

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

PsycINFO

ADEPT

PsycINFO is an electronic bibliographic database that provides abstracts and citations to the scholarly literature in the field of behavioral sciences and mental health. It contains more than 3 million references of peer-reviewed literature from the early 1800s-present.

Wolters Kluwer Health

OvidSP

About this Guide

Access OvidSP through your library's website. If you need assistance, contact your librarian.

This quick reference guide will demonstrate how to search PsycINFO on the OvidSP platform.



Definitions of Selected Fields

Abstract: summary of the document's content

Classification Code(s): general areas of psychology that are used to classify each document and can be searched. Classification Codes are available at <http://www.apa.org/pubs/databases/training/class-codes.aspx>

Institution: institutional affiliation of authors

Keyword: searches the Abstract, Subject Headings, Table of Contents, Tests & Measures, Key Concepts, which contains the natural language terms describing the document's content, and Title fields

Publisher Information: contains publisher information for books and chapters added since 1987

Table of Contents: book table of contents; go here to find chapter titles

Tests & Measures: lists the test(s) used in the methodology of a study

Basic Search

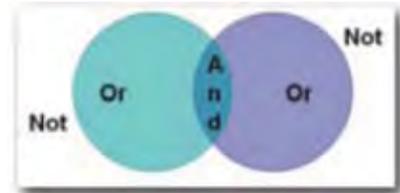
For a **Basic Search**, enter a word, phrase, or question in the search box in ordinary language. OvidSP uses natural language processing to find results. For example, a basic search on **forensic psychology** will retrieve citations relevant to that topic.

Selecting **Include Related Terms** will expand the search with spelling variations, synonyms, and acronyms.



Advanced Search Tips

On the "Multi-Field" search screen, use **Boolean operators** (AND, OR, NOT) to combine search terms and concepts to narrow or broaden results.



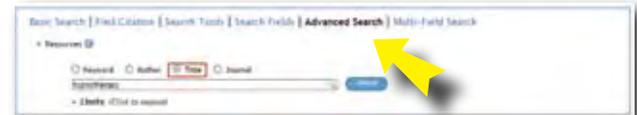
Truncation (* or \$): The * or \$ replaces any number of characters. For example, **therap*** (or **therap\$**) finds therapy, therapies, therapist, therapists, therapeutic, therapeutically, etc.

Wildcard (#): The "#" replaces one character. For example, **ne#t** finds neat, nest, or next, but will not find net.

Title Search

Select the **Advanced Search** tab and then select the **Title** radio button. This searches for the title of an article, book, book chapter, or dissertation.

Enter the title or word(s) to be searched in the search box. For example, typing "hypnotherapy" will return results with "hypnotherapy" in the title. If you know the complete title, such as "Hypnotherapy for adults with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder: A randomized controlled study," you may enter the complete title into the search box.

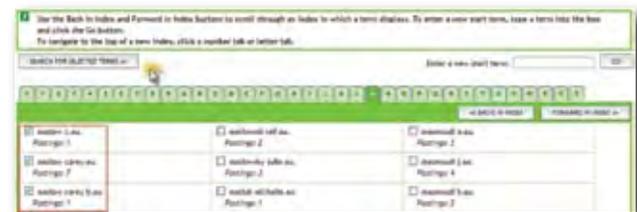


Author Search

Select the **Advanced Search** tab and then select the **Author** radio button. Enter the author's last name, first initial, or first name in the search box. For example, to find works by Carey B. Maslow, type "maslow, c" in the search box.



An alphabetical list of names, with last name first, will display including Maslow, Carey and Maslow, Carey B. Put a check next to the author(s) you want to search and click "Search for Selected Terms."



Additional database information and training resources from APA available at www.apa.org/librarians

Journal Search

Select **Advanced Search** and then select the **Journal** radio button. Enter the journal title or the word(s) you want.



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



Index Term/Subject Heading/Descriptor Search

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.

Subject Headings are search terms taken from APA’s *Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms*®. This is the controlled vocabulary for the database. For example, searching “dissociative patterns” will map to the most relevant search terms, in this case, Dissociative Disorders.



