right away because we already have coverage for that concept or I can say that will be a “Used For” term for something we already have coverage for.” (“Used For” references represent some but not all of the most frequently encountered synonyms, abbreviations, and alternative spellings or word sequences of existing *Thesaurus* terms.) Remaining candidate terms are then discussed and sifted through with the indexing staff.

Then the research starts. Galloway first searches the title, keyword, and abstract fields of existing PsycINFO records; if the term exists in two of those three fields for a significant number of records, its chances for inclusion improve greatly. He also checks the term in other databases from both APA and outside sources, as well as in other thesauri and reference works such as the *APA Dictionary of Psychology*. Often Galloway will have to negotiate over the addition or deletion of a term.

As terms emerge as finalists, Galloway determines how they should fit into the *Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms*, including the term’s place in the *Thesaurus* hierarchy and the creation of the scope note for the potential entry.

The final candidates are presented to PsycINFO management and Dr. Gary VandenBos, the APA Publisher, who make the final determination about which will be added to the *Thesaurus*.

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American Psychological Association
750 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002-4242

AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

(800) 374-2722
apa@apa.org

(202) 336-5600
www.apa.org/psycinfo

An Index Term by Any Other Name

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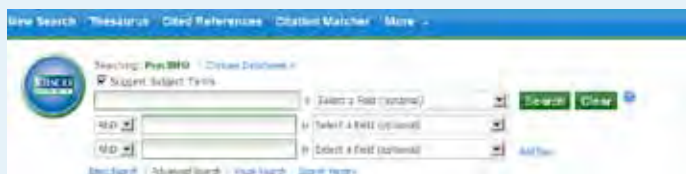
This will take you to the *Thesaurus*.



EBSCOhost

Use “Descriptor” to search *Thesaurus* terms.

To access the *Thesaurus* on EBSCOhost, click “Thesaurus” in the top blue tool bar.



This will take you to the *Thesaurus*



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Building Tools for Efficient Searching

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Adding Terms to the *Thesaurus*

New index terms are incorporated into PsycINFO during the annual refresh of the database. Terms are back-mapped to hundreds or thousands of records that use a predecessor term. This enables researchers to use the new terms from the time that the database is refreshed. A crucial update to the database occurs when there is a change in index terms for a topic that reflects changes in current scientific thinking—for example, “Bipolar” replacing “Manic Depression.” In that case, the term will be back-mapped during the refresh so that previous entries for “Manic Depression” will include “Bipolar.” In other cases, terms may be totally replaced, as when “Gypsies” was replaced by “Romanies.” Another essential element is the creation of Historical Notes that are added to the *Thesaurus* to reflect the change.

In addition to back-mapping terms in the database, staff also need to add terms to the Machine Aided Indexing (MAI) tool used by the PsycINFO indexers. To train the MAI tool, Galloway identifies 75 records that show an ideal use of each new thesaurus term that are then analyzed by the MAI tool. As part of this process, potentially ambiguous terms (such as moral/morale) are also identified, and 75 ideal records for each are loaded into the MAI tool. These efforts are undertaken to ensure that the list of MAI suggestions the APA indexers receive are as current and as unambiguous as possible.

Users and the *Thesaurus*

Galloway explains the benefits of using the index, saying “when researchers take the time to access the *Thesaurus*, to build a search, it’s easy for them to see the Scope Notes to give them a basic understanding of how we apply a concept. Once they understand the value of the vocabulary, their searches become more targeted, more efficient, and more accurate.”



American Psychological Association
750 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002-4242

AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

800-374-2722
psycinfo@apa.org

1102-336-3633
www.apa.org/psycinfo

An Index Term by Any Other Name

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OvidSP

Use “Subject Headings” to search *Thesaurus* terms.

To access the *Thesaurus* on OvidSP, click “Search Tools” in the upper tool bar.



Choose “Thesaurus” from the drop-down menu to search the *Thesaurus*.



