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Meet the 2014 Recipient of the APA Award for Excellence in Librarianship: Fred Lerner, DLS



Fred Lerner, DLS

We are pleased to introduce Dr. Fred Lerner, winner of the 2014 APA Award for Excellence in Librarianship. In awarding Fred this year's honors, the Award Committee noted his work in creating the [Published International Literature on Traumatic Stress \(PILOTS\)](#). PILOTS is produced by the National Center for PTSD and is available to the public free of charge. It is a cross-disciplinary database—its 50,000+ records are drawn not only from the mental health fields of psychology and psychiatry but also from medicine, law, public policy, history, religion, and literary criticism. The Award Committee (several of whose members use the database themselves) noted that PILOTS is an absolutely essential tool for the trauma researcher.

PILOTS

Fred described why the database was needed and how it came into being:

Because of the increasing incidence of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) among Vietnam War veterans, the National Center for PTSD was established in 1989 by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. A consortium of several centers of VA expertise, its headquarters were located at the VA Medical Center in White River Junction, Vermont, which was affiliated with the Dartmouth Medical School. Because the PTSD literature was interdisciplinary, neither MEDLINE nor PsycINFO covered all of it, and so it was felt that a database devoted to indexing the PTSD literature would be a valuable contribution to both research and clinical practice.

Because PILOTS includes multidisciplinary literature on PTSD and other mental-health sequelae to traumatic events, its content is indexed from all sources rather than from a select list of journals. Fred and his team devised a purpose-built controlled vocabulary (the PILOTS Thesaurus) to guide its diverse set of users, who range from policy makers and clinicians to veterans and the general public, through this wide range of literature.

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

(800)-374-2722 | (202) 336-5650
psycinfo@apa.org | www.apa.org/psycinfo

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In talking about the audience that uses PILOTS, Fred noted its relevance goes beyond the immediate user:

an increasing number of literature reviews and meta analyses employ the database to identify relevant studies. These, in turn, inform clinical practice and help to set the agenda for further research, which means that the PILOTS Database benefits many people who have never used it themselves and most likely never even heard of it.

Illustrating how widely it is used throughout the world, Fred noted:

A few years back at a meeting of the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies I approached people whose nametags indicated that they had come from distant countries and asked if they were familiar with the database. They all told me that they used it.

PILOTS has not only improved clinical treatment and public policy, it has also helped the National Center for PTSD and other institutions in preparing educational material on PTSD for all concerned audiences. Fred gave the example of the aftermath of a natural disaster, in which

many people turn first to nonspecialist helpers such as teachers, clergy, and journalists, and to family doctors and other community practitioners. The information on the National Center's website (www.ptsd.va.gov) helps these people provide the "emotional first aid" that can often prevent the development of serious mental-health consequences.

The loci of PILOTS within an organization devoted to PTSD research and treatment is important. By drawing on the experience and expertise of active practitioners in the field, the literature indexers can ensure that the content selected is directly relevant to their needs.

Career

Fred majored in history at Columbia University, where he later also received his MS and DLS. After a stint as Reference Librarian at Hamilton College and a couple of years at the Research Foundation of the City University of New York before finishing his doctoral coursework, he moved to Vermont to serve as Head of the Reference Services Unit in the state's Department of Libraries. After 10 years as Head of Technical Information Services at an engineering firm in Hanover, New Hampshire, he joined the National Center for PTSD, where he worked for 25 years until his recent retirement.

There's More!

Fred has published a number of books and articles. They include *The Story of Libraries: From the Invention of Writing to the Computer Age*, which summarizes the essential task of the librarian "to collect and preserve the record of human accomplishment and imagination, and to put this record in the hands of those who would use it." And he is part of the fascinating literary community of science fiction, "whose members have been engaged in a continuing conversation about the possibilities of worlds and people beyond those of our own experience." From his engagement in that conversation and with that community, he cofounded the Science Fiction Research Association and chose for his doctoral dissertation topic a study of the changing reputation of modern science fiction in twentieth-century America. Among his published writings is a science fiction story called "Rosetta Stone" that the editor described as "the only SF story I know in which the science is library science." So stay tuned, he hopes to write more stories based on library and information science.

We can only scratch the surface of a fascinating life. As Fred was unable to attend the award presentation at ALA this year, we put together a short booklet that provides a bit more information on his life and career.



