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What is PsycINFO®

PsycINFO contains nearly 2.3 million citations and summaries of journal articles, book chapters, books, dissertations and technical reports, all in the field of psychology. Journal coverage, which spans from 1887 to present, includes international material selected from over 2,000 periodicals in over 25 languages. More than 60,000 records are added each year. It also includes information about the psychological aspects of related disciplines such as medicine, psychiatry, physiology, pharmacology, sociology, education, nursing, linguistics, anthropology, business and law.

What is EBSCOhost®

EBSCOhost is a powerful online reference system accessible via the Internet. It offers a variety of proprietary full text and popular databases from leading information providers. The databases range from general reference collections to specially designed, subject-specific databases for public, academic, medical, corporate and school libraries.

System Requirements

To effectively use EBSCOhost features, the minimum browser requirements are Internet Explorer 6.0 or higher, Firefox 2.0 or higher, and Safari 2.0 or higher. Javascript and Cookies must be enabled and the recommended screen resolution is 1024 x 768.

Note: You must have Adobe Acrobat® installed to view the PDF Full Text files.

Choosing Databases to Search

To search a single database – Click directly on the database name link, e.g., PsycINFO. The search screen appears.

To search several databases – Click on the check boxes located to the left of the databases you want to search. Click Continue. The search screen appears.

Database Help

You can access database-specific help from within the search screens and the Result List. Beneath the Find box to the right of the database name is this icon 🔄. Click on it and locate the PsycINFO Database Information Screen. If you are searching more than one database, the Database Help Screen appears, from which you can choose the specific database help.

You can also access database-specific help by clicking on the More Information link on the Choose Databases Screen.
Using the Toolbar

EBSCOhost offers a toolbar for functions that are available at all times during a search session.

The function of each toolbar feature is explained throughout this guide.

Using the Toolbar

- **Folder** – This link will display results placed in the folder. *(Note: If you are not signed into My EBSCOhost, your folder items will disappear when the session is ended.)*

- **New Features** – The Try New Features link provides an innovative way to learn about the features and functionality available on EBSCOhost. When the library administrator activates “New Features,” the New Features link will display in the top toolbar on EBSCOhost. You can visit the New Features Screen, try out selected features for your session, learn about additional features that are already active, and read about features that will be “coming soon.”

- **Ask-A-Librarian** – When the Ask-a-Librarian link appears on the interface, you can click the link, and EBSCOhost displays an e-mail form. Enter your name, e-mail address, a subject line, and your question. If you have Search History available, you can mark the check box to indicate that your Search History should be included with the e-mail.

- **Help** – This link opens the Online Help.

- **Exit/Home Library** – This link appears only if no home library graphic and URL are available. Click Exit to log out of EBSCOhost.

- **Home Library Graphic** – Click on the library graphic or logo to return to the library home page.

The Toolbar is available on all search screens and will vary depending on the database and features your library administrator selects. Keyword, Thesaurus, Indexes and Cited References authority files are displayed on the toolbar on both the Basic and Advanced Search Screens.

If enabled in Preferences, a Language drop-down list allows you to translate the search screens, tabs, buttons and citation field descriptors into Spanish, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Korean, Japanese, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, and Greek. Preferences are available by clicking the Preferences link below the Find field.

Search Screens

From the links below the Find field, you can select the Advanced Search Screen as well as Visual Search. To choose the Basic Search screen, click the EBSCOhost logo found to the left of the Find field. You will be returned to Basic Search and your search terms will be cleared.
Using the Basic Search Screen

Performing a Basic Search

To perform a search, enter your term(s) in the **Find** field and click **Search**. Click **Clear** to remove any term(s) located in the **Find** field. The **Clear** button does not remove any limiters selected in the Refine Search Tab.

You can use Boolean operators, field codes, truncation (*), wildcard (?) and quotation mark search phrasing when performing a Basic Search. All results are in reverse chronological order, beginning with the most current item. Boolean Search techniques are explained in the next section.