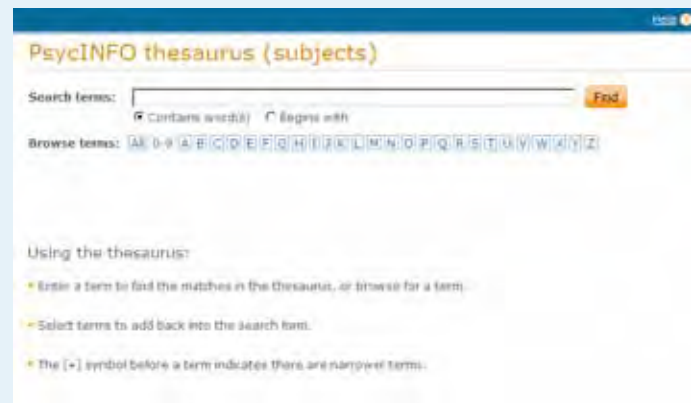
ProQuest

Use “Subject heading” to search with *Thesaurus* terms.

To access the *Thesaurus* on ProQuest, from the Advanced Search Menu select “Thesaurus.”



A pop-up *Thesaurus* search box will appear.



PsycTESTS Now Available on the OvidSP Platform

PsycTESTS, APA’s recently launched research database devoted to tests and other instruments, can now be accessed through the OvidSP platform as well as on APA PsycNET.

The PsycTESTS database provides access to psychological tests, measures, scales, surveys, and other assessments, as well as descriptive information about the test and its development and administration. Whenever possible, the actual test is provided. The descriptive information is drawn from peer-reviewed documents (articles, book chapters, dissertations, and so on) that detail the development of the test; for some tests, there are additional records about a review or use of the test. Supporting documentation, such as scoring guides and manuals, are also included for some tests.

For more information about PsycTESTS, please view the [PsycTESTS® Fact Sheet](#).

To license PsycTESTS, Ovid subscribers should contact their Ovid Support Representative at wkhealth-support@wolterskluwer.com.

PsycINFO NEWS

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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
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750 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002-4242

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800.374.2722
psycinfo@apa.org

202.336.5650
www.apa.org/psycinfo

Call for Nominations for the American Psychological Association's

PsycINFO®



6th Annual Excellence in Librarianship Award

The American Psychological Association's Excellence in Librarianship Award was created to recognize an outstanding contribution to psychology and behavioral sciences librarianship. The award includes a \$2,500 check and an inscribed plaque, which will be presented at the EBSS Forum at the American Library Association Annual Conference in Anaheim in June 2012.

Who Is Eligible?

This award is open to both librarians and allied professionals who have demonstrated significant achievement in librarianship in the social and behavioral sciences.

Examples of achievement may include one or more of the following: instruction, project development, publications, research, or service. APA employees are not eligible.

Who Can Nominate?

Individuals may nominate themselves or others. Nominations will be accepted from library users, students, faculty, library colleagues, or others with knowledge of the nominee's achievement.

Nomination Procedure and Timeline

Please submit the following electronically by **April 16, 2012**:

- Nomination statement (describe the contribution and its significance within and outside of the institution); a current curriculum vitae; and optional supporting documentation may be included with nomination (digital copies or URL's leading to online documentation)
- Letters of support (no more than three; at least one letter from a direct beneficiary of the services provided by the nominee is strongly encouraged)
- Contact information for the nominee

Submissions are being accepted online at [APA Excellence in Librarianship Award](#) (excellenceinlibrarianshipaward@apa.org).

Applications will be kept in the award pool for three years. Applications may be updated each year, as long as they are received by the award deadline.

Selecting the Recipient

The recipient will be selected by a committee of peers and be notified in May 2012.

Please direct questions to [APA Excellence in Librarianship Award](#) (excellenceinlibrarianshipaward@apa.org).



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American Psychological Association
750 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002-4242

(800) 374-2722 | (202) 336-6650
psycinfo@apa.org | www.apa.org/psycinfo

What's New in PsycEXTRA?

Editor's note: What's New in PsycEXTRA? will be a regular feature of the PsycINFO News. Please check this column to learn about hard-to-find content sources that enrich scholarship.

Anthropology and Psychology Intertwined

Definitions

psy•chol•o•gy | sī' käləjē | is the scientific study of behavior within humans and animals.

