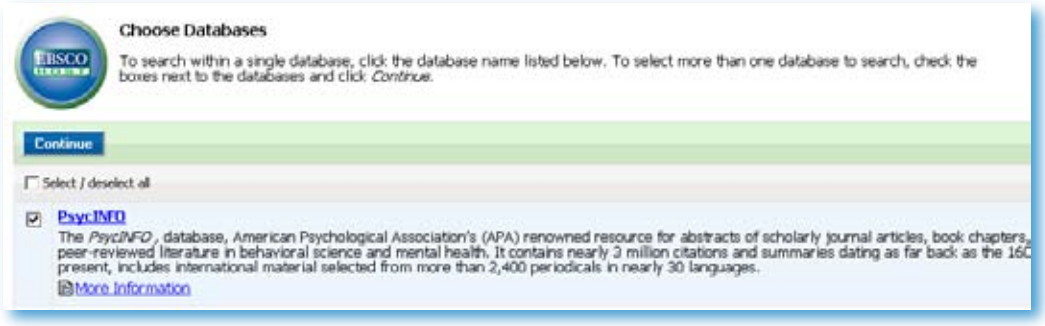
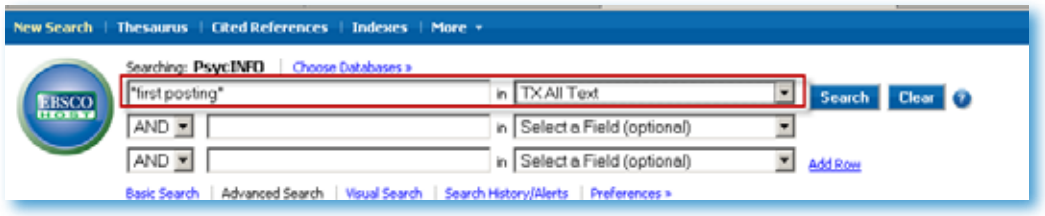
In Search Of: Finding First Posting Results on EBSCO*host* Using a Classification Code Search

A researcher looking for information on eating disorders is interested in neuroscience findings relevant to taste and wants the most current information available. She is interested in first posting results, or results that are available even before the articles are printed. First posting records have been available in APA databases since 2009, and they are different from other records in a few ways. In order to make them available as quickly as possible, they are machine indexed, and not all fields are populated as in a standard PsycINFO record. For example, first posting records have no page numbers or index terms, neither are the tests and measures, grants, or methodology fields populated. Thus, searching for these earliest records requires a somewhat different technique from keyword or index term searching.

The fields that are available in a first posting record include titles, abstracts, and the first posting publication information. In addition, the records are categorized by classification code, APA's coding system for indexing the document according to the primary subject matter. A researcher can search whole subcategories of data by using APA's classification codes. We'll use EBSCOhost to demonstrate this. First, go to the platform and select the database to search. We've chosen PsycINFO:



On the platform in Advanced Search, enter the words "first posting" and select the All Text field.



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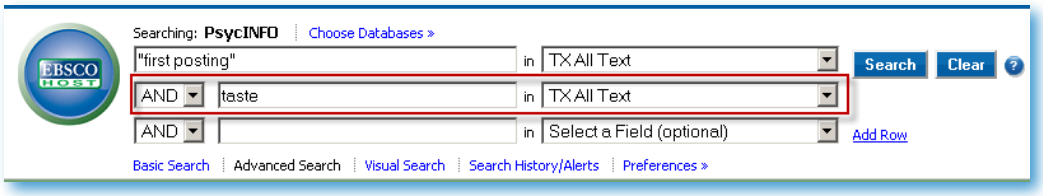
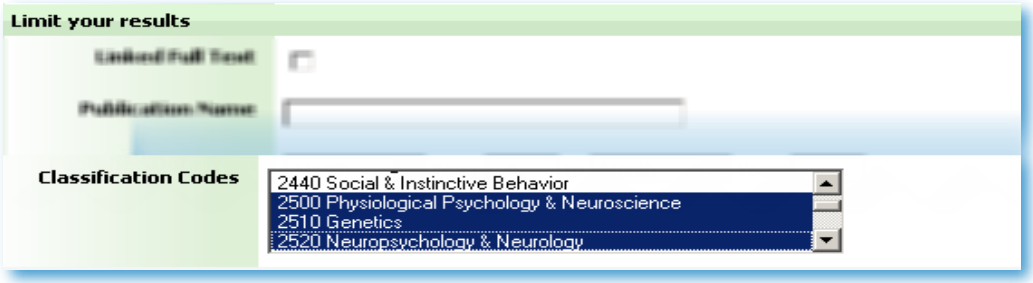
To limit the findings to taste, add another all text search in the next row. This will look for relevant terms in the title and abstract.

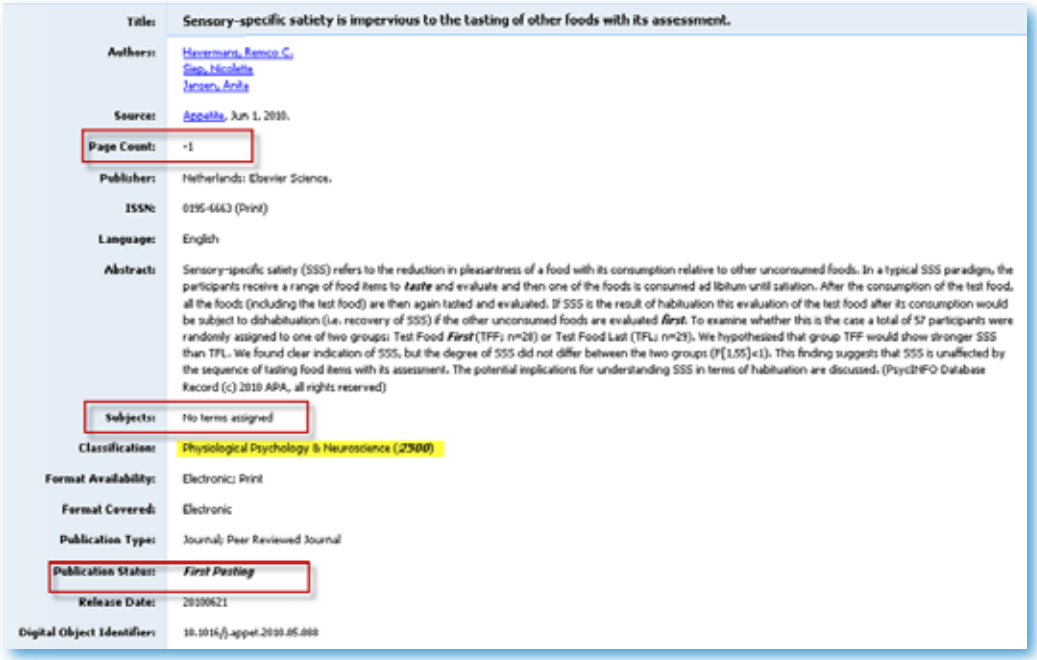


In the Limit area, review the classification codes for those relevant to your research. In this instance, we've chosen 2500, 2510, and 2520. (Note that you can select as many codes as you'd like by holding down the control key while selecting.)



Now run your search. Fifteen results are returned.

Let's take a look at one of the records:



Here are our results: References

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This is a particularly useful type of search to automate by saving and receiving updates by email or RSS feed. Using the "first posting" search limited by classification code subject groupings, you can proactively access new research prior to its being published or indexed.

Searches shown were conducted in July 2010