

APA PsycNET™

Quick Reference Guide

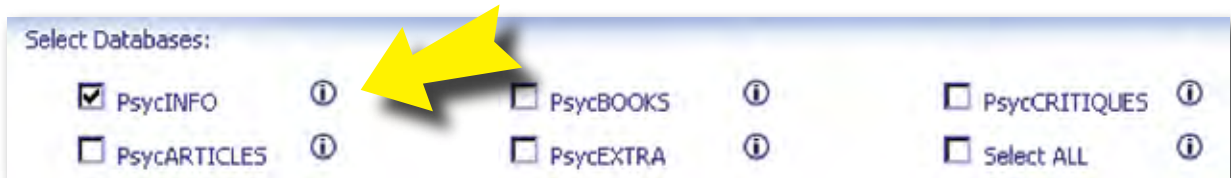
PsycINFO® is an electronic bibliographic database that provides abstracts and citations to the scholarly literature in the field of behavioral sciences and mental health. It contains nearly 2.5 million references of peer-reviewed literature from the early 1800s–present.

PsycINFO
American Psychological Association
psycinfo@apa.org
<http://www.apa.org/psycinfo>

About this Guide

This quick reference guide demonstrates how to search PsycINFO on **APA PsycNET®** in Advanced Search mode.

Access APA PsycNET through your library's web page or with your Silver, Gold, or Platinum Membership package. For the purpose of this Quick Reference Card, we will select PsycINFO only.



Select **Advanced Search** from the tabs at the top of the page



Any Field

The default search field is **Any Field**. Enter the word(s) you want to search. This will search all fields except the cited references.

For example, searching “hypnotherapy” will retrieve results with hypnotherapy in any field.



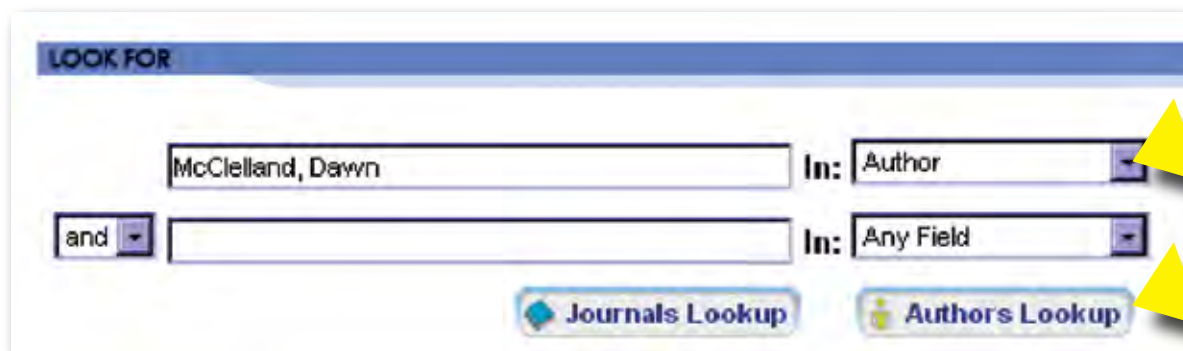
A screenshot of a search interface. It features a search box containing the text "hypnotherapy" and a dropdown menu labeled "In:" with "Any Field" selected. A yellow arrow points to the dropdown menu.

Author Search

Authors are listed last name, first initial/first name.

Enter the author’s last name, first initial or first name in the search box and select **Author** from the drop down box.

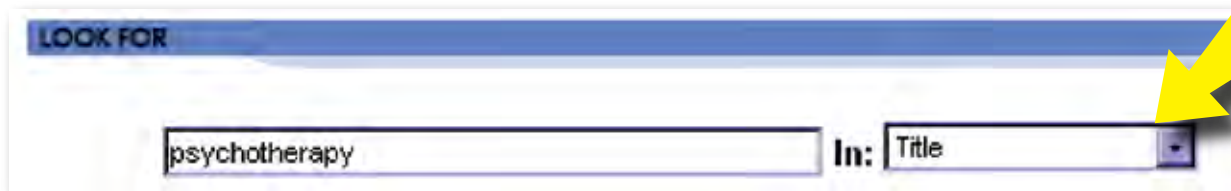
Helpful Hint: If you are unsure how to spell an author’s name, click **Authors Lookup** for a complete Author Index.