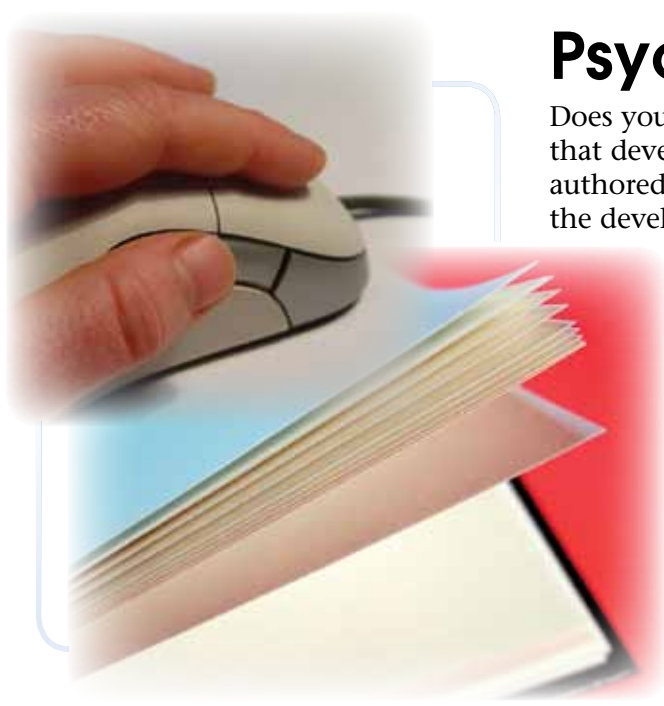
an•thro•pol•o•gy | ,anTHrə' päləjē | is the study of humanity throughout time.

The intersection between anthropology and psychology has fascinated researchers and scientists for more than century. Thanks to a special arrangement with the American Anthropological Association (AAA), researchers can find monographs, reports, and studies, in PsycEXTRA, APA's database of hard-to-find and emerging content. AAA publications provide core references for subspecialties within anthropology such as consciousness studies, policy, tobacco, drugs and hallucinogenics, aids, and the status of women in universities. Their press releases give up-to-date information on the development of anthropology as a science and AAA's ongoing policy development and advocacy on national issues such as immigration, childhood advocacy, and the aging population. The AAA's annual meeting is

well attended, and its vast archive of abstracts can be searched from the psychological and behavioral science point of view.

Researchers analyzing the relationship of human behavior and mental health often look to the cultural factors to understand the root causes. This rich new source of information on cultural anthropology, ethnography, indigenous populations' sociocultural factors, immigration, and gender issues can be searched simultaneously with APA's other databases, including PsycINFO, PsycARTICLES, and PsycBOOKS, to identify the intersection between the disciplines of anthropology and psychology.

For more information on PsycEXTRA or a demonstration of the database, please contact psycinfo@apa.org.



PsycTESTS Wants You!

Does your institution have a test collection or a research institute that develops assessment tools? Do you know faculty who have authored measures and scales? If so, you can take an active role in the development of APA's new research database, PsycTESTS.

To be considered,

1. tests must have been cited in a scholarly publication and
2. the individual or submitting organization must be the rights holder for the test. For more information on how to submit your test, please visit the [Call for Tests](#) web page or contact tests@apa.org. Or call us at 202-336-5650.



American Psychological Association
750 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002-4242

AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

(800) 374-2722
pubinfo@apa.org

(202) 336-5600
www.apa.org/psycinfo



Photo courtesy of Dallas Convention & Visitors Bureau

ALA Midwinter Meeting Events

Come visit the American Psychological Association booth #2245 at the ALA Midwinter meeting in Dallas, TX and join us for some special events

Librarians Roundtable Breakfast

Sunday, January 22, 2012, 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

This event includes a full breakfast and interactive discussion, providing an opportunity to dialog with the content development team from APA. The Roundtable is your chance to share your concerns and experiences. It also gives you an opportunity to get inside news and information about APA's publishing program.

If you would like to attend, please [RSVP](#) today. Please indicate "Roundtable RSVP" in the Subject Line. The meeting location will be provided in your confirmation message.

Brunch & Learn

Monday, January 23, 2012, 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

This training session includes a buffet brunch and provides participants a chance to

- Learn how to maximize effectiveness of APA resources.
- Investigate integrating APA training resources into bibliographic instruction programs.
- Get insights into [PsycTESTS](#) and [PsycTHERAPY](#), APA's newest research tools.

If you would like to attend, please [RSVP](#) today. Indicate "Brunch & Learn RSVP" in the Subject Line. The meeting location will be provided in your confirmation message. Also, please let us know what platform you use to access APA content.