From the **Mapping** display select Dissociative Disorders. Check **Auto Explode** for a broadened search of Dissociative Disorders and any conceptually narrower index terms. Check **Focus** for a narrower search of results where Dissociative Disorders has been designated as a major index term representing the main focus of the document.



Helpful Hint: To browse and search the online Thesaurus, select **Search Tools**. You can **Map Term** or search the **Thesaurus**, the **Permuted Index**, or the index term’s **Scope Note** by picking an option from the drop-down menu.



Multi-Field Search

Select **Multi-Field Search**, enter the word(s) you want to search, and select search fields from the drop-down menus. You can combine words and concepts in different fields using the Boolean operators AND, OR, or NOT, adding as many rows as you need. For example, to find research about the relationship of bullying and suicide, enter “bullying” in the first search box and select Key Concepts from that row’s drop-down menu. Then type “suicid*” in the second search box and select Subject Headings from the drop-down menu. Use the AND Boolean operator.



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 or boxes.



You will be able to limit your search in many ways, including:

Age Group: limit your search to the age of subjects (this applies to humans).

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 subjects (human, animal, female, male, etc).

Publication Type: limit your search to specific publications, such as peer reviewed journal, authored book, encyclopedia, etc.

Publication Year: allows you to set a date range or a particular year.

Record Display

From the **Results** list, view the **Complete Reference** for a wealth of bibliographic data, including the title, author(s), author contact information, abstract, publication source, publisher, ISSN, language, key concepts, subject headings, digital object identifier, and much more.



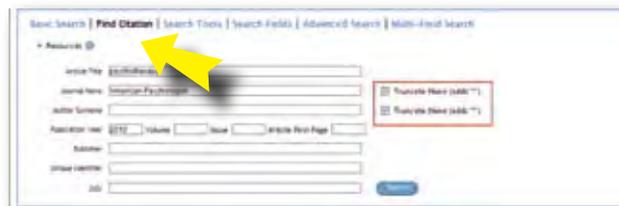
Manage Searches

When you view your results, you can use **Filter By** and other **Results Tools** to narrow your search; **Print, Email,** or **Export** selected results; and **Add to My Projects.**



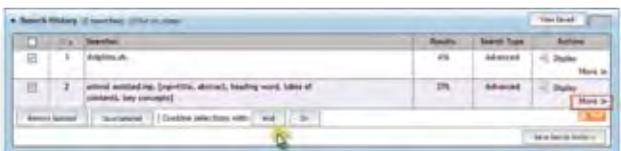
Find Citation

Find Citation is a quick and easy way to retrieve a specific journal article citation. Fill in the form with as much information as you have about the citation. For example, you are looking for an article about psychotherapy published in *American Psychologist* in 2010. You can leave the **Truncate Name** boxes checked to expand your search.



Search History

Your **Search History** allows you to combine individual searches from a search session. For example, you have searched for "dolphins" in **Subject Headings** and "animal assisted" in **Keyword**. In the **Search History** check the box next to the searches and **Combine selections with AND.**



Click on **More** under **Actions** to select options to **Delete** or **Save** the search and set up an **Auto-Alert** or an **RSS Feed.**

Training and Search Help

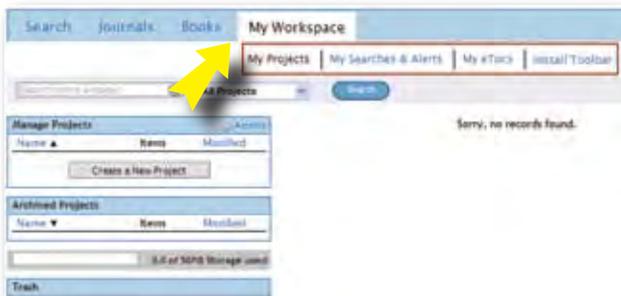


ADEPT, the APA Databases and Electronic Products Training Institute, provides PsycINFO training, including search guides, webinar schedules, tutorials, and more at <http://www.apa.org/pubs/databases/psycinfo/index.aspx>

And, don't miss the PsycINFO YouTube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/PsycINFO>

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.**



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For more information on OvidSP training and documentation go to <http://www.ovid.com/training> or contact your Ovid sales representative.

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