

PsycINFO

Coverage: Compiled by the American Psychological Association, PsycINFO provides citations to and abstracts of research publications in psychology. Most of the items listed are peer-reviewed, and include journal articles (1887 – present) as well as dissertations/selected books (1987 – present). PsycINFO includes abstracts (summaries) for every entry, and the text may be available via the [Full Text](#) links and/or the Find It! service.

Access:

On the Library web site (<http://library.csustan.edu/>), under **Find:** choose:
a) Articles in Journals, Magazines & Newspapers b) Psychology c) PsycINFO

Note: Off-campus use requires a CSU Stanislaus ID #.

Getting Started:

Break your topic down into basic concepts.

Example: For the topic *how does drinking affect grades in college*, the key concepts might be *drinking, grades, college*.

Searching for: *how does drinking affects grades in college* = zero results

Searching for: *drinking grades college* = 19 results

Search Tips:

Search in the Title

After the search term box, change the "in" box to TI Title. This can limit the results to items focused on the topic, and exclude those that just briefly mention it.

Limit to Peer-Reviewed Journals and/or Recent Years

Retrieve only current research by limiting to peer-reviewed journals published in the last ten years. On the Advanced Search screen, under **Published Date** enter 1997 in the first box, and under **Publication Type**, choose *Peer Reviewed Journal*.

Limit to Research Studies

On the Advanced Search Screen, under **Methodology**, choose *Empirical Study* or another appropriate research methodology such as *Quantitative Study, Qualitative Study, Clinical Case Study*, etc.

Use Official, Scientific Terms (and/or Search "in Subject")

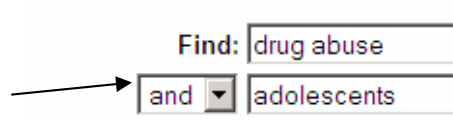
Using scientific terms instead of colloquial vocabulary can greatly affect search results. See the section on subject terms for tips on how to identify official PsycINFO terms.

Example: problem drinking = 6,500 results alcohol abuse = 34,000 results

Using the Search Boxes and Pull-Down Menus

The pull-down choices (*and*, *or*, *not*) change how terms are searched.

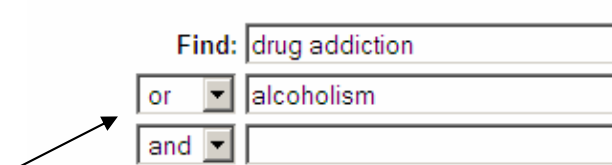
Combining Two Different Concepts



Find: drug abuse
and adolescents

For two different concepts, separate with *and*.
Each search result will have all of the search terms.

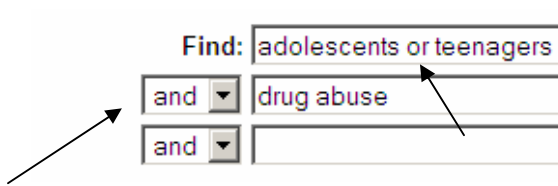
Two terms representing the same idea



Find: drug addiction
or alcoholism
and

If either term is desirable (e.g. synonyms), separate the rows with *or*.
Each search result will have at least one of the terms.

Two different concepts, but one has multiple, synonymous terms



Find: adolescents or teenagers
and drug abuse
and

Type *or* between synonyms in the same box.
In the next box, type the second concept.
Separate the boxes with *and*.

Main concept overlaps another concept which is not relevant



Find: drug use
not addiction
and

To remove results discussing an unwanted term, separate rows with *not*.
None of the search results will contain the last term.

More Search Tips

Phrase Searching

Place quotation marks around a set of words that are part of a phrase.

Example: "Attention Deficit Disorder"

Use the Truncation symbol (*) to search for variants of words

Example: *Child** searches for child, children, childhood, etc.