If you are unable to attend our training events, please stop by Booth #2245 to pick up a flash-drive preloaded with APA training and support materials.

Check the [Exhibit, Conference, and Training Schedule](#) for APA events at the Association for Independent Information Professionals, Medical Library Association, Special Libraries Association, and American Library Association Annual conferences in 2012! ♦



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American Psychological Association
750 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002-4242

(800) 374-2722
psycinfo@apa.org

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In Search of: Searching PsycTHERAPY for References to Gambling

In this issue's search example, we conduct a search to see different therapeutic approaches to gambling.

Situation:

We want to see different examples of how topics related to gambling are handled in the psychology demonstrations available through PsycTHERAPY. Having the demonstrations in PsycTHERAPY fully transcribed makes it easy to search for instances of references to specific topics.

Begin Your Search in APA PsycNET

PsycTHERAPY is unique among APA's databases because of its streaming video format. APA makes it available from its own homepage, which you can access from APA PsycNET.



Here we are showing all of the databases that are available through PsycNET (note that only those databases for which an institution has a site license will appear on the platform). Note that unlike the other databases, you cannot deselect PsycTHERAPY.

An Any Field search for the word "gambling," for example, shows results for any other available selected database at the top of the screen. Results for PsycTHERAPY are on the left.



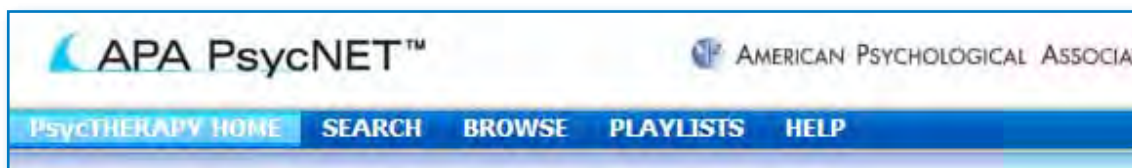
Clicking on either the PsycTHERAPY link itself or on one of the resulting records will bring you first to a terms of agreement document and then to a PsycTHERAPY-specific landing page, which has a variety of specialized search features. If we run the same search from the PsycTHERAPY page, we may find more results, as we can now search additional fields. Let's look at an example.

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In Search of... —continued from page 9

Build Your Search in PsycTHERAPY

From the main PsycTHERAPY search screen, select “SEARCH” in the upper menu bar.



This will bring you to the Advanced Search menu.

Because we want to see examples of discussions of gambling in various contexts, we will search the “Transcripts and Notes” field for “gambling.”



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ASSOCIATION

American Psychological Association
750 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002-4242

800-374-2722
psycinfo@apa.org



1202-336-5400
www.apa.org/psycinfo

In Search of... —continued from page 10


Reviewing Search Results

We then get search results that show a variety of ways that gambling appears in therapy demonstrations. Two entire videos are focused on gambling. In another, it is one of the issues in a couple's therapy demonstration. And it appears as an issue in three other demonstrations.

Search results for transcript 'gambling'

Your search found 6 results. [Refine your search](#)  

[Show details](#) [Sort by relevancy | title](#)




[Finding Alternatives to Gambling](#) Petry, Nancy M. (American Psychological Association)

Abstract:
...who has a daily **gambling** habit of playing cards and betting on sports. He finds it fun, and current...
...on sports. He finds it fun, and currently has no **gambling**-related debt, but he sometimes has trouble...
...t as well as a form that he can use to track his **gambling**. The self-assessment asks him to identify...
...and 5 other hits...

Transcript hits:

- 1 ... Dr. Nancy M. Petry And then you have been **gambling** a lot recently? Cory Yeah, play...
- 2 ...M. Petry Is it almost every day that you are **gambling** or frequently? Cory Yeah every...
- 3 ...cards I will bet on a game, so everyday **gambling**. The cards are a lot more than anything...

[Show all hits](#)



[Pathological Gambling Prevention](#) Petry, Nancy M. (American Psychological Association)

Abstract:
...who wants to get control over his **gambling** before he turns 21 and is allowed on casino boats. He cu...
...boats. He currently gets most of his income from **gambling**, playing Texas Hold-Em poker 4 to 5
times...
...t as well as forms which he can use to track his **gambling**. The self-assessment asks him to identify...
...and 6 other hits...

