



# Quick Reference Guide

APA DATABASES & ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

**PsycINFO®** is an electronic bibliographic database that provides abstracts and citations for the scholarly literature in the field of psychology and behavioral sciences. It contains over 4.2 million references of peer-reviewed literature from the early 1800s to the present.



## About this Guide

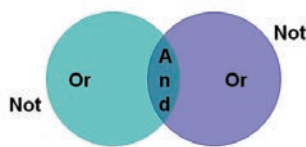
Access APA PsycNET through your library's webpage. If you need assistance, contact your librarian.

This quick reference guide will demonstrate how to search PsycINFO on APA PsycNET platform in **Advanced Search** mode. Select the **Advanced Search** link to get started.



## Search Basics

**1. Boolean Operators (AND, OR, and NOT):** Combine search terms to narrow ("AND") or broaden ("OR") results. Use "NOT" to exclude records from retrieval.



**2. Phrases (""):** Enclose phrases in quotation marks if you want to find results in that exact order.

For example, searching "perceived stress scale" will not retrieve "stress scale," "scale of perceived stress," or any other variation. It will retrieve only "perceived stress scale."

**3. Truncation (\*):** The \* replaces any number of characters. For example, **therap\*** finds therapy, therapies, therapist, therapists, therapeutic, therapeutically, etc.

## Definitions of Select Fields

**Any Field:** automatically searches all fields, with the exception of cited references

**Keywords:** searches the Keywords field, which contains the natural language terms describing documents' content, as well as the Index Terms and Title fields

**Abstract:** brief summary of the article

**Affiliation:** institutional affiliation of authors

**Index Terms:** controlled vocabulary from *Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms®*

**Tests & Measures:** lists the tests used in the methodology of a study

**Grant/Sponsorship:** the source(s) of grants, sponsorship, and funding for the research or study

## Title Search

Enter the title or the word(s) you want contained in the title in the search box. Select **Title** from the drop-down menu. For example, typing "psychotherapy" will return results with psychotherapy in the titles. If you know the complete title, such as "Principles for facilitating agency in psychotherapy," you may enter the complete title in the search box.



## Journal Search

Enter the journal title or the word(s) you want contained in the title into the search box and select **Journal Title** from the drop-down menu.

For example, searching for "American Psychologist" will yield a list of all citations from the journal entitled *American Psychologist*.



**Helpful Hint:** If you are unsure which journal to select, click **Journal Lookup** for the complete Journal Index.

## Index Terms

Index Terms are taken from the APA's *Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms*<sup>®</sup>. This is the controlled vocabulary for the database to help you find precise and relevant results.

Type an index term into the search box and select **Index Terms** from the drop-down menu; for example, "obsessive compulsive disorder."



**Helpful Hint:** If you are unsure if a term is an index term you can look it up in the online Thesaurus. Click on **APA THESAURUS** in the main navigation bar.

You can access the *Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms* by clicking on the **APA THESAURUS** link.



You may search a term or use the alphabet navigation to browse the thesaurus.



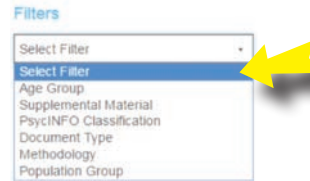
## Keyword Search

Search three fields at once for broad concepts. **Keywords** searches the Title, Index Terms, and Keywords fields simultaneously.

Enter the term(s) into the search box and select **Keywords** from the drop-down menu. For example, search "seasonality." This will retrieve records with "seasonality" as a keyword.



## Filters



Below are examples of options available to focus your search.

**Age Group:** limit your search to the age of participants in a research study (this applies to humans)

**Supplemental Material:** indicates material separate from the source document

**PsycINFO Classification:** Classification Codes represent general areas of psychology which are used to classify each document, and can be found at <http://www.apa.org/pubs/databases/training/class-codes.aspx>

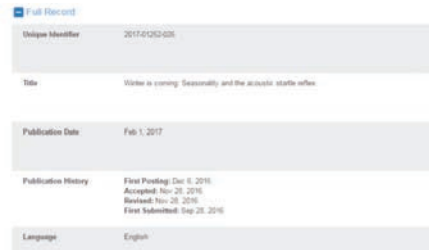
**Document Type:** limit your search to specific document types, such as bibliography, editorial, review, etc.

**Methodology:** limit your search to the methodology used in a research study, such as clinical case study, literature review, meta analysis, etc.

**Population Group:** limit your search to the group of participants in a research study (human, animal, female, male, etc.)

## Record Display

The record displays a wealth of bibliographic data, including the title, author(s), author contact information, abstract, publication source, publisher, ISSN, language, keywords, digital object identifier, and much more.





## My List

Add any items you are interested in to your folder by checking the box to the left of the title and then clicking on the “★” (Add To My List) icon.



## Cited References

The Cited References search allows you to find works that cite a particular author or publication.



## Manage Searches

On the Search Results page, you can manage your search by setting up an email alert (🔔) or an RSS feed (📡), creating a Permalink (🔗), and editing (✏️) or saving (💾) your search strategy.



## Training and Search Help

APA provides PsycINFO training, including search guides, webinar schedules, tutorials, and more at

<http://www.apa.org/pubs/databases/training/index.aspx>

And, don't miss the PsycINFO YouTube channel:

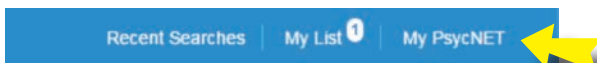
<http://www.youtube.com/user/PsycINFO>

Subscribe to the APA PsycNET Tips podcast for quick, informative tips on the many features of APA PsycNET and the APA databases available on this platform:

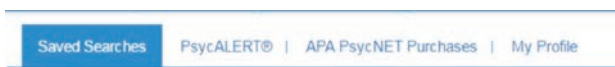
<http://www.apa.org/pubs/databases/training/psycnet-tips.aspx>

## My PsycNET

Click the My PsycNET tab to create a free personalized area.

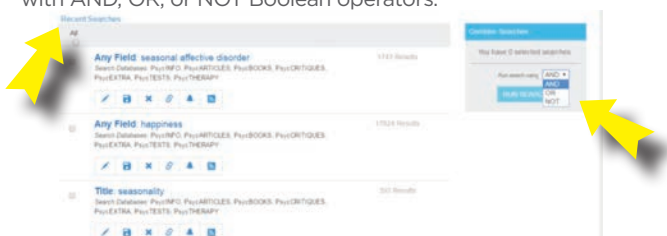


My PsycNET allows you to create and edit a user profile, save searches, and set up alerts. It also stores PsycNET purchases, including PsycNET Direct pay-per-view searches.



## Recent Searches

Click the Recent Searches link to combine recent searches with AND, OR, or NOT Boolean operators.



You have the full range of search actions available here as well.