If you wish to refine your search, you can view available Search Modes, limiters, and expanders by clicking the Search Options link below the find field.
Refine Search Options

Limiters and Expanders can be used to focus or broaden a search.

Limiters: Examples of limiters for PsycINFO include: Linked Full Text, References Available, Publication Name, Peer Reviewed, Publication Type, and Age Groups.

When you select one of the above limiters, that limiter focuses your search. For example, if you search on telepathy and check the Linked Full Text limiter, only linked full text articles will appear in the Result List.

Expanders: Expanders for PsycINFO include:

- **Apply Related Words** – expands the search results to include synonyms and plurals of your term(s).

Various search techniques can be used, including: Wildcard, Truncation, Proximity Searching, and Grouping Parentheses. These techniques are described in the next section.

Note: The Reset button will clear all items selected from the Refine Search Tab.
Using the Advanced Search Screen

The library administrator chooses one of three available Advanced Search Screen styles: Single Find Field, Single Find Field with Search Builder, or Guided Style. All three Advanced Search Screens have the following options available:

- **Limiters**: Examples of limiters for PsycINFO include: Linked Full Text, Publication Name, Peer Reviewed, Publication Type, and Age Groups.
- **Expanders**: Expanders for PsycINFO include: Apply related words.

Suggest Subject Terms

If you enter keywords in the Find field, check the Suggest subject terms box, and then click Search, the term(s) are searched in the Thesaurus file, with the most relevant terms displayed first.

**Note**: The Suggest Subject terms feature is only available with the Advanced Search with Search Builder and Advanced Search with Single Find Field formats.
Advanced Search: Single Find Field

To perform an Advanced with Single Find Field search:
1. From the default search screen, click the Advanced Search link.
2. In the Find field, enter keyword(s).
3. Apply limiters or expanders, using the Search Options.
4. Click Search.

In the Single Find Field, you can combine terms together (using Boolean operators) on a single line. For example, type eating disorders AND men.

Advanced Search: Single Find Field with Search Builder

Single Find Field with Search Builder allows you to combine keywords, search fields and a Boolean operator with any existing text in the Find field.

Note: If there is no existing text in the Find field, the Boolean operator selection is ignored.

Each time you click Add to Search, the new terms are surrounded by parentheses.

To perform a Single Find Field with Search Builder search:
1. Type: depression OR stress in the Find field.
2. Type: treatment in the Term(s) field.
3. Choose and from the drop-down list, as the Boolean operator.
4. Click Add to Search. These steps result in: (depression OR stress) and treatment.
Advanced Search: Guided Style Find Fields

Guided Style Find Fields provides fill-in-the-blank keyword searching to aid in complex or specific searches.

To perform a Guided Style Find Fields search:

1. In the first Find field, enter a keyword.
2. Choose the Field to search from the drop-down list.
3. Select the Boolean operator you want to use to combine the next term and press Tab on your keyboard.
4. Enter the next keyword in the next field.
5. Choose the Field to search from the drop-down list.
6. Click Search.

Using Guided Style Find Fields, you can combine terms together on a single line. For example, type confidence OR self esteem for results containing the word confidence or the words self esteem.
Search History/Alerts Link

From the Basic or Advanced Search Screen, you can save, retrieve and reuse your basic or advanced searches. You can view these searches in the Search History/Alerts Tab. New searches can consist of combined or modified searches.

**Note:** You can save your search history for later retrieval, or create an alert from your last search, utilizing My EBSCOhost. Please refer to the [My EBSCOhost and Page Composer User Guide](#) for more information on these features.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Add/to Search</th>
<th>Search ID</th>
<th>Search Terms</th>
<th>Search Options</th>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Delete</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>S3</td>
<td>(S2 and S1)</td>
<td>Search modes - Boolean/Phrase</td>
<td>View Results (4317)</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>S2</td>
<td>treatment</td>
<td>Search modes - Boolean/Phrase</td>
<td>View Results (45216)</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>S1</td>
<td>drug addiction</td>
<td>Search modes - Boolean/Phrase</td>
<td>View Results (45300)</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Search History

All searches performed are available from the Search History/Alerts link. From this window you can combine recent searches and retrieve previous searches saved in your personal folder.