Transcript hits:

- 1 ...so good. So finally get my main income from **gambling**. Dr. Nancy M. Petry Okay. Tell me a...
- 2 ...Okay. And you are having some problems with **gambling**? Mitch Yeah, I am definitely...
- 3 ...I mean traded off one thing for another. **gambling** seems to be less detrimental to my...

[Show all hits](#)

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750 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002-4242

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(800) 374-2722
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In Search of... —continued from page 11



[▶](#) *Adlerian Couple Therapy* Carlson, Jon (American Psychological Association)

Abstract:
...f trust after the husband lied about losing money **gambling**. Carlson first listens to the couple desc...

Transcript hits:

- ▶ ...sore subject, because Ken had a little bit of **gambling** problem for a while and he doesn't...
- ▶ ...way. Dr. Jon Carlson So is it a current **gambling** problem or is it something that - ? ...
- ▶ ...and he was playing something there too. He was **gambling** there too, so I think it started long...

[Show all hits](#)



[▶](#) *Re-Experiencing Anger With AEDP in the Treatment of Anxiety* Fosha, Diana (American Psychological Association)

Abstract:
...grief brought on by, respectively, her husband's **gambling** addiction and the recent death of her fat...

Transcript hits:

- ▶ ...it quite well until Sunday um. My husband has a **gambling** problem and I found out that he had...



[▶](#) *Schema Therapy With a Client Suffering from Anxiety* Young, Jeffrey E. (American Psychological Association)

Transcript hits:

- ▶ ...it but I've been thinking of going back to **gambling** a little bit because that, we could make...
- ▶ ... Louise I told you that if you go back to **gambling**, we're done, and I mean it this time...
- ▶ ...and let's assume that he started the whole **gambling** again, okay? Just to make it a little...

[Show all hits](#)



[▶](#) *Mindfulness and Meditation for Working with Addictive Behaviors* Marlatt, G. Alan (American Psychological Association)

Transcript hits:

- ▶ ... Dr. G. Alan Marlatt So you are not saying **gambling** is a problem. It is more of something...

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 American Psychological Association
750 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002-4242


 (800) 374-2722
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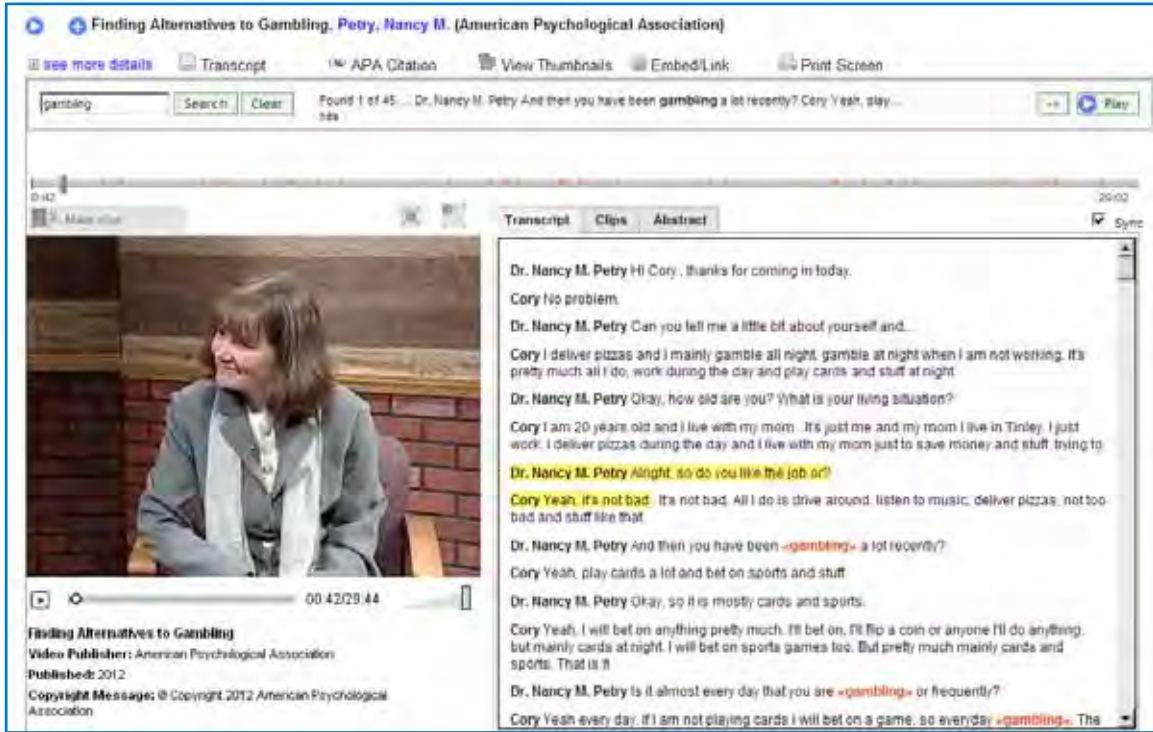
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In Search of ... —continued from page 12

