

Getting Started with PsycINFO

PsycINFO contains over 2.4 million citations and summaries of journal articles, book chapters, books and dissertations, in the scholarly literature of the behavioral sciences and mental health. Journal coverage, which spans from 1872 to the present, includes international material selected from more than 2100 periodicals in over 35 languages.

The steps in the booklet also apply to the other EBSCO databases.

Accessing PsycINFO

To access PsycINFO, simply go to the library home page at <http://www.unmc.edu/library>. Note the lower right hand corner of the screen below Online Resources



2. Click on the letter P

Online Resources Listed by Title: [A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

3. Click on [PsycINFO \(Psychology\)](#)

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Sample Record

When you enter a keyword or word phrase in the default search box, PsycINFO will look for these words within the fields of each record. The following record displays all the fields of a citation:

Title of record	Solving the Complex Puzzle of the Incidence of Anorexia Nervosa One Piece at a Time . Pike, Kathleen M.; International Journal of Eating Disorders, Vol 35(3), Apr 2004. pp. 260-262. [Peer Reviewed Journal] Abstract: Comments on the study by G. Milos et al (see record 2004-13147-002) on the long-term incidence of severe anorexia nervosa in Switzerland. One notable exception to the stability of the data was their finding that the
Author of record	
Journal Abbrev.	
Date/Volume/Pgs.	
Publication type	
Abstract	

Basic Searching

Keyword Searching

When you enter PsycINFO, you will be taken to the Advanced Search screen. Next to the **Find** box the default fields option will be selected. This means that when you enter a single word or word phrase, PsycINFO will search for these words in **all** the fields of **all** the records.

EBSCO Research Databases [New Search](#)

Basic Search Advanced Search Choose Databases

Keyword Publications CINAHL Headings Images

Database: [CINAHL](#)

Find: in

and in

and in

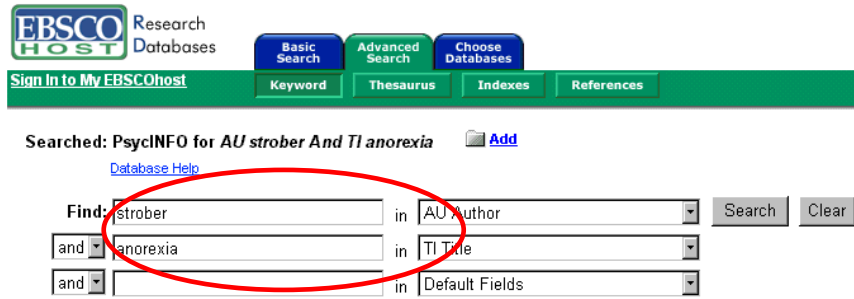
Using keywords is the broadest way of searching and oftentimes can result in a large number of citations. For example, entering the word “heart” in the first find box results in over 20,000 records. If the truncation symbol “*” (asterisk) is used at the end of the word, meaning records with the word “heart” or “hearts” will be found, more than 400 additional records will be returned. In some cases, doing a keyword search is a good way to start searching when:

- You are searching for an esoteric topic.
- You just want to see how much has been written on the topic.
- You do not know what specific search terms to use to narrow the topic.
- You are just beginning your search.

Field Searching

Searching in only certain fields is a useful way to locate very specific information. A good use of field searching is when you are looking for a specific author or trying to verify that a citation is correct.

For example, you know that the author **Strober** wrote an article about **Anorexia**, but you do not recall the name of the journal, the year, or the page numbers. Click on the pull down menus to the right of the Find box. You will have the option of selecting which field you want PsycINFO to search.




Advanced Searching

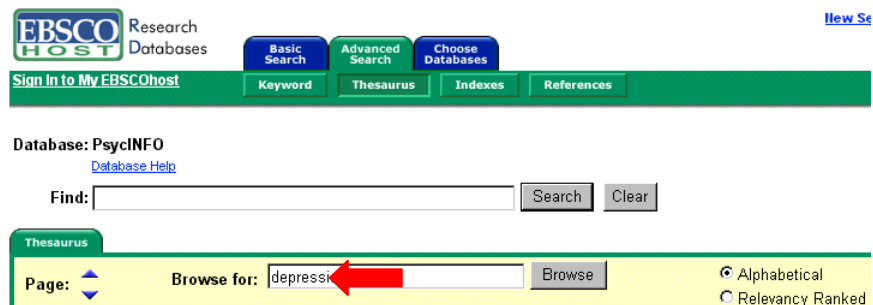
Step 1: Subject Searching

The preferred way to search is to use the controlled vocabulary called the **Thesaurus**. This will help ensure that articles on a particular subject will be retrieved. These subject terms are assigned to each record to describe the content of the article. PsycINFO Thesaurus terms are arranged in a hierarchy, to allow you to search from the most general to more narrow terms. Many thesaurus terms can be **exploded** to retrieve all references indexed to that term, as well as all references indexed to any narrower term(s). Searches can also be limited to **major** concept to indicate the main focus of an article.