**Note:** If enabled by your library administrator, Search History may also be available from Basic Search.

To use your search history:

1. On the Basic or Advanced Search Screen, when you click the Search History/Alerts link under the Find field, all lines of Search History are displayed.

2. Enter new search terms in the Find field. Use the search numbers to combine previous searches with your new terms. For example, enter S1 and methadone to combine the results of search S1 with the results of your new search using methadone.

3. Click Search. A Result List is displayed.

**Note:** To clear your search history, either click Clear Search History or end your EBSCOhost session.
The Search History Screen

- **Combine searches with** – To combine lines of history, mark the check box to the left of the lines and select a Boolean operator (and, or, not) from the drop-down list, and click Add. The lines of history will be placed in the Find field.

- **Search ID #** – The number assigned to your search. You can also select a search from the list by entering S and the search number (S1, S2, etc.).

- **Search Terms** – The terms you entered in the Find field, including any field codes or Boolean operators. If you have set up the search as an RSS feed, the RSS logo will appear.

- **Search Options** – The limiters and/or expanders used in your search are displayed.

- **Actions**
  - View Results/Rerun – Either View Results (xx) or Rerun appears as a hyperlink. Click the link to return the search and display an updated Result List.
  - Revise Search – Indicates that the lines of search can be edited. When you click Revise Search, the search terms are displayed in the Find field and the limiters and expanders. You can then edit the search manually, entering field codes or changing limiters on the Search Options area.
  - View Details – To view the details of the search, including which interface, search screen and database were used, click View Details. A pop-up window appears, displaying the details of the search.

- **Delete** – Indicates that individual lines of search history can be deleted. If you delete a line earlier within search history, any dependent lines are deleted, and the remaining lines of history are renumbered. A message displays when you delete lines of search history.

The Search History available to you includes only those searches from the current EBSCOhost® session. Unless saved in your My EBSCOhost personal folder, Search History is cleared when the session ends.

If you change databases, your Search History will be saved. Your Search History does not display the number of results when you open a new database. To view the results click the Rerun link in the Action column and a search is launched in the new database and its results are added to the Search History.
Search Techniques

Boolean Searching

Boolean logic defines logical relationships between search terms. The Boolean search operators AND, OR and NOT allow you to broaden or focus your search results.

- The AND operator combines search terms so that each result contains all of the terms. For example, social AND behavior will result in articles that contain both social and behavior.

- The OR operator combines search terms so that each result contains at least one of the terms. For example, analgesic OR psychotropic will result in articles that contain either analgesic or psychotropic.

- The NOT operator excludes search terms so that each result will not contain any of the terms that follow it. For example, analgesic NOT psychotropic will result in articles that contain the term analgesic, but not the term psychotropic.

The Wildcard (?) and Truncation (*) Symbols

Use the wildcard and truncation symbols in searches using terms with unknown characters, multiple spellings or various endings.

Note: Neither the wildcard nor the truncation symbol can be used as the first character in a search term.

- The wildcard is represented by a question mark (?). To use the wildcard, enter the search terms and replace each unknown character with a (?). EBSCOhost® will provide results containing variations of that character set, with the “?” replaced by a letter. For example, type ne?t to find all citations containing neat, nest or next. EBSCOhost will not find net because the wildcard replaces a single character.

- Truncation is represented by an asterisk (*). To use truncation, enter the root of a search term and replace the ending with an asterisk (*). EBSCOhost will find all available forms of that word. For example, type occu* to find the words occupied or occupational.
Proximity Search

A Proximity Search produces results with two or more terms that appear a specified number of words (or fewer) apart in the database(s). The proximity operator is composed of a letter (N or W) and a number (to specify the number of words), placed between search terms.

