How do I cope with financial stress and strain? What type of investor am I? How do my attitudes about money affect my spending habits? Have you ever asked yourself questions like these? Well, changes in government economic policies, industries, and information technology have increased the importance of our need to understand how financial markets and the economy have an impact on our everyday lives. Consumerism has become a pervasive aspect of our daily lives, and it has profound effects on our mental health and behavior. Turn on any television evening news program, and you will see stories about the effects of today’s economy on our behavior.

Psychology, the study of the mind, explores the role of behavioral and motivational factors in many aspects of human life, including finance, business, economics, and consumerism. The psychology of economics and finance helps us to understand the psychodynamics behind modern consumer culture, involving everything from buying, saving, and giving, to how we like to spend our leisure time. Psychology plays a major role in examining how personality, attitudes, cognitions, and emotions influence human economic behavior and everyday financial decision-making.

The psychological impact of economic events in society and our personal lives such as inflation, the unstable stock market, or unemployment are issues that are very real. Empirical research in the social sciences, but particularly psychology, has investigated ways to improve financial decision making and to help us develop practical financial skills. Developing financial “literacy” or an appreciation of how our economy affects our lives increases our ability to cope with financial uncertainty and insecurity in today’s society. At the same time doing so extends our knowledge of the changing social and economic environment where everyday financial decisions are made.

Research in economic psychology and consumerism, using various psychological models and economic theories spans the spectrum from the individual consumer across the lifespan to macro systems such as countries and large nations. Current areas of study include topics like inflation, financial stress, compulsive buying, unemployment, taxation, economic development, as well as consumer behavior in the marketplace.
relative to specific economic stressors. Knowing how individuals and groups experience economic processes helps provide insights into economic behavior and consumer choice.

For example, recent psychological research has shown that investment choices are influenced by our attitudes toward wealth and money. From basic research to applied theories, we can examine the psychological factors that influence the effectiveness of our investment strategies. However, research in human behavior and motivation will only take us so far. It can’t help predict where the stock market is going, when you should get in, or when you should get out!

PsycINFO is an invaluable finding and research tool for psychology and economics for consumers; psychologists; and business, marketing, and finance professionals. PsycINFO, as the following sample search terms and citations illustrate, covers interdisciplinary literature in these areas and much more.

### Sample Terms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Finance</th>
<th>Banking</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Financial Services</td>
<td>Financial Strain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income (Economic)</td>
<td>Money</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venture Capital</td>
<td>Funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costs and Cost Analysis</td>
<td>Budgets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Security</td>
<td>Income Level</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>Shopping</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economy</td>
<td>Risk Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resource Allocation</td>
<td>Salaries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taxation</td>
<td>Globalization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Development</td>
<td>Business Investments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supply and Demand</td>
<td>Unemployment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consumer Behavior</td>
<td>Consumer Attitudes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Sample Records


Although recently married couples report debt as one of their top concerns, research has not measured how debt changes relate to changes in their marital satisfaction. Further, the mechanisms that link debt and marital satisfaction are unknown.

Findings using the National Survey of Families and Households (N = 1,078 couples) demonstrated that consumer debt changes predicted recently married couples’ marital satisfaction changes...


This research examines how teenage drug and alcohol use responds to changes in the economy. In contrast to the recent literature confirming procyclical alcohol use among adults, this research offers strong evidence that a weaker economy leads to greater teenage marijuana and hard-drug use and some evidence that a weaker economy also leads to higher teenage alcohol use. The findings are based on logistic models...


A government’s budget represents a statement of its priorities. During the past 25 years, the international community has recognized that gender equality is essential for sustainable economic growth and full social development, and it has called upon nations to use their budgets to promote gender-equitable resource allocation and revenue generation. More than 60 countries have answered this call by implementing gender-responsive budgets...


Taxes limit an individual’s freedom to make autonomous decisions about his or her income. A person is likely to respond to restrictions by reactance if opposition is a promising means for reestablishing the initial situation. Reactance as a consequence of perceived limitation of freedom is likely to manifest itself through change of attitudes...
APA PsycNET Search: Global Public Health

Many public health programs are adding a global health emphasis that addresses such issues as infant mortality, people living with HIV/AIDS, conflict-affected regions, undernutrition in developing countries, tobacco use and poverty, the role of depression in chronic illness, and health disparities.

How would one search the APA PsycNET for information with psychological relevance in the area of global public health? One good way is to combine both index terms from the *Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms* and natural language.

First, choose Term Finder to build your search based on the controlled vocabulary. This enables you to develop more precise search strategies and targeted results.

Look for terms that begin with the word “global”:

Add the term *Globalization* to your Selected Terms cart. Now, search the Term Finder for the concept of “public health”. When you find the term you are looking for, add it to your “cart”, select the Boolean operator AND (because we want to retrieve articles that are about globalization, but only in the public health field).

When you add your Selected Terms to your search, you will go back to the Advanced Search screen and see the terms with brackets in the first line and with the Index Terms field labeled in the drop down menu.