To find articles about adolescents with eating disorders who suffer from depression, we need to first decide what our main concepts are. This particular search has three main concepts:

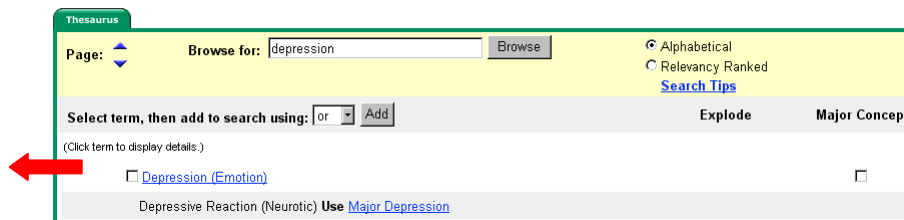
1. depression
2. eating disorders
3. adolescents

To select terms from PsycINFO's controlled vocabulary, click on the PsycINFO Thesaurus button . Enter the first concept, depression, in the **Browse for:** box and click the browse button.



PsycINFO Thesaurus terms that match the word or word phrase that you entered will be listed.

Clicking directly on the linked term **Depression (Emotion)** will allow you to see the details of the term.



Thesaurus

← Previous Browse for: Browse

← Back to List

Alphabetical
Relevancy Ranked

Search Tips

Select term, then add to search using: Add

	Explode	Major Concept
<input type="checkbox"/> Depression (Emotion)		<input type="checkbox"/>
Year Term Introduced	1967	
Scope Note	Mild depression that is not considered clinical depression. Prior to 1988, also used for major depression in clinical populations. For clinical depression, use MAJOR DEPRESSION.	
Broader Terms	<input type="checkbox"/> Emotional States	<input type="checkbox"/>
Related Terms	<input type="checkbox"/> Major Depression +	<input type="checkbox"/>

You will notice in the description of **Depression (Emotion)** that the term **Major Depression** is also mentioned. Since we want to keep our search as broad as possible to start out, we may also want to use the term **Major Depression** in our search.

Option 1: Exploding a Term (expands a search)

The + sign following the heading “Major Depression” indicates that narrower terms are available to search and they are listed below the term.

If you click in the box next to **Explode**, PsycINFO will search for all the records indexed for “Major Depression”, as well as the narrower terms. When a heading is exploded, all of the terms will be searched together using ‘OR’. Exploding a term will broaden your search.

Rule of thumb: If you can explode, do so. If you get too many results, you can always change it later.

Select term, then add to search using: Add

	Explode	Major Concept
<input type="checkbox"/> Major Depression	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Year Term Introduced	1988	
Scope Note	Affective disorder marked by dysphoric mood, inactivity, lack of interest, insomnia, feelings of worthlessness, diminished ability to think, and thoughts of suicide. Consider DEPRESSION (EMOTION) to access references prior to 1988. Use DEPRESSION (EMOTION) for nonclinical depression. In 1988, this term replaced the discontinued term PSYCHOTIC DEPRESSIVE REACTION, and in 2000 it replaced the term NEUROTIC DEPRESSIVE REACTION. In 2000, these terms were stripped from all records and replaced with MAJOR DEPRESSION.	
Broader Terms	<input type="checkbox"/> Affective Disorders	<input type="checkbox"/>
Narrower Terms	<input type="checkbox"/> Anaclitic Depression	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Dysthymic Disorder	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Endogenous Depression	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Involutional Depression	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Postpartum Depression	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Reactive Depression	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Recurrent Depression	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Treatment Resistant Depression	<input type="checkbox"/>

Option 2: Major Concept (narrows/focuses a search)

If you click in the box next to **Major Concept**, you will limit your results to only the records where “Major Depression” or any of the narrower terms are the *main focus* of the article.

Rule of thumb: Don't use this option unless you have already searched and have a large number of results.



Select term, then add to search using:	or	Add	Explode	Major Concept
<input type="checkbox"/> Major Depression			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Year Term Introduced		1968		
Scope Note		Affective disorder marked by dysphoric mood, inactivity, lack of interest, insomnia, feelings of worthlessness, diminished ability to think, and thoughts of suicide. Consider DEPRESSION (EMOTION) to access references prior to 1968. Use DEPRESSION (EMOTION) for nonclinical depression. In 1968, this term replaced the discontinued term PSYCHOTIC DEPRESSIVE REACTION, and in 2000 it replaced the term NEUROTIC DEPRESSIVE REACTION. In 2000, these terms were stripped from all records and replaced with MAJOR DEPRESSION.		
Broader Terms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Affective Disorders	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Narrower Terms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Anaclitic Depression		<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dysthymic Disorder		<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Endogenous Depression		<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Involutional Depression		<input type="checkbox"/>

Step 2: Sending your terms to the Search

After you have decided whether or not to select, explode, or use the major concept option, click on the ADD button to send your term to search.

