How to use PSYCInfo

What is PsycINFO?
PsycINFO is an electronic bibliographic database that provides abstracts and citations for the scholarly literature in the fields of behavioral sciences and mental health. It contains more than 3 million references of peer-reviewed literature from the early 1600s-present.

Accessing PsycINFO

ACCESS

1) Start at the Library’s home page: http://library.lamar.edu.
2) Click on Database List
3) Next click on P in the A to Z Listing.
4) Scroll down to PsycINFO.
5) Log in with your LEA/Blackboard username and password. Click the Login button.

SEARCHING

Search: Type your search terms in one or more of the three Find boxes. Click the Search button when you are ready. You will get a list of articles that match your search terms.

Select a Field: You can use the Select a Field pull-down menus to the right of each Find box to tell the computer where to match your terms. By default PsycINFO searches in Title, Translated Title, Abstract, Key Phrase, Subjects, Table of Contents and Author. Use Select a Field to choose a specific field (which will narrow your search) or to choose All Text (which will broaden your search).
Search Operators

**AND:** Finds both terms, narrowing the search  
**OR:** Finds either term, broadening the search  
**Not:** Finds the First term then excludes the second, narrowing the search

**Search Operators:** You can use the pull-down menus to the left of the second and third Find Boxes to select search operators (**AND, OR, or NOT**) to help your search (see above). For more information on search operators and other helpful information, click the ? icon, then click the **Search Tips** link.

**Limits:** Search limits (found under Refine Search) can help focus your search and reduce the number of results. Limits include:

- **Publication year:** allows you to set a date range.
- **Publication type:** limit your search to specific publications, such as peer reviewed journal, authored book, encyclopedia, etc.
- **Age Groups:** limit your search to the age of participants in a research study (this applies to humans.)
- **Population Group:** limit your search to the group of participants in a research study (human, animal, female, male, etc.)
- **Document Type:** limit your search to specific document types, such a 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.

**LOCATING APA JOURNALS**

When you are required to use APA published journals use the following settings:

On the **Refine Search Tab** limit your results by:

- Scroll down to the **Publisher** box and enter **American Psychological Association**
- Scroll down to the **Publication type** box select **Peer reviewed journal**

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**Results**

After you run a search, your articles will display in a Results List. The List is in relevance order. Unless you selected the Peer Reviewed Journals search limit you will see **All Results**. You can see just the **Peer-Reviewed Journals, Books/Monographs, Encyclopedias, Dissertation Abstracts**, and **Electronic Collections** by just selecting the appropriate links near the top of the results list.

Every result on the list is a brief article citation with the title, author, and publication information for the article. You can click on the title of the article (underlined in blue) to see full article citation, including **subject headings**, and an abstract (summary) of the article.

Any citation that has a link to the full-text may be read, downloaded, or printed. The **HTML Full Text** has only the text from the articles (photographs, charts, graphs, and other illustrations have been removed) with no page breaks. The **PDF Full Text** is a scan of the original document and is just like looking at a photocopy of the article.

There are sometimes links that read **Linked Full Text**. These links will take you to a different database where the full text of that particular article is available.