Accessing Therapy Demonstrations

If we wanted to watch the entire video *Finding Alternatives to Pathological Gambling* we would click the

large  icon next to title. This takes us to the page for the video and playback will begin at the start of the demonstration.




In our search results lists, specific mentions of “gambling” in the therapy demonstration are listed in the “Transcript Hits” section. When there are 4 or more mentions of the searched term, only the first three are displayed. All the references can be accessed by clicking on “Show all hits.”

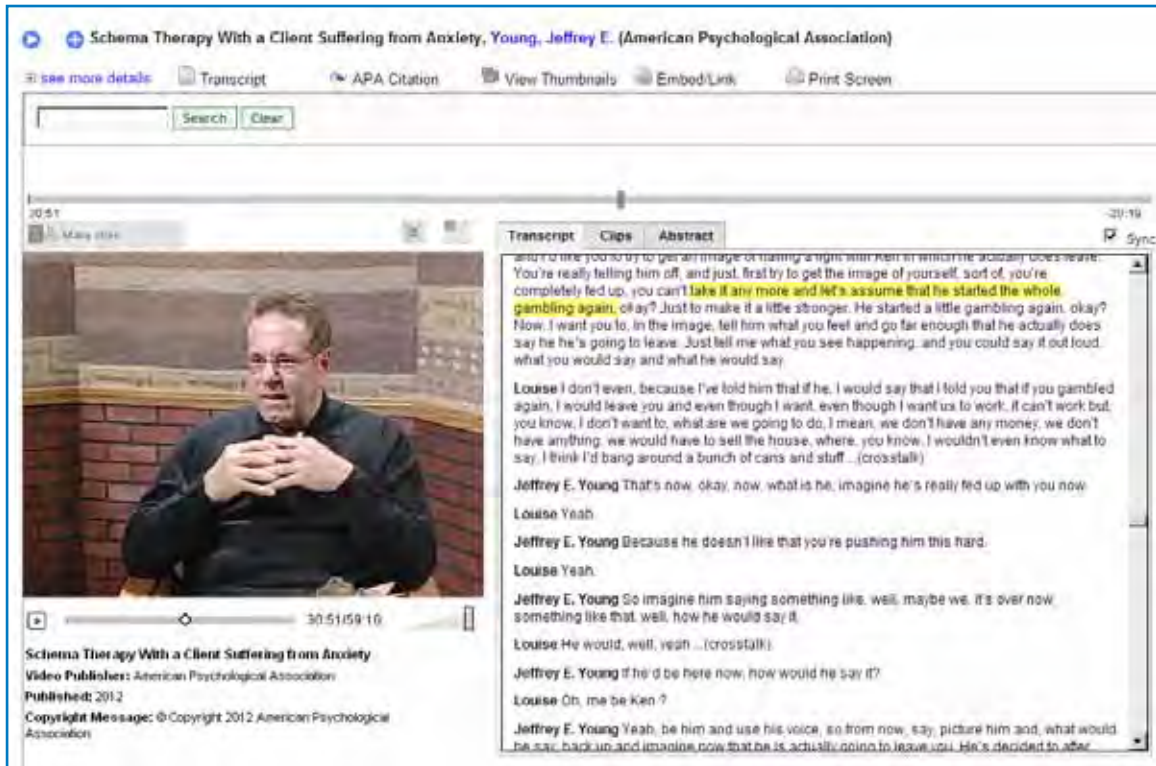


continued on page 14

In Search of ... —continued from page 13

If we wanted to access the point where the therapist says "... let's assume that he started the whole gambling again..." in the video *Schema Therapy with a Client Suffering From Anxiety*, we would click

the small  icon next to that transcript notation. PsycTHERAPY then brings up that specific moment in that specific demonstration. The relevant transcript is shown below.



