ADVANCED SEARCHING IN PSYCINFO AND OTHER APA DATABASES

1. PsycINFO and Other APA Databases

- **PsycINFO** is a database produced by the American Psychological Association (APA) that covers over 2,500 scholarly journals related to the topic of psychology, behavioral science, neuroscience, counseling, and education. It also contains citations for sources such as books and dissertations.
- Its sister database, **PsycARTICLES** contains a much smaller subset of scholarly journals but has the complete PDFs for all articles in the database.
- Another APA database, **PsycTESTS**, contains descriptions of research instruments and, in some cases, the instruments themselves.

2. Accessing Education Databases

- **PsycINFO** and other databases can be accessed from the library homepage by going to **Databases** or by going to the **Research Guides** and selecting the **Education Guide** from the list of Subject Guides.

3. Searching Multiple Databases

- These APA databases are made available through EBSCO. Once in a single database, you can search them simultaneously by selecting **Choose Databases** and picking the databases of interest.
- There is also a link in the **Education Guide** that allows you to search multiple databases at the same time.

4. Keywords

- When you search, place your terms in separate boxes, and use the + sign to add additional rows.
- You can use quotation marks to search for an exact phrase.
- By default, search terms in separate rows are connected with the word AND but you can change this to an OR or a NOT.
- You can use the word OR to connect synonyms within an AND search. In the example above, the terms “mindfulness” and “anxiety” will be retrieved in combination with either the term “teenagers” or “adolescents.”
- You can change the field drop-down to **Author, Title, Subjects**, or some other category. Leaving it on **Select a Field** will search all fields.
5. Results List

- The number of results retrieved from your search is listed at the top of the page.
- You can limit your search by using some of the options on the side, such as Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals.
- You can limit by date by using the slider or choose Show More to input the date range.
- If you hover over the magnifying glass icon, some basic information about the item, including the abstract, will pop up.
- If an article is available, a link to a PDF will appear below your item. If not, you will need to use the Find It button to access your article.

6. Item Information

- Clicking on the title of an item will show you more information about it.
- The Source includes the title of the journal, volume number, issue number, page numbers, year of publication, and page length.
- Detailed information about each item is listed below the abstract, including the population and age groups studied, a listing of the different tests and measures used, the research methodology, and the DOI (digital object identifier).
- If you click on the DOI link next to a particular test, a record for it may open from the PsycTESTS database, which may include a PDF for that instrument.
- The Cite button on the side will show you how to cite the source in APA style.
- If you want to share the citation with someone else, use the Permalink button, rather than the URL at the top.

7. Subject Terms and the Thesaurus

- Each item lists associated subject terms. Clicking on a subject term will run a search of all items in the database with that term.
- When looking at your results list, you can narrow by the subject terms on the left.
- You can also access the Thesaurus at the top of the page to see a complete listing of all of the official terms in the database.

8. Limiters

- Several different ways of limiting your search will appear on the left side of your results list. Some of these limiters include Age, Population, Subjects, Methodology, Tests, and Measures, and Publication.
• For example, expanding the **Methodology** limiter will show a complete listing of the methods used in the articles in your search.
• Each item will have a number next to it that lists the frequency with which these items appear in your search results.
• For each limiter, clicking on **Show More** will bring up the complete list.

**Methodology**

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**9. Cited References**

• Each article’s references are listed in the **Cited References** link beneath each article. After clicking on the link, the **Find It** button can be used to access each item.

**10. Times Cited in This Database**

• Many articles will have a link to **Times Cited in This Database**, which is a listing of all articles in PsycINFO that have cited a particular article since it was published. This does not include other articles that have cited a work that are not in this database.
• This can be especially useful in helping to ascertain whether older articles should be used. If an older article has not been cited very often, then it might not be as valuable as a work that has been highly cited. The example above shows a work that has been cited over a hundred times and has therefore had some influence on the work of other authors.