To expand your retrieval, you may also consider adding natural language keywords to your search strategy. For instance, add “global public health” OR “global health” in the second row and select the field label Keywords (this searches the article title, the keywords, and the index terms). Use the quotation marks to ensure that the search looks for the exact phrase within the quotes.

Select the OR operator from the drop down box:

This search strategy retrieves 165 records. We did not limit this search by database, but you can see the tabs across the top break down your results by database. Clicking on any of these tabs will take you to only the results from the database you selected to view. Icons quickly identify whether the records are newspaper articles, book reviews, books, or journal articles.

To look only at books about global public health, scroll down to Publication Type underneath Narrow Results by. Click on “book” to limit the retrieval to book and chapter publications.
APA Announces New Quick Reference Guide for PsycINFO on OvidSP

In October 2007, Ovid, one of the Wolters Kluwer family of companies, released OvidSP, its newly redesigned search platform. This new interface replaces Ovid Web Gateway and is designed to serve both novice and expert users. New features include a simpler, contemporary interface where users can choose to search in Basic Search using natural language terms or in Advanced Ovid Search. Ovid SearchAid allows users to refine their initial searches on the results screen, and the new search results display includes enhanced sorting capabilities and results management tools such as citation annotations.

To support Ovid users, PsycINFO Customer Relations has developed a quick reference guide to help librarians and other staff train user groups. Quantities of a pocket-sized version of this guide can be requested by emailing psycinfo@apa.org. You may also download an 8.5 x 11 PDF of the guide at http://www.apa.org/databases/training/searchguides.htm.

For more information about Ovid’s redesign, please visit http://www.ovid.com/site/index.jsp.

PsycINFO Customer Relations supports all vendor platforms with training sessions (online and in person), quick reference guides, and online tutorials. These materials will be updated as vendor platforms revise their interfaces. Quick reference guides for other platforms are available by request from psycinfo@apa.org or via download at http://www.apa.org/databases/training/searchguides.html.
Training at Conferences
PsycINFO Customer Relations provides training sessions at these major library conferences:
✧ ALA Midwinter
✧ MLA
✧ SLA
✧ ALA Annual

Training generally consists of updates on all 5 databases plus new fields, new features, and search examples on major vendor platforms. These training sessions are tailored to the audience, and we always make time for questions. At conferences, these sessions are accompanied by a catered meal. We also offer individual training and consultations at our booth.

Training and Information on Database Features in PsycINFO Newsletters
http://www.apa.org/databases/pin/

Winter 2007
How To Use PsycEXTRA p. 2
Psychology Focus: Terrorism pp. 4-5

Spring 2007
In Search Of: Tests and Measures pp. 5-6

Fall 2007
Refining Results in APA PsycNET, p. 3

Spring 2008
In Search Of: Methodology, pp. 5-6

Live Web Training
Web training sessions are available at a variety of times to suit time zone differences. All sessions require Internet access and a separate phone line.

To request training, please contact us at psycinfo@apa.org or 1-800-374-2722

We will set up a time with you to conduct a training session and send you an email confirmation with instructions for joining the conference.

Online Presentations
You can view or link to presentations we have given in the past showing APA PsycNET®, APA’s new search platform, for your own use at this address: http://www.apa.org/librarians/tutorials.html

We also provide training examples on vendor platforms.

You can find tutorials on search strategies at http://www.apa.org/librarians/tutorials.html

Quick Reference Guides
Quick reference guides for searching PsycINFO are available for these vendor platforms: APA PsycNET, EBSCOhost, OCLC FirstSearch, OvidSP, and ProQuest’s CSA Illumina. All are available in 8” x 11” PDF format downloadable from the Librarian’s Resource Center under the “Search Guides” link http://www.apa.org/databases/training/searchguides.html.

APA PsycNET, EBSCOhost, OvidSP, and ProQuest’s CSA Illumina quick reference guides are also available in a pocket-sized guide that can be distributed to students and faculty. You can order quantities of the pocket-sized guide by contacting psycinfo@apa.org.

As vendors upgrade their systems, we will work to update the quick reference guides. Check back at the Librarians Resource Center (http://www.apa.org/librarians/) for these updated guides.

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Interdisciplinary Application Guides

Because of the interdisciplinary coverage in PsycINFO, we created a series of application guides that provide insight on using PsycINFO for each discipline. Each guide features selected index terms from the Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms as well as sample citations.

We currently have guides on PsycINFO for the following specialties:
- Consumer Psychology
- Education
- Law
- Military Psychology
- Neuroscience
- Nursing
- Organizational Behavior
- Psychopharmacology
- Sports Psychology

Translated versions of these guides are now available in French, German, Italian, Japanese, and Spanish.

We have recently upgraded the format of our guides and now have expanded application guides for:
- Nutrition & Dietetics
- Education
- Gerontology

This format will be used as we update current guides and create new guides.

We also have guides for these topics in PsycEXTRA:
- Consumer Health
- Education
- Public Health

The guides can be accessed at http://www.apa.org/librarians/toolkit/guides.html. Print copies of many of the English language guides are available free of charge by emailing psycinfo@apa.org.

We’d like input from you. Is there any other type of training or support material we can provide for you? Please send ideas and suggestions to psycinfo@apa.org.