Change the type of search to broaden or narrow a search:


Narrowest: Subjects Narrow: Title Broad: Default Fields Broadest: Text

To broaden a search, add synonyms of desired terms

Example: Domestic violence or partner abuse or spouse abuse




Results List

Tip: Choose  [Peer Reviewed Journals](#) to display the most accessible, useful results.

The initial results screen includes citations to results, including title, author, and publication information. Click on the title to display the abstract and subject headings.

[Bipolar disorders in childhood and early adolescence.](#) Paul, Howard A.; *Child & Family Behavior Therapy*, Vol 27(3), 2005. 79-84. [Original Journal Article, Review]

[Cited References \(4\)](#)

 [\(Find the text via the University Library.\)](#)

Click on title to display full record with abstract and subject headings.

Use the Find It! button to see how the library provides access to the full article.

Reading the Results for Journal Articles

The following article, entitled "Shared predictors of youthful gambling" and written by Grace Barnes, John Welte, and Joseph Hoffman, was published in volume 19, issue number 2 of the journal *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors* in June, 2005.

[Shared Predictors of Youthful Gambling, Substance Use, and Delinquency.](#) Barnes, Grace M.; Welte, John W.; Hoffman, Joseph H.; *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors*, Vol 19(2), Jun 2005. pp. 165-174. [Peer Reviewed Journal]

[Cited References \(21\)](#)

Article title

<p>Name of journal: <i>Psychology of Addictive Behaviors</i></p>	<p>Volume: 19 Issue #: 2</p>	<p>Article found on pages 165-174</p>
<p>Date of that issue: June, 2005</p>		

Identifying Subject Terms

Using the Subject field can be a very focused and powerful method of searching PsycINFO, but it requires the use of "official" terms. This limits the results to items focused on the topic, while excluding those where the subject is less relevant.

To identify appropriate terms for your concepts:

Use the Thesaurus – Access via link on green bar towards top of screen. Type your term in *Browse For:* box. Select box next to desired terms and click Search button.

Use the "Narrow by Subject" Box - On a Results List screen, click the desired subject from the yellow box on the left.

Look Under the Abstract for Subject Terms - On a Results List screen, click a title to see the "full record" with more information about that item. Subject terms are listed just below the abstract.



Getting the Text of an Article

Full-Text Immediately Available


If present, the following links should lead immediately to the full-text of the article:

 [HTML Full Text](#)

 [PDF Full Text](#)

 [Linked Full Text](#)

Find It! Service

If no "[Full Text](#)" links are present, PsycINFO includes a  link (after each citation on a Results screen and at the bottom of a full record screen) which checks the availability of the item via the library's subscriptions and services.

▶ Full text available via [\(Name of Electronic Journal Service\)](#)

(attempts to locate and retrieve text of chosen article from the library's online journals)

- 1) Note year, volume, issue and pages of desired article.
- 2) Click the journal service name (or GO button) to open a new window.
- 3) Click appropriate links (often labeled PDF) to access the full-text of desired article.

Find It!	
Title:	The risks and needs of the returning prisoner population
Source:	<i>The review of policy research</i> [1541-132X] Austin yr: 2004 vol: 21 iss: 1 pg: 13-29

Note year, volume/issue, and pages of desired article.

▶ We may have: [a copy in print listed in the Library Catalog](#)

- 1) Note the year, volume and issue of desired article and click [Library Catalog](#) link.
- 2) Look at the "Holdings" and "SUPPLS" line to see if library owns desired volume or year.
- 3) If desired volume and/or year are not available in the library, double-check the Electronic Journals list (from the library's homepage) before submitting a request to Interlibrary Loan.

<i>Holdings</i>	Retains current year and 10-year backfile., v.36:no.1 (Feb. 1998)-	Example from the Catalog: Library has volume 36 to the present in print periodicals and volumes 8 to 40 in microfilm.
<i>SUPPLS</i>	Microfilm: v.8-40(1970-2002)	

▶ This item may be available via [Interlibrary Loan](#)

When the Find it! service is unable to locate an item, it may be borrowed (free of charge) from another library. Items requested are usually available in 3-7 working days.