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(800) 374-2772 | (202) 336-5650
psychinfo@apa.org | www.apa.org/psychinfo

PsycINFO and Psi Chi Training Partnership

Do you work with students who would like to brush up on particular statistical tests? Would you like to feel better-prepared for their next research project or graduate school applications? Find help in navigating the publication process? Then we have a new initiative that we think can help.

As we hope you have discovered, PsycINFO staff offer a number of free webinar sessions for different audiences that include librarians, database administrators, APA PsycNET individual subscribers, and students. This past spring, however, we began a series of webinars that are a bit different from anything we've done in the past. We began a collaboration with Psi Chi to co-present sessions for students in areas where they have asked for additional research help. By joining forces, we provide Psi Chi's frontline peer and teaching experience from today's best and brightest psychology students and APA's premier research tools for the behavioral sciences from APA's trained staff. What's not to like!

Background

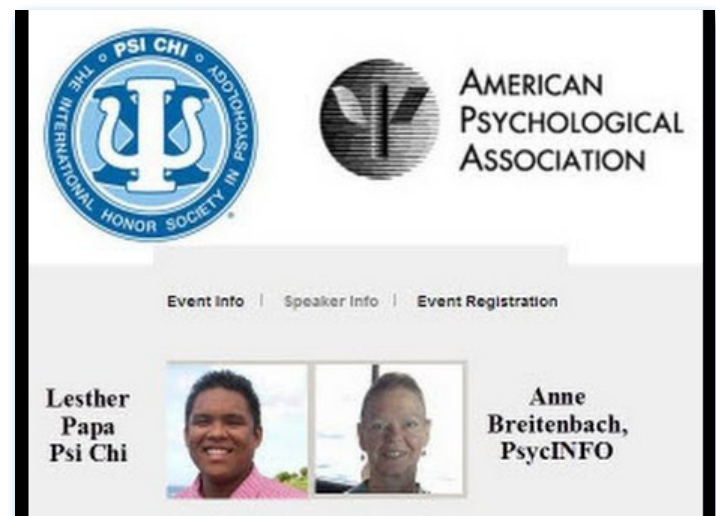
In making the idea into a reality, our first step was to talk to students to be sure we were concentrating on topics that they wanted. So we began with a survey of Psi Chi's membership to get their opinions. Next, that first set of results in hand, we asked Martha Zlokovich, PhD, Executive Director of Psi Chi, and Melanie Domenech Rodriguez, PhD, Editor in Chief of Psi Chi's *Journal of Psychological Research*, whether they could recommend Psi Chi members who combined scholarly depth and pedagogical skill to co-present.

The first name that came to their minds was Lester Papa's. Lester is a doctoral student in the Combined Clinical/Counseling/School Psychology program and is concurrently pursuing an EdS in school psychology at Utah State University (USU). Before attending USU, he received a master's in teaching psychology from Northern Arizona University and a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Hawai'i-M noa. He has taught undergraduate statistics and research methods and been an advisor on numerous undergraduate research projects. In short, he was a perfect candidate, and when he generously contributed his time and talent for our first two sessions, the webinar series was ready to launch.

First Sessions

Indisputably, testing is a primary concern of researchers of all stripes. Here at APA, questions about tests and measures are the second most common we get (after APA Style questions). So our inaugural session in April was about how to find and assess tests and measures. Lester discussed testing from the student researcher's perspective, including segments on using the reference list to find measures and adapting a test for use in research. PsycINFO trainer Anne Breitenbach showed how APA's research databases—specifically, PsycINFO® and PsycTESTS®—can be used to make finding and evaluating tasks much easier for the researcher.

If you'd like to view a recording of the session, it's available on YouTube. Please feel free to link or embed it or share it with your student researchers.



Psi Chi-APA training session on Tests and Measures

Link: <http://bit.ly/1gHg7M0>

Our second session was in June and on statistics: Psi Chi-APA Training: Statistics for Student Publication. Lester reviewed a number of tests and when to use them, covering relationships, prediction, two-group designs, multiple-group design, and causal modeling. APA's Chelsea Lee, herself a Psi Chi alumna, and Product Development Supervisor at APA on the Digital Products team, then covered APA Style guidelines on statistical presentation in text, tables, and figures.