- **Near Operator (N)** – N5 will find a result if the terms are within five (5) words of each other, regardless of the order in which they appear.

  For example, type eating N5 disorders for results that contain eating disorders, as well as mental disorders and eating pathology.

- **Within Operator (W)** – W8 will find a result if the terms are within eight (8) words of each other, in the exact order entered.

  For example, type eating W8 disorders for results that contain eating disorders, but not mental disorders and eating pathology.

Grouping Terms Together Using Parentheses

Parentheses can be used to control a search query. Without parentheses, a search is executed from left to right. However, words enclosed in parentheses are searched first.

Why is this important? Parentheses allow you to define the way the search will be executed. The left phrase in parentheses is searched first; then, based upon those results, the second phrase in parentheses is searched.

**Generalized Search:** eating disorders or men and self esteem or media

**Focused Search:** (eating disorders or men) and (self esteem or media)

In the first example, the search will retrieve results on eating disorders, as well as references to the terms men and self esteem, and everything on media.

In the second example, parentheses control the query to only find articles about eating disorders or men that reference self esteem or media.

Command Line Searching

Command line searching can be used to conduct searches on either Basic or Advanced Search screens. Manually entering Boolean expressions and field codes in the search field will produce the same results as using the drop-down lists to build your search.

For example, typing AU Brown will produce results that include Brown in the article’s Author citation field. Typing AU Brown and JN British Journal of Sociology will produce results that include Brown in the Author citation field only if they are from the British Journal of Sociology.

For a list of searchable field codes, click on this icon directly to the right of the database name below the Find box. Click on it and locate the PsycINFO Database Information Screen.

Spell Checker

EBSCOhost automatically checks for commonly misspelled words when a search is performed, and will suggest alternate spellings.
ToolBar Options

As an alternative to keyword searching, EBSCOhost® offers the capability to search a database by browsing the thesaurus file, indexes and cited references.

Searching the Thesaurus

The Thesaurus Authority File contains the subject headings from the Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms. American Psychological Association indexers use this controlled vocabulary known as index terms or descriptors. Subjects are indexed for every record using major and minor descriptors, which describe the primary and secondary focus of the document. Subject headings, which describe the major focus of a document, are preceded by an asterisk (*) in the PsycINFO record.

The Thesaurus is arranged in a hierarchy that permits searching various levels of detail from the most general level to more narrow levels, to find the most precise concept. Thesaurus entries include indexing notations, scope notes, use, used for, narrow, broader, and related terms.

The authority file provides flexibility in searching. As an alternative to the keyword search mode, the authority file enables the user to search by subject and to combine one or more terms to create more defined searches. Select the Term Begins With option to position the authority file list to the term(s) entered with an exact match presented first, when available. Select Relevancy Ranked to order search results according to relevance.

Subheadings and their abbreviations can be found by clicking on the Database Help link.

To browse the Thesaurus:

To browse a list of subject headings available in the database, click the Thesaurus link on the top toolbar.

Enter search terms in the Browse for field, and then select either the Term Begins With, Term Contains, or Relevancy Ranked radio button and click Browse. A list of headings is displayed. As you select headings, mark Explode and/or Major Concept, and then add to your search using OR, AND, or NOT, your search is being built in the Find field.

To display a list of results that match your search terms, click Search.
**Term Begins With** – Enter a term in the **Browse for** field and choose **Term Begins With**. An alphabetical list is displayed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(Click term to display details)</th>
<th>Explode</th>
<th>Major Concept</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eating Behavior</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eating Attitudes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eating Behavior</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eating Disorders</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Terms Contains** – Enter a term in the **Browse for** field and click **Term Contains**. Results will appear if the term contains the term.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(Click term to display details)</th>
<th>Explode</th>
<th>Major Concept</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eating Behavior</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eating Behavior</td>
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<tr>
<td>binge Eating</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eating Attitudes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eating Disorders</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruminating (Eating)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Relevancy Ranked – Enter a term in the Browse for field and choose Relevancy Ranked. The exact match for the term appears first in the list, followed by the relevancy ranked list.