The screenshot shows the Thesaurus interface with the 'Major Depression' term selected. The 'Add' button is circled in red, indicating the next step in the process.

Your term(s) will now be placed in the search box, which is labeled with **FIND**. Click on the Search button to run the search. Each term that you search will be saved into the History.

The screenshot shows the EBSCOhost search interface. The search box is populated with the selected terms: ((DE "Major Depression" OR DE "Anaclitic Depression" OR DE "Dysthymic Disorder" OR DE "Endogenous Depression" OR DE "Involutional Depression" OR). The 'Search' button is highlighted, and a red arrow points to the search box.

Repeat these steps for each search term. To return to the PsycINFO Thesaurus browser, click on the Thesaurus button.

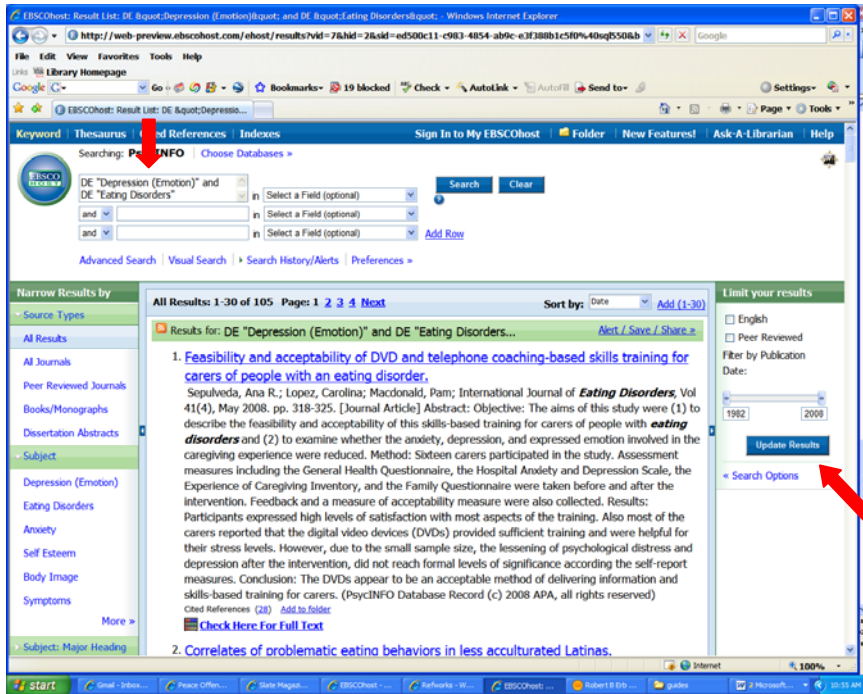
The screenshot shows the EBSCOhost search results page. The search box is populated with the terms: ((DE "Major Depression" OR DE "Anaclitic Depression" OR DE "Dysthymic Disorder" OR DE "Endogenous Depression" OR DE "Involutional Depression" OR). The search results are displayed, and a red arrow points to the 'Thesaurus' button in the navigation bar.

Step 3: Combining Search Terms

Once you have selected a MeSH term in the aforementioned fashion, by checking it's, box the term will remain in memory once they are checked, allowing you to select more terms to add to the search. Once you have selected all of the terms

Search Database

you wish to combine, Use the "Combine selections with:" box and then click



Note how the search box is now populated with all the terms you select and the search has been run, producing a list of results:

Option 1: Limiting Results

After you have combined your search terms, you may wish to reduce the number of results by applying additional limits. You can access the limit choices by clicking on the **Search Options** button on the right sidebar.



1. Year of Publication – enter the four-digit year in the first box. Leaving the second box blank will limit your search from the first year listed through the present.

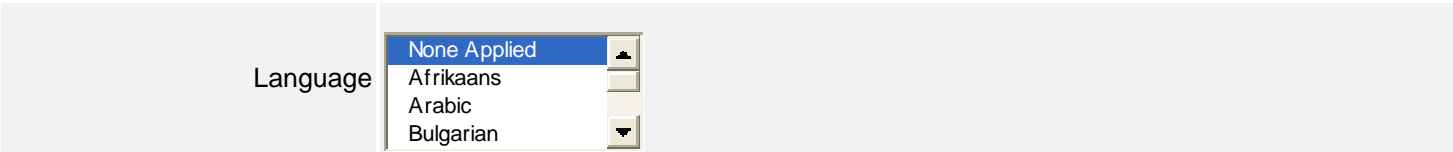
Publication Year Yr: to Yr:

2. Publication Type – reflects a particular type of record or publication. PsycINFO indexes books, journals, dissertations, and reports. Scroll through the list to view all the publication type options. To select more than one publication type hold down the CTRL key as you click on your selections.

