



How to Search PsycINFO

Introduction

PsycINFO, the American Psychological Association's database, with over 1.5 million records, is the comprehensive international database of psychology. It covers the academic, research and practice literature in psychology from over 45 countries in more than thirty languages. PsycINFO includes materials from related disciplines such as medicine, psychiatry, education, social work, law, criminology, social science and organizational behavior. PsycINFO provides indexes to journals, dissertations, book chapters, books, technical reports, and other documents from 1887 to the present.

Online Access:

<http://www.lib.uconn.edu> → UConn Libraries home page → All Databases → PsycINFO

Print version, *Psychological Abstracts*, 1927-1996.

Location: **Level 4, Babbidge Library Oversize – Non-Circulating / BF 1 P65.**

Subject Search

To conduct a simple subject search, type a search term or phrase in the **Find:** text box.

Click **Search**.

Search Limits are available on the lower part of the page.

Find: **depression**

(Finds records with the term *depression* anywhere in the record.)

Find: **attention deficit disorder**

(Finds records with the phrase *attention deficit disorder* anywhere in the record.)

Three commands, called Boolean operators, are available to combine concepts: AND, OR, NOT.
Boolean operators do not need to be capitalized.

AND – Combines search terms so each result contains *all* the terms. AND is used to narrow searches.

Find: **depression and alcohol drinking attitudes**

(Finds records containing *both* concepts *depression* **and** *alcohol drinking attitudes*.)

OR – Combines search terms so each result contains at least *one* of the terms.

OR is used to broaden searches.

OR is very useful for grouping synonyms or variant spellings of a single concept.

Find: **ADHD or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder**

(Finds records containing at least *one* of the concepts – *ADHD* **or** *attention deficit hyperactivity disorder*.)

NOT – Excludes terms so each result does not contain the term following the **not** operator.

NOT is used to focus searches.

Find: **counseling not addiction**

(Finds records containing the concept *counseling* **but not** the concept *addiction*.)

Often it is necessary to use multiple Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT) in a search. To insure a search is run correctly, use parentheses () to group sets of terms.

Find: **schizophrenia and (anhedonia or catalepsy)**
(Finds records containing the concept *schizophrenia* and also *either* or *both* of the concepts *anhedonia* or *catalepsy*.)

Find: **(abandonment or desertion) and (children or infants)**
(Finds records containing *either* or *both* of the concepts abandonment or desertion and also *either* or *both* of the concepts *children* or *infants*.)

PsycINFO has its own set of controlled vocabulary detailed in the *Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms*.

To find the Psychological Index Term for a concept, click **Thesaurus** at the top of the page.

[This feature works similarly to a dictionary.]

Type a search term or phrase in the text box and click **Browse**.

From the results list, locate the desired subject heading.

Click subject heading to display details.

Select term or terms.

Select **and**, **or**, **not** to combine terms.

Select **Add**.

Click **Search**.

Advanced Search

To search using the author or title of an article, click **Advanced Search**.

Advanced Search allows:

- a concept to be restricted to any field in the record (i.e. **author**, **title**, **source**, **issue**);
- for terms to be combined with Boolean operators (**AND**, **OR**, **NOT**);
- for **limits** to be applied to a search.

Title Search

Type article title, or *words* from the title into the text box.

[Punctuation in titles can be included or omitted.]

Use the pull-down menu to select **TI Title**.

To locate an article with the title *Cognitive errors in youth with anxiety disorders*.

Find: cognitive errors and anxiety disorders

Author Search

Author names must be typed in the format [upper or lower case]: *last-name first-initial middle-initial*

Many authors do not use a middle initial. There is no way to search for an entire first or middle name.

Use the pull-down menu to select **AU Author**.

Find: hoffman b
(Finds records by authors having the last name *Hoffman*, the first initial *B* and who do not use a middle initial.)

Find: smith j e
(Finds records by authors who have the last name *Smith*, the first initial *J*, and *E* as a middle initial.)

Other Search and Display Options

Publication Type: Use the pull-down menu to select the appropriate publication type. For example: Peer Reviewed Journal.

Print, e-mail or save results: Click the **Add** folder from the results display screen to **Print**, **E-Mail**, or **Save** results.

Customize displays: Click **Preferences** at the top of the page.

For further assistance: in person, ask at the Reference Desk,
submit to **askHomer** via <http://norman.lib.uconn.edu/askHomer/>; or call 860-486-4637.