Using Explode and Major Concept

Explode

When you Explore a term, you create a search query that expands the subject heading to retrieve all references indexed to that term, as well as those indexed to any narrower terms.

Major Concept

When you select Major Concept for a term, you create a search query that finds only records for which the subject heading is a major point of the article. Searches are limited with specific qualifiers (subheadings) to increase the precision of the search.

Combining Explode and Major Concept

If you select Explore and Major Concept, EBSCOhost will retrieve all references indexed to your term (and its narrower terms) and all articles for which the subject heading is a major point of the article.
Searching by Indexes

You can browse a list of indexes for a specific database. The list of indexes shows available citation fields.

**Note:** Unless otherwise specified by your library administrator, Index Browse is only available from the Advanced Search Screen.

**To search by Indexes:**

1. Click the Indexes toolbar link.
2. Choose the field you would like to view from the drop-down list, for example: **Classification**.
3. Enter your search term in the **Browse for** field, e.g., **robotics**.
4. Click **Browse** to list your search results in alphabetical order, beginning with your selected term.
5. Click the box next to the term you want to select. Repeat steps 2-4 to add more items to the **Browse for** field.
6. Click **Search**.
Searching by Cited References

EBSCOhost® allows users of PsycINFO® to browse and search by cited references. Enter search terms next to Cited Author, Cited Title, Cited Source, Cited Date or All Citation Fields.

To search by Cited References:

1. Click the Cited References button from the sub-toolbar. The Cited References Screen appears.
2. Enter search terms next to Cited Author, Cited Title, Cited Source, Cited Date or All Citation Fields and then click Search.

The results of a reference search are displayed below the Cited References sub-tab. The search fields remain available so you can edit your search terms or conduct a new search.

Cited References – From the Cited References Search Screen, the Cited References sub-tab presents a list of citation records for the search terms entered.
Citing Articles – From the Cited References sub-tab, you can mark check boxes, click the Find Citing Articles button, and retrieve a list of Citing Articles.

Result List Features

Navigation Arrows – In a Result List, navigation arrows allow you to access the next or previous page of results. The numbers allow you to go directly to a specific page.

Linked Full Text – If enabled, Linked Full Text will bring you to the full text article, if available from alternate sources, e.g., other EBSCOhost databases you subscribe to, EJS, or CrossRef.

Add – The Add to Folder option allows you to add one or all results on the page to your folder. For more information on the folder, please refer to the My EBSCOhost section of this guide.

The Result List displays search sorted by relevance, and displays the total number of results above and below them, on the left side.

You can sort the results by Date, Author, Source or Relevance using the Sort by: drop-down list.
Persistent Link to Searches

Once a search has been performed, you can add a persistent link to a search to the folder. The link to a search can be e-mailed or saved and will allow you to conduct the search again by clicking on the link, or entering it in the address field. To add a link to your folder, click on the Alert/Save/Share link in the upper right corner of the result list and then click Add search to folder link in the resulting pop-up menu.

To copy a persistent link to the current search on the screen, click the Alert/Save/Share link. Highlight the Permalink in the link field in the resulting pop-up menu and copy using your browser’s copy function. You can immediately paste the link into a web site, document or e-mail.
Detailed Citation Features

Print/E-mail/Save Options

For information about Printing, E-mailing, and Saving citations or articles from PsycINFO, please download the EBSCOhost Print/E-mail/Save User Guide.

Arrows – The arrows to the left and right of the record number allow you to navigate to the previous or next result.

Result List – Clicking this link will return you to the Result List.

Refine Search – Clicking this link allows you to apply limiters and expanders to your search.

Print/E-mail/Save/Export/Cite/Folder – These icons allow you to Print, E-mail or Save the current result, Export your citations in a variety of bibliographic manager formats, get a citation in various formats and add the article to the folder or access the folder.

