Advanced Searching
PsycINFO
Searching PsycINFO

This tutorial will:

• What the PsycINFO database is and what it searches
• How to limit results by certain criteria
• How to use PsycINFO thesaurus headings to perform subject searches
PsycINFO

- The PsycINFO database is produced by the American Psychological Association
- It indexes journal articles, books, and book chapters
- The database is designed for research in psychology—it was originally designed for graduate students and practitioners
- Books and articles may be in languages other than English
Limiting Results

The Basic Search offers several means of limiting your results.
Limiting Results

Clicking on the full text limiters will limit your results to what Bethel has available

Click on both boxes to limit results to everything available at Bethel
Limiting Results

- The English limiter is helpful when you want to limit results to book chapters and articles that are written in English only.

- The peer reviewed limit is less useful in PsycINFO since PsycINFO does not index popular magazines; however, it does allow you to search limit results to journals that are peer reviewed.
Limiting Results

- Several of the limiters are unique to PscyINFO
  - Publication type

  ![Publication Type](image)

  - Is useful to limit results to a particular type of material
  - The example to the left limits your results to journal articles
Limiting Results

Age groups

- Is useful to limit results works that deal with a population sample in a given age group
- The example to the left limits your results to works that deal with children aged from birth to 23 months
Limiting Results

Population groups

• Is useful to limit results works that deal with different population samples
• You can limit results between: human and animals, male and female, and inpatient and outpatient population groups
• The example to the left limits your results to works that deal with humans and males
Limiting Results

- The other two limiters are less useful, but allow you to limit results by the work’s intended audience or by the type of document that the work is.
**Limiting Results**

- The Advanced search mode includes all the previously mentioned limiters and includes a few more as well.
- One helpful limiter excludes dissertations. (This can be helpful since dissertations can be difficult to obtain via ILL.)
Limiting Results

• The Methodology limiter can be useful if you are looking for a particular type of psychology article.

• The following example would limit results to works that are literature reviews.
   (The whole work is a literature review.)
Limiting Results

• The Classification Code limiter is another way to limit results

• APA describes the classification codes as follows:
  “Every record in PsycINFO databases receives a classification code, which is used to categorize the document according to the primary subject matter. These classification codes can help you target your search by allowing you to restrict retrieval to a specific category.

  NOTE: This classification code system was designed to describe the content of the PsycINFO database, not the field of psychology.” (Source: www.apa.org)

• A list of codes can be found at the APA’s website at: http://www.apa.org/pubs/databases/training/class-codes.pdf
Limiting Results

- For a full description of how the APA structures the data in PsycINFO and how that affects how the limiters work, see:
DOIs

If you are citing a work and need to know the DOI of the work to cite it, bring up the full record of the work—click on the title to bring up the full record.
PsycINFO Thesaurus

- Use PsycINFO’s thesaurus to perform subject searches
PsycINFO Thesaurus

- Enter your term then click on Browse

Click this radio button to get this in a traditional alphabetical browse list

Term Contains looks for any words in subject
PsycINFO Thesaurus

You will then see a list of terms

Clicking on the term will give you a description
PsycINFO Thesaurus

Browsing: PsycINFO -- Thesaurus

adolescent development

Browse

Term Begins With  Term Contains  Relevancy Ranked

« Back to List

Previous  Next »

Select term, then add to search using: OR  Add

- Adolescent Development
  - Year Term Introduced: 1973
  - Scope Note: Process of physical, cognitive, personality, and psychosocial growth occurring from age 13 through 17. Use a more specific term if possible.

- Broader Terms
  - Human Development
  - Childhood Development
  - Developmental Age Groups
  - Developmental Stages
  - Physical Development
  - Psychological Development
  - Sex Linked Developmental Differences
  - Sexual Development
PsycINFO Thesaurus

To perform a subject search, click the radio button next to the term that you want then click on Search database.

First, click on the radio button to select your term.

Secondly, click on add.

Finally, click search to perform the search.
PsycINFO Thesaurus

You will then see your results

Search Results: 1 - 20 of 38,768

1. Emerging into adulthood in the face of racial discrimination: Physiological, psychological, and sociopolitical consequences for African American youth.
   - Subjects: Adolescent Development; Blacks; Mental Health; Politics; Race and Ethnic Discrimination; Male; Female
   - Academic Journal

   - Authors: Chilton, Roy; Pires-Villantoud, Renata; Psychology & Health, Vol 38(2), Dec, 2015 pp. 1496-1504. Publisher: Taylor & Francis; Journal Article
   - Subjects: Adolescent Development; Diabetes; Grounded Theory; Self-Management; Adolescence (13-17 yrs); Male; Female
   - Academic Journal

   - Authors: Powell, Eleni; Ovensen Sly; Friedenborg, Morten; Thomson, Per Hove; Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Mental Health, Vol 9, Dec, 2015 ARID 50. Publisher: Biomed Central Limited; Journal Article
   - Subjects: Adolescent Development; Attention Deficit Disorder with Hyperactivity; Childhood Development; Drug Therapy; Beta Effects (Drug); Childhood (birth-12 yrs); Adolescence (13-17 yrs); Male; Female
   - Interlibrary Loan
PsycINFO Thesaurus

You can also perform subject searches by clicking on any of the subjects that are listed in an articles detailed view.

Click on any of these subjects to search that topic.
For Further Assistance

• If you run into any problems or have any questions, feel free to contact one of the Reference Librarians located at the Research Help Desk.

• You may also contact a Reference Librarian at:
  – Phone: 574.807.7170
  – E-mail: http://www.bethelcollege.edu/ask-a-librarian.html