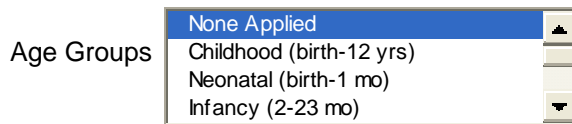
Publication Type

- All Books
- Authored Book
- Edited Book

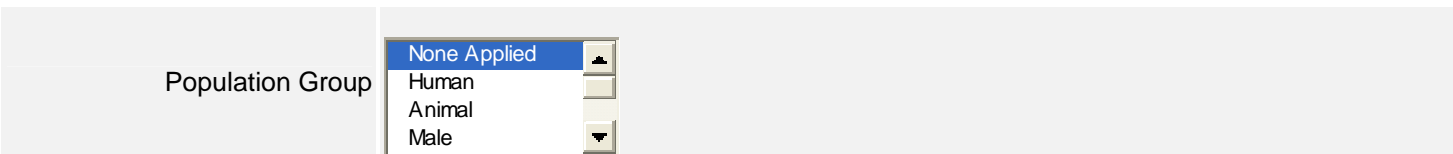
3. Language – allows you to limit to a particular language. Scroll through the list to view all the language options. You may choose more than one selection by holding down your CTRL key.



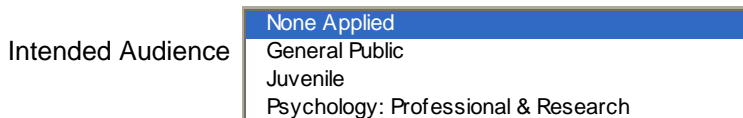
4. Age Related – allows you to limit to a particular age group. Scroll through the list to view all the age categories. You may choose more than one selection by holding down your CTRL key.



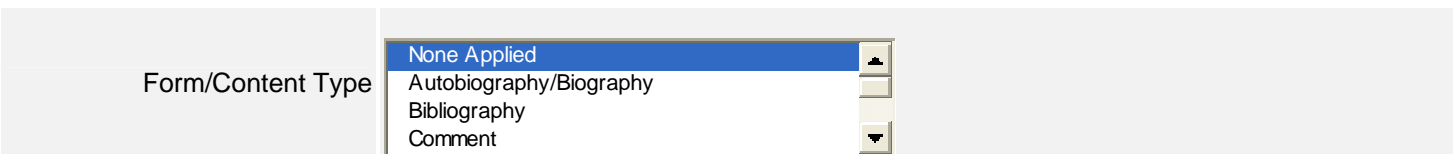
5. Population Group – allows you to limit to a particular population of study, such as human, outpatient, or female. Scroll through the list to view all the population categories. You may choose more than one selection by holding down your CTRL key.



6. Intended Audience - Identifies the intended audience of the document appearing only in Book and Chapter records. Scroll through the list to view all the intended audience categories. You may choose more than one selection by holding down your CTRL key.






7. Form/Content Type – Identifies what format the document is as opposed to what it is about, e.g. distinguishing a document that is a literature review versus one that is about literature reviews. Scroll through the list to view all the form/content categories. You may choose more than one selection by holding down your CTRL key.




Full-Text Articles and McGoogan Library Catalog

All records in PsycINFO provide a link to Helix, the library's online catalog. This allows you to easily check to see if the library owns a particular journal. Some records in PsycINFO have the full-text of the article available. Items that are available full-text through PsycINFO will include the following link:

 [Linked Full Text](#) - You will be given the choice of viewing and printing the document either as a:

1.  [HTML Full Text](#) - this view allows you to access links within the document.
2.  [PDF Full Text](#) - this view presents a scanned image of the actual article. This is the preferred view if the item contains graphs, charts, or pictures.

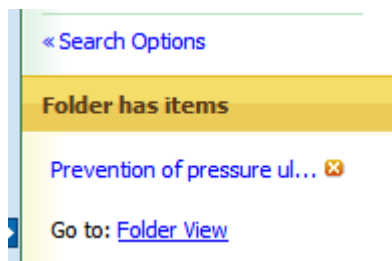
 [Check for Full Text Availability](#) – links you directly to the article, if available through other journal databases.

Select Records for Printing, Saving, Emailing

The Add Folder icon Results can be saved by printing, emailing, and saving to a computer or disk.

[Add to folder](#) In order to save results, you must add each citation to the Folder. Do this by clicking the [Add to folder](#) link at the bottom of each citation you want to save.

Once citations are added, the right sidebar will indicate that items are now in the Folder. Click Go to: [folder view](#) to access the marked records.



Once inside the folder, the results will be listed and the choice to print, email, save, or export will appear above them with the following icons.