Schema Therapy With a Client Suffering from Anxiety, Young, Jeffrey E. (American Psychological Association)

see more details Transcript APA Citation View Thumbnails Embed/Link Print Screen

Search Clear

30:51 30:51 / 59:10

Transcript Clips Abstract Sync

and if he you so try to get an image of having a right with Ken in which he actually does resist. You're really telling him off, and just, first try to get the image of yourself, sort of, you're completely fed up, you can't take it any more and let's assume that he started the whole gambling again, okay? Just to make it a little stronger. He started a little gambling again, okay? Now, I want you to, in the image, tell him what you feel and go far enough that he actually does say he he's going to leave. Just tell me what you see happening, and you could say it out loud, what you would say and what he would say.

Louise I don't even, because I've told him that if he, I would say that I told you that if you gambled again, I would leave you and even though I want, even though I want us to work, it can't work but you know, I don't want to, what are we going to do, I mean, we don't have any money, we don't have anything, we would have to sell the house, where, you know, I wouldn't even know what to say, I think I'd bang around a bunch of cans and stuff... (crosstalk)

Jeffrey E. Young That's now, okay, now, what is he, imagine he's really fed up with you now.

Louise Yeah.

Jeffrey E. Young Because he doesn't like that you're pushing him this hard.

Louise Yeah.

Jeffrey E. Young So imagine him saying something like, well, maybe we, it's over now, something like that, well, how he would say it.

Louise He would, well, yeah... (crosstalk)

Jeffrey E. Young if he'd be here now, how would he say it?

Louise Oh, me be Ken?

Jeffrey E. Young Yeah, be him and use his voice, so from now, say, picture him and, what would he say, back up and imagine now that he is, actually, going to leave you. He's decided to after

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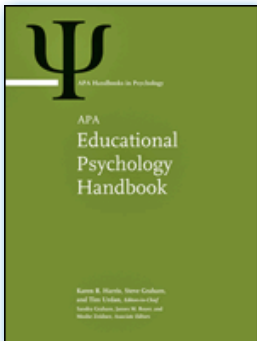
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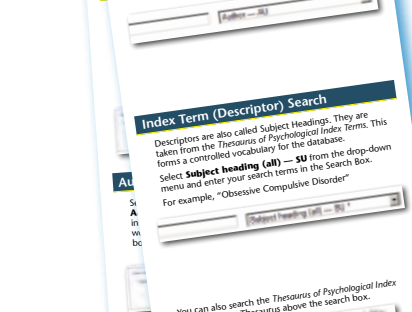
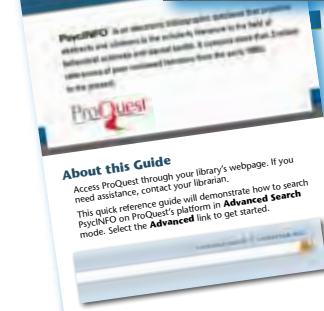
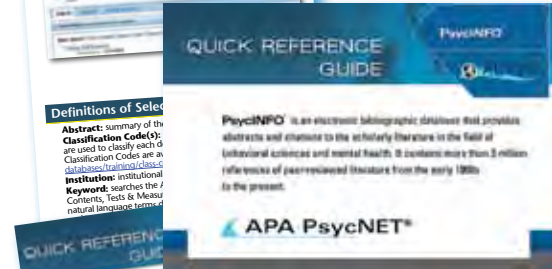
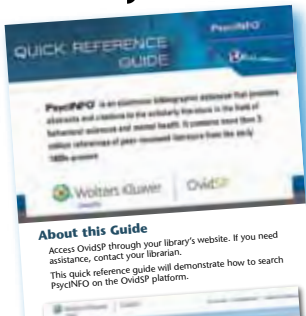
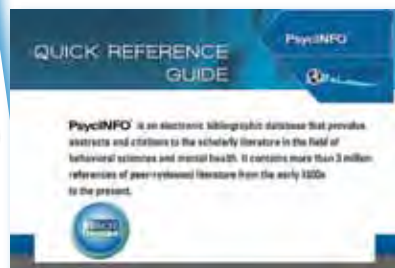
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