View – This option allows you to view other items available for this citation, e.g., Linked Full Text.

Find Similar Results – When this link appears, you can click the link to perform a search for articles with similar subject headings. A new Result List will display.

The following items may change, depending on the item selected:

Cited References – This link displays the number of references used to write this article.
**Times Cited in this Database** – This link displays the number of times this document was cited by other documents in this database.

**Title** – This field displays the title of the document.

**Translated Title** – This field displays the English-language translation of the title of a document written in a non-English language.

**Series Title** – This field displays the series title of a book or book chapter's "parent" book, may contain a non-English title. This appears in Book or Chapter records only.

**Author(s)** – This field displays the names of all authors of the document.

**Institutional Author(s)** – This field displays the names of all institutions responsible for creation of the document.

**Address** – This field displays the institutional affiliation of the first-listed author of the document.

**Source** – This field displays the source in which the article was published and other publication information.

**ISSN/ISBN** – This field displays the International Standard Serial Number/International Standard Book Number assigned to the document.

**Order Number** – This field displays the UMI Dissertation Order Number.

**Document Link URL** – This field displays the Uniform Resource Locator where an online version of the document, a full-text version of the document, or additional information, is available.

**Digital Object Identifier (DOI)** – A DOI is a permanent identification system for intellectual property found on the Internet. The identifier contains the naming convention registered to a DOI registration agency (currently, the International DOI Foundation).

**Language** – This field displays the language of the document.

**Key Concepts** – A concise, uncontrolled content description of the document currently formatted as keywords.

**Abstract** – This field displays the summary or abstract of the document. An abstract will appear in all records from 1995 to present.

**Subjects** – This field displays the index terms from the Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms which describe the primary and secondary focus of the document. Major descriptors are preceded by an asterisk (*).

**Classification** – This field displays the *PsycINFO* classifications that describe broad areas of the field of psychology and their corresponding four-digit code.

**Population** – This field displays the standardized description of specific populations related to the content of the document.

**Location** – This field displays the standardized description of continents, regions, and country names related to the content of the document.

**Age Group** – This field displays a standardized description of specific population age groups related to the content of the document.

**Form/Content Type** – This field identifies the specific form or function of the document.

**Special Feature** – This field identifies the specific features in, or items accompanying the document.

**Intended Audience** – This field identifies the intended audience of the document and appears in Book and Chapter citations only.
Conference – This field displays the name and other information about a conference at which the document was presented.

Conference Notes – This field displays information about additional conferences at which the document was presented, or information about a conference from which the document was derived.

Notes – This field displays miscellaneous information about the document, including reprint citations or information about forms of other previous publications of the content.

Table of Contents – This field displays the entire or shortened table of contents from the book and appears in Book records only.

Publication Type – This field identifies the general type of the document such as Authored Book, Edited Book, Journal Article, etc. The first entry in this field consists of ‘Media Type’ which identifies the broad, physical medium of the document or item such as “Print (Paper).”

Release Date – This field displays the date the record was released into the PsycINFO database in YYYYMMDD format.

Correction Date – This field displays the date a corrected version of the record was released into the PsycINFO database in YYYYMMDD format.

Accession Number – This field displays the unique number used to identify each PsycINFO record.

Persistent Link to this Article – This field displays a link to an article that can be e-mailed or saved and will allow you to retrieve the same article again by clicking on the link, or entering it in the address field.

Database – This field displays the name of the database this article was retrieved from.
My EBSCOhost and Page Composer

Please follow the link below to reference the My EBSCOhost and Page Composer User Guide:

Click here to view the My EBSCOhost and Page Composer User Guide.

For more information on EBSCOhost functionality, please visit our Knowledge Base (Frequently Asked Questions)

Click here to visit our Knowledge Base

Download the complete EBSCOhost User Guide:

Click here to view the EBSCOhost User Guide