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If you'd like to view a recording of that session, it too is available on YouTube. Please feel free to link or embed it or share it with your student researchers.

Psi Chi-APA Webinar: Statistics for Student Publication

In June Psi Chi and APA partnered on a second training session aimed at undergraduate students.



This session was on statistics. Psi Chi member Lester Papa presented on what statistic to use in what situation and Chelsea Lee from APA presented on APA Style guidelines for statistics.



Psi Chi-APA training session on Statistics

Link: <http://bit.ly/psichiapastats>

We're pleased to report that these first two sessions were very popular. We had more than 200 people sign up for the first session and more than 260 for

the second, our highest numbers ever for a single session, suggesting that these are serving a need.

Coming Up Next

Over the summer we'll be talking to other recommended Psi Chi members to see whether they would like to participate in our next sessions. We'll also be thinking hard about what topics to cover. Among the possibilities for the upcoming academic year are a search tips session, an authoritative sources session (citations, impact factors, and other mysteries), a collaboration session (how to find collaborators, ways to efficiently share information), and a how to publish session.

We're exploring the skills Psi Chi students have delving into resources at APA for useful content. If your students or your staff are asking for help in a particular area, we would appreciate it if you'd let us know. You can email psycinfo@apa.org or abreitenbach@apa.org.

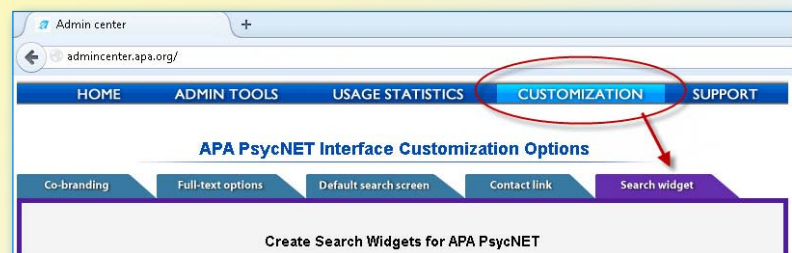
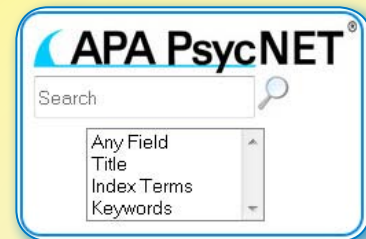
We'll notify you of new sessions as they are set via the [psycinfo listserv](#) and other APA and Psi Chi publications and social media. ♦

APA PsycNET Subscribers Can Now Create Search Widgets!

APA PsycNET Administrators can now create search widgets for their Ablogs, LibGuides, or other online resources that they prepare for students and researchers.

APA PsycNET Search widgets allow users to quickly search APA databases from an institutional web site or LibGuide. Administrators have full control of the look and feel of the widgets, including the color, size, and branding. Administrators can also choose which databases are searched and which search field options are available. And, because the search proxy login information can be built-in, users are guaranteed a seamless search experience whether they are on campus or logging in from their home or office..

Look for the search widget configuration page on the Customization tab of the APA PsycNET Admin Center (<http://admincenter.apa.org>). ♦



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APA Removes Embargo from PsycBOOKS®!

This year at the ALA Annual Conference, we made two important announcements about APA's e-book offerings. In case you missed it, here's a recap:

PsycBOOKS Expansion

We've made some big changes to PsycBOOKS! First, we eliminated the 12-month embargo on new APA publications. Second, we've added the *APA Handbooks in Psychology Series*. Current subscribers should have seen these new publications appear in July.

The APA Books® E-Collections and *APA Handbooks in Psychology* will remain available for purchase outside of PsycBOOKS.

APA & ebrary

We've reached an agreement with ebrary to make APA books available for individual title purchases, short-term loans and patron-driven acquisition. We've started with approximately 200 books published in copyright years 2009–2013.

We will be providing more information shortly. ✦

New from APA: *APA Handbook of Personality and Social Psychology*

The newest title in our Handbooks in Psychology series, the *APA Handbook of Personality and Social Psychology*, was released on July 14. It covers attitudes and social cognition, the events and emotions of daily life, as well as group processes and interpersonal interactions.

