In August we released the annual American Psychological Association (APA) reloads for PsycINFO, PsycARTICLES®, PsycBOOKS®, and PsycCRITIQUES®. The reload provides new search features, terminology, and content that has been added since 2007. This article will give you the highlights of what’s new for 2008.

2008 PsycINFO Reloads

The PsycINFO Department of the APA released reloads for several of its research databases in mid-August this year. A reload or upgrade of our databases has been an annual event since 2002. Reloads provide our customers with new data fields, corrections to existing data, and other changes that enhance the overall utility of the databases.

APA’s family of databases is interconnected. Every metadata record that appears in PsycARTICLES, PsycBOOKS, and PsycCRITIQUES also appears in PsycINFO, providing comprehensive access to all our database content. Because of the interconnectivity of the databases, concurrent reloads for the PsycINFO, PsycARTICLES, PsycBOOKS, and PsycCRITIQUES databases are scheduled to be released this year.

New Fields

Two new fields are among some of the changes that we included in the 2008 reload: an ArticleID field and a PageCount field. These new fields are used primarily for electronically published documents. Many journal publishers are publishing electronically, article-by-article, rather than using the traditional volume/issue printing of their titles. These types of articles are generally identified by an Article ID rather than volume, issue, and print pagination. As traditional page ranges are generally not used for these types of articles, we have created a Page Count field to capture the length or total number of pages.

Global Corrections

To enhance the quality, global corrections are being made to some existing database records. These corrections include standardizing “American Psychological Association” in the institutional author field; correcting document types in records that have misapplied types; adding missing “see cases” to records; reviewing and cleaning journal history, publisher history,
and ISSN data; and rekeying bad special character
codes in preparation for a new HTML entity-based
special character system.

Updates
This year’s reload also included an update to the
*Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms*, the controlled
vocabulary used to index all APA databases. New
terms selected for this update represent concepts
expressed in the psychological and behavioral
literature as well as in areas related to psychology,
for example, neuroscience, business, medicine, and
technology. Scope note additions and revisions,
hierarchy changes, and term status changes were also
made. Of note, only four terms were deleted during
this update. As with previous reloads, new terms are
mapped to relevant records that have been previously
released to provide users with greater access to
historical content.

The new version of the PsycINFO database has been
made available to all third-party vendors and loaded
on APA PsycNET®, APA's own product delivery
system. APA is tracking when vendors load the new
version and posting this information on the APA
website. Visit us at www.apa.org/librarians for the
latest information.

PsycINFO Expands
Neuroscience Content

PsycINFO adds new journals to its coverage list every
month. Journals are added to our coverage in two
ways. Staff search for and suggest new titles, and
publishers submit their journals for evaluation. Each
recommended journal is brought to an evaluation
committee that determines its quality and relevance
and considers any production issues. One of the con-
siderations is whether the controlled vocabulary can
adequately address indexing.

Occasionally, however, the need arises for an entire
field to be reexamined for relevance. Such is the case
with neuroscience. Although PsycINFO has long
covered a broad array of behavioral neuroscience
titles, many additional journals in the field that
we had considered to be out of scope have begun
appearing in lists of journals that our users think
we should be covering. Preliminary citation analysis
of records produced in the last few years indicates
that the most heavily cited journals not covered by
PsycINFO are predominately neuroscience-related
or biology and biomedical journals with a strong
neuroscience component.

2007
In 2007, PsycINFO staff began a large project analyz-
ing coverage patterns of neuroscience information by
PsycINFO and looking for areas in which expansion
is warranted. The first step was to increase the article
selection rate for neuroscience journals already on the
coverage list; those marked for selective coverage were
increased to full coverage. This change took effect
with the first issue in 2008 for each journal.

2008
In 2008, content development staff have been recruit-
ing more neuroscience journals in areas previously
uncovered, or lightly covered, by PsycINFO. Along
with new terms that are available from the *Thesaurus*,
staff use the following criteria to help guide coverage
choices:
- Subject overlap with behavior-related fields
- PsycINFO citation patterns
- Other markers of quality and/or utility, such as
  impact factors
- User feedback

As of July 30, PsycINFO has added 12 journals that
can be classified within our neuroscience expansion
project. These titles are listed below. The complete
PsycINFO coverage list and the list of currently
covered neuroscience titles are available here:

Feedback about the neuroscience expansion project is
most welcome. Please direct questions or comments
to Lynn Willis, Manager of Content Development
lwillis@apa.org, (202) 336-5689.

