

Okanagan College Library
PSYC111
PsycINFO Quick Search Guide

About PsycINFO

PsycINFO is the main database to find scholarly articles in the world's literature on psychology back as far as 1887. It provides indexing and abstracts for over 1 million articles in 1600 scholarly journals from nearly 50 countries as well as abstracts for books, book chapters and dissertations.

Accessing PsycINFO

Okanagan College Library webpage www.okanagan.bc.ca/library

Click on Library Links: [Find Articles](#)

Click on Article databases: [Social Sciences](#)

Click: **PsycINFO (Psychological Abstracts)** *Tip!* Do not click PsycARTICLES

PsycINFO should be available anywhere on-campus. Off-campus access is available with a current OC student or employee number. Follow the off-campus login instructions.

Searching for a topic

Advanced Search is the default search screen. The Web interface is EBSCOhost.

1. To find references on a particular topic, enter your search terms in the boxes provided.
2. Single click on "Search". Your results will appear on the bottom of the screen

Tips!

Combining terms: Use **and, or, not** to group your search terms

e.g. social behaviour
and
sharing
and
women or female

Use **truncation symbol *** to search word endings e.g. addict* finds addicts, addiction, addictive

Too many results!

Narrow your search:

Click on a term in the **Narrow results by: Subject** in the left menu bar next to your results.

A new reduced set of results will appear.

Limit your results :

1, Click on the **Refine search** tab at the top of your results list.

This will bring you back to the main Advanced Search screen. Move down to where you can **Limit your results** by such factors as age, population groups (gender), research methodology (empirical study) and publication types (peer-reviewed journal), publication language (English)

2. Choose your limits by checking in the menu boxes. Click on your selection to highlight it.

Tip! You can select multiple items in a box by holding down the "Ctrl" key while making your selections.

3. Re-click on the "Search" button at the top of the page

4. At the top of the Results list, you can select to see only those from **Peer Reviewed Journals**

Tip! Click **Search History** tab above your results list, to track your term combinations & limiters.

Using the Thesaurus

The thesaurus tells you which terms are currently used as subjects and gives you more current terms, broader terms, narrower terms, and related terms, or tells you alternate search terms.

1. Click on the "Thesaurus" tab in the top green tool bar.
2. Type your subject word in the search box at "Browse for". Click on "Browse"
3. Click on the [blue underlined term](#) you wish to search.
You will see a definition if there is one available
You will see related, narrower and broader terms
4. Click in the checkboxes beside the terms you want to search.
Tip! On the far right side there is also an option to limit your search to references where that term is the **Major Concept** . This will greatly limit your search.
Click "Add" to put the terms into the search box
5. Click "Search" to run your search.

Searching for an Author

1. Click on the "Indexes" button in the top tool bar.
2. Select "Author" from the "Browse an index" drop-down box.
3. In the "Browse for " box, type the Author's surname followed by a comma, space and first name (e.g. Dahl, Leora)
4. Click on the "Browse" button. A list of authors names include in the index will appear.
5. Mark the name(s) for which you want to see the references and click on "Add".
6. The names will appear in the textbox above, then click "Search"
You will see the citations for your author(s) in the results list.

Viewing Results

Results are displayed 10 records per page.

Each record shows the title, author and citation.

To see the **abstract** and more detail on the article, single click on the [title](#).

Tip! Mark your records before printing, emailing or saving.

Click "Add" to the right of each record in the results list, to send it to a folder.

To see the items in your folder, click "Folder has items"

Getting Full-text of documents

. Click on **HTML full text** or **PDF full text** links, to get access to the full article.

Tip! Also click to print the citation, when you have selected a PDF text to be printed.

. No full-text link? Click on the "**Where can I get this article**" and a check will be made across OC Library databases, e-journals and catalogue to find any full-text.

. Still no full-text found, ask at the Library Desk for the possibility of a copy via inter-library loan.

Printing, Emailing or Saving Records

Print citation & abstract, as well as any PDF full-text. For your assignment, Emailing is a good option. **Tip!** Use a specific "spam-proof" email subject line. If you opt for APA format to be sent, be careful you will need to make corrections. Opt for one type of full-text file attachment.

Citing Materials in APA (American Psychological Association) Style

OC Library webpage, click on LibraryLinks: [Style Guides \(APA/Chicago/MLA\)](#)

or Check the full [Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association](#) at Library Reserve and Reference shelves BF 76.7 .P83

Need Help!

Ask a librarian at the Library Reference Desk or [via the Library webpage](#)