A screenshot of a search interface titled "LOOK FOR". It features two search boxes. The first search box contains "McClelland, Dawn" and has a dropdown menu labeled "In:" with "Author" selected. The second search box is empty and has a dropdown menu labeled "In:" with "Any Field" selected. Below the search boxes are two buttons: "Journals Lookup" and "Authors Lookup". A yellow arrow points to the "Author" dropdown menu, and another yellow arrow points to the "Authors Lookup" button.

Title Search (Journal article, dissertation article, or chapter title)

Enter the title or the word(s) you want contained in the title in the search box. Select **Title** from the drop down menu. For example, typing “psychotherapy” will return results with psychotherapy in the titles. If you know the complete title, such as “Principles for facilitating agency in psychotherapy”, you may enter the complete title in the search box.



A screenshot of a search interface. At the top, there is a blue header bar with the text "LOOK FOR" in white. Below this, there is a search box containing the word "psychotherapy". To the right of the search box is a label "In:" followed by a dropdown menu. The dropdown menu is currently set to "Title". A yellow arrow points to the dropdown menu.

Book Title Search

Enter the Book Title or the word(s) you want contained in the title in the search box. Select **Book Title** from the drop down menu. For example, typing “schizophrenia” will return results with “schizophrenia” in the titles. If you know the complete title, such as “Mind, brain, and schizophrenia”, you may enter the complete title in the search box.



A screenshot of a search interface. At the top, there is a blue header bar with the text "LOOK FOR" in white. Below this, there is a search box containing the word "schizophrenia". To the right of the search box is a label "In:" followed by a dropdown menu. The dropdown menu is currently set to "Book Title". A yellow arrow points to the dropdown menu.

Journal Title Search

Enter the journal title or the word(s) you want contained in the title into the search box and select **Journal Title** from the drop down menu.

For example, searching for “American Psychologist” will yield a list of all citations from the journal entitled *American Psychologist*.



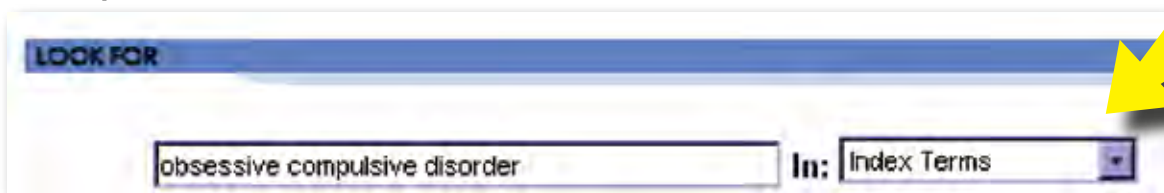
The screenshot shows a search interface titled "LOOK FOR". It features two search boxes. The first search box contains the text "american psychologist" and is followed by a dropdown menu set to "Journal Title". A yellow arrow points to this dropdown menu. Below the first search box is a second search box, currently empty, preceded by a dropdown menu set to "and". A yellow arrow points to this second search box. To the right of the second search box is another dropdown menu set to "Any Field". Below the search boxes are two buttons: "Journals Lookup" and "Authors Lookup". A yellow arrow points to the "Journals Lookup" button.

Helpful Hint: If you are unsure which journal to select, click **Journals Lookup** for the complete Journal Index.

Index Term Search

Index Terms are taken from the APA’s *Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms*[®]. These serve as the controlled vocabulary for the database.

Type an index term into the search box and select **Index Terms** from the drop down menu; for example, “obsessive compulsive disorder”.



The screenshot shows a search interface titled "LOOK FOR". It features a single search box containing the text "obsessive compulsive disorder". To the right of the search box is a dropdown menu set to "Index Terms". A yellow arrow points to this dropdown menu.

Helpful Hint: If you are unsure if a term is an index term you can look it up in the online Thesaurus. Click on **Term Finder** in the main navigation bar.

Keyword Search

Search three fields at once for broad concepts. Keyword searches the Title, Index Term, and Keyword fields simultaneously.

Enter the term(s) into the search box and select **Keyword** from the drop down menu. For example, search “seasonality”. This will retrieve records with “seasonality” as a keyword.



A screenshot of a search interface. At the top, there is a blue bar with the text "LOOK FOR". Below this, there is a search box containing the text "seasonality". To the right of the search box is a dropdown menu labeled "In:" with "Keywords" selected. A yellow arrow points to the dropdown menu.