### Neuroscience Titles Added in 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>ISSN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brain Imaging and Behavior</td>
<td>1931-7557</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brain Structure and Function</td>
<td>1863-2653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONTINUUM: Lifelong learning in Neurology</td>
<td>1080-2371</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cephalalgia</td>
<td>0333-1024</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journal of Neuropathology and Experimental Neurology</td>
<td>0022-3069</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journal of Neuropsychology</td>
<td>1748-6645</td>
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<td>Journal of Neurotrauma</td>
<td>0897-7151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal of Neurovirology</td>
<td>1355-0284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPG Neurologie, Psychiatrie, Geriatrie</td>
<td>1627-4830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neuroinformatics</td>
<td>1539-2791</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neuropeptides</td>
<td>0143-4179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Neuroscientist</td>
<td>1073-8584</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Update to the Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms

The August 2008 update to the 11th edition of the Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms reflects PsycINFO’s expanding coverage, particularly in the areas of neuropsychology (including neuroanatomy and neurotransmission), occupations and employment, health sciences, and computer applications and information. The expansion of our neuropsychology and neuroscience vocabulary runs parallel with an effort to increase the depth of our journal content in these specific fields. New and refined index terms in these areas (as well as other core psychology subjects) offer researchers greater precision in retrieving the content they need. New terms were gathered in several ways, including user suggestions and analyses of content from newly indexed journals within PsycINFO.

Here’s what’s new with this update:

- 159 new postable or “preferred” terms
- 87 new nonpostable or “used for” cross-referencing terms
- 11 scope note changes and 11 further status changes
- New terms were mapped back to all relevant records in PsycINFO to ensure user’s access to historical content

With these changes, the Thesaurus now includes 5,767 postable terms and 2,691 nonpostable terms, bringing the total to 8,458 terms. Although this update does not include any changes to the field structures within the Thesaurus, historical notes were added to many terms to indicate past usage, as well as previous status changes.

Sample list of new terms:
- Adjunctive Treatment
- Behavioral Neuroscience
- Central Pattern Generator
- Computational Modeling
- Data Mining
- Employee Retention
- Hyperpolarization
- Learning Management Systems
- Neuroeconomics
- Parallel Distributed Processing
- Pharmacokinetics
- Rescue Workers
- Sports Medicine
- Synaptic Pruning
- Wishful Thinking

As did previous updates, the addition of new terminology changes the hierarchical structure of related terms. These changes allow users to broaden or narrow their search by “climbing” up or down the hierarchy or by jumping through the related terms list. To learn more about the Thesaurus, please visit our website at http://www.apa.org/databases/thesaurus.html

In Search of: The Role of Online Social Networks in Political Behavior

Situation:
The role of the Internet in political attitudes, political involvement, and voting behavior is central to the current presidential campaign and upcoming congressional and state elections. You can search the APA databases on APA PsycNET to find research about this growing phenomenon.

Build your search:
Using the Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms, select the Term Finder feature on the APA PsycNET platform. By looking for index terms that are related to politics, you can add relevant concepts to your strategy.

Look for search terms beginning with “political” and look over term hierarchies to choose the terms you want to include in your search. For instance,
open the term record for Political Attitudes. Click the Explode button to add all of the Narrower Terms to your search, and click the boxes next to Political Socialization and Voting Behavior to include those terms:

You can scroll through the list of terms beginning with the word “political” and add any that you think are relevant to your Selected Terms “cart.” When you are finished, choose to add to your search using the OR operator and click the Add to Search button:

Search for the concepts of the Internet and social networking, search for these in the Keywords; doing so will look for them in the title, natural language key words, and index terms fields:

To limit your results to research conducted in or about the United States, add a row and look for US in the Geographic Location field:

Finally, to limit your retrieval to the recent election cycles, you can enter a year range:
Here are some sample titles from the 60 records retrieved using this search strategy:


Quick Reference Guides

APA offers system-specific Quick Reference search guides for PsycINFO. Guides are available for APA PsycNET, EBSCO, OCLC (First Search), Ovid, and ProQuest (CSA Illumina). They are available in two formats: a downloadable 8 in. × 11 in. PDF format and a pocket-sized guide. Download the PDFs at http://www.apa.org/databases/training/searchguides.html.

The printed pocket-size Quick Reference Guides can be mailed in bundles of 25. These are ideal for student and faculty training, and we provide them to librarians free of charge. To request the quick reference guides, send an email to psycinfo@apa.org and tell us the quantity, and platform you need.

PsycCRITIQUES

Blog has gone live!

http://psyccritiquesblog.apa.org/