ABOUT THIS GUIDE

Access Ovid through your library’s website. If you need assistance, contact your librarian.

This quick reference guide will demonstrate how to search APA PsycInfo® on the Ovid platform. APA PsycInfo is an electronic bibliographic database that provides abstracts and citations for scholarly literature in the behavioral and social sciences. It contains a rich, interdisciplinary backfile that includes 4.8 million records.

SEARCH BASICS

Boolean Operators (AND, OR, NOT) combine search terms to narrow or broaden results.

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.”

Truncation (*): The “*” replaces any number of characters and will find all forms of a word root, for example, therap* finds therapy, therapies, therapist, therapists, therapeutic, therapeutically, etc.

DEFINITIONS OF SELECT FIELDS

Abstract (ab): brief summary of the article
All Fields (af): automatically searches all fields
Key Concepts (id): natural language terms describing the content
Subject Headings (sh): controlled vocabulary from the Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms
Tests & Measures (tm): lists the test used in the methodology of a study
TITLE SEARCH

On the Advanced Search screen, select Title to search for the title of an article, book, chapter, or dissertation.

Enter the complete title, or the word(s) you want contained in the title in the search box.

JOURNAL SEARCH

Select Advanced Search and then select Journal. Enter the journal title.

For example, typing in “behavioral” will yield a list of journal titles beginning with the word “behavioral.” Put a check box next to the title(s) you want to search and click Search for Selected Terms.
**SUBJECT HEADING SEARCH**

Subject Headings are taken from the *Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms*. This is the controlled vocabulary for the database to help you find precise and relevant results.

Select **Advanced Search**, leave the **Keyword** radio button checked, and check the box next to **Map Term to Subject Heading**. Enter your search term(s) into the search box to map your term to the most relevant Subject Heading.

To browse and search the online Thesaurus, select **Search Tools** and then pick the **Thesaurus** option from the drop-down menu.
**HOW TO LIMIT YOUR SEARCH**

When you are in Basic Search, Advanced Search, or Multi-Field Search mode, click on Limits under the search box to focus your search.

**Age Groups:** the age of human research subjects

**APA PsycInfo Classification Code:** general areas of psychology which are used to classify each document. You can find the classification codes here: [www.apa.org/pubs/databases/training/class-codes.aspx](http://www.apa.org/pubs/databases/training/class-codes.aspx)

**Document Types:** limit your search to 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 Groups:** the group of participants in a research study, such as human, animal, female, male, etc.

**RECORD DISPLAY**

From the Results list, select the Complete Reference to view the Title, Author(s), Author Contact Information, Abstract, Publication Source, Publisher, ISSN, Language, Keywords, and much more.
MY WORKSPACE

Set up a personalized account in My Workspace to manage your work and preferences, including My Projects, My Searches & Alerts, and My eTOCS.

PRINT, EMAIL, SAVE RECORDS

After selecting records, click on the appropriate icon to Print, Email, Export or Add to My Projects.

SEARCH HISTORY

Your Search History allows you to combine recent searches with AND or OR Boolean operators. Click on More under Actions to select options to Remove or Save the search and set up an Auto-Alert or an RSS Feed.
TRAINING AND SEARCH HELP

Find search tips and tools from APA training experts:

View database tutorials on the APA Publishing Training YouTube page:
www.youtube.com/apapublishingtraining

Register for a free webinar led by an APA training specialist:
www.apa.org/pubs/databases/training/webinars

Contact Customer Engagement for training and search help at psycinfo@apa.org

For additional tutorials, user guides and training materials, visit: www.ovid.com/support-training.html