Definitions of Select Fields

Any Field: automatically searches all fields, with the exception of cited references

Keywords: searches the Keywords field, which contains the natural language terms describing documents' content, as well as the Index Term and Title fields

Abstract: brief summary of the article

Author Affiliation: institutional affiliation of authors

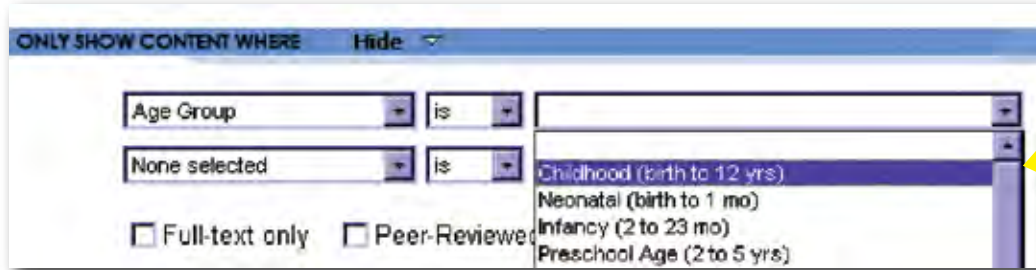
Index Terms: controlled vocabulary from *Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms*

Publisher: organization/company who publishes the journal or book

Table of Contents: book table of contents; go here to find chapter titles

Tests & Measures: indicates if a test is used in the methodology of a study or featured as the subject of discussion

Only Show Content Where



Below are examples of options available to focus your search — this is not the complete list.

Age Group: limit your search to the age of participants in a research study (this applies to humans)

Auxiliary Material: indicates material separate from the source document

Population Group: limit your search to the group of participants in a research study (human, animal, female, male, etc)

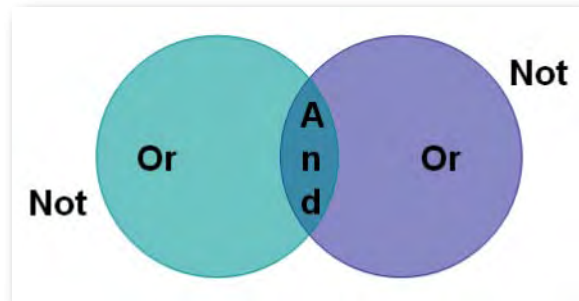
Document Type: limit your search to specific document types, such as bibliography, editorial, review, etc.

Methodology: limit your search to the methodology used in a research study, such as clinical case study, literature review, meta analysis, systematic review, etc.

Classification Code: Classification Codes represent broad subject categories

Search Basics

1. Boolean Operators (And, Or, and Not): Combine search terms to narrow (“and”) or broaden (“or”) results. Use “Not” to exclude records from retrieval.



2. Phrases (""): Enclose phrases in quotation marks if you want to find results in that exact order.

For example, searching “perceived stress scale” will not retrieve ‘stress scale’, ‘scale of perceived stress’, or any other variation. It will only retrieve ‘perceived stress scale’.

3. Wildcard (?) The ? replaces one character. For Example: **neuros?s** finds both neurosis and neuroses.

4. Truncation (*) The * replaces any number of characters. For example, **therap*** finds therapy, therapies, therapist, therapists, therapeutic, therapeutically, etc.

Display, Save, Print, Email, Export



Select any record(s) you are interested in.

Display: reformats the display of the selected records

Save: saves the selected records

Print: sends the selected records to your printer

Email: emails the selected records

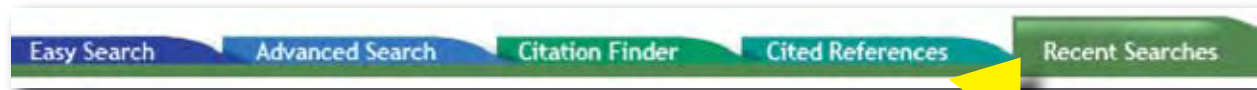
Export: exports the records to reference software

Add to My List



My List stores your results in a temporary folder. You can continue searching and add more items to the list throughout your session. This list is not saved for future use—but you can save and reuse the search strategy in your **My PsycNET** account.

Recent Searches



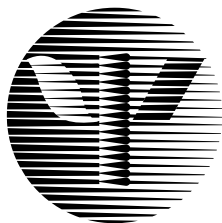
Recent Searches captures all the searches you conduct in a single session. Don't forget to save your searches before you sign out—saved searches are under your My PsycNET personal account.

My PsycNET



My PsycNET is your personalized page. To get started, create a user id and password. You will be prompted to create a user profile.

My PsycNET allows you to create and edit a user profile, save searches, and set up alerts.



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PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

PsycINFO

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