This publication is available electronically via the APA PsycNET platform, and in print. (It's also included in PsycBOOKS!) For more information, including pricing and how to order, please visit <http://www.apa.org/pubs/books/4311513.aspx> ✦

Recent Publications From APA

APA LifeTools

[*Taking Control of Anxiety: Small Steps for Getting the Best of Worry, Stress, and Fear*](#)

Magination Press

[*Bumblebee Bike*](#)

[*Not Every Princess*](#)

[*This Day in June*](#)

[*Upside Down and Backwards: A Sibling's Journey Through Childhood Cancer*](#)

APA Videos

[*Cognitive-Behavioral Group Play Interventions with Linda A. Reddy*](#)

[*Parents of Children With Autism Spectrum Disorder with V. Mark Durand*](#)

APA Books

[*Complementary and Alternative Medicine for Psychologists: An Essential Resource*](#)

[*Effects of Parental Incarceration on Children: Cross-National Comparative Studies*](#)

[*Handbook of Psychotherapy and Religious Diversity*](#)

[*Longitudinal Data Analysis Using Structural Equation Models*](#)

[*On Becoming a Better Therapist: Evidence-Based Practice One Client at a Time*](#)

[*Parenting Coordination in Postseparation Disputes: A Comprehensive Guide for Practitioners*](#)

[*Single-Case Intervention Research: Methodological and Statistical Advances*](#) ✦



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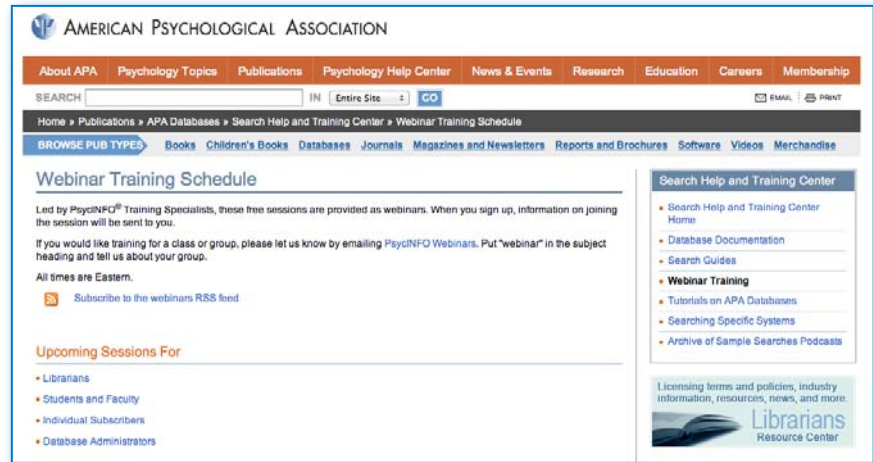
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Changes to APA Webinars for Librarians

You may have noticed that we've changed the name of our longstanding "Advanced PsycINFO for Librarians" webinar. While the content of the session is unchanged, we're now calling it "Behind the Scenes of PsycINFO: Coverage and Indexing." You can access the summer schedule and full description from our main webinars page: <http://bit.ly/APAwebinars>

We changed the name because we've been developing a second webinar for librarians! In this new session, we'll demonstrate how to use some of the fields in PsycINFO to assist your faculty and graduate students in a way that will take you beyond showing them how to craft a good search query. To give you just a little taste: currently, we're planning to demonstrate how you can help them identify journals to publish in, and see what type of research is coming out of a particular institution.

This session will debut in late July. We'll send announcements out over several different listservs, including our own. To be sure you hear about it, please consider joining the PsycINFO listserv (<http://bit.ly/PsycINFOListServ>), an announcements-only list used by APA's training specialists to share information about webinars and training materials. You can also keep an eye on the schedule page linked above.



In Search of: Finding First Posting Articles

Researchers tell us they find prepublication articles—also known as online first or ASAP articles—posted online by some publishers prior to their print publication very useful. Searching for these articles can require specialized knowledge of your platform, however, as you will need to know how to find the first posting field.

In this issue, we show you how to find PsycINFO records for these valuable articles on APA PsycNET, EBSCOhost, ProQuest, and OvidSP.

You can review the version for your platform on the PsycINFO YouTube channel:

[APA PsycNET](#)

[EBSCOhost](#)

[OvidSP](#)

[ProQuest](#)

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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

Web: www.apa.org/pubs/databases

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