



# Wichita State University Libraries

---

## PsycINFO (winSPIRS)

PsycINFO is an online version of Psychological Abstracts which is published by the American Psychological Association. It is available in a Windows version at computer workstations in the Reference area under "Network Launcher". Handouts and a user's manual are available at the Reference Desk. PsycINFO provides records of citations and summaries for articles, books and book chapters, and dissertations. PsycINFO covers the world journal literature from 1967 to the present, and English-language books and book chapters from 1987 to the present.

An instructional booklet, Searching PsycINFO & PsycLIT on SilverPlatter WinSPIRS, is available on the Internet at <http://www.apa.org/psycinfo/winSPIRS.html>.

## GETTING STARTED

- At the terminals in the Reference Area, double click on the **Network Launcher** icon.
- At the next screen, double click on the **PsycINFO** icon.
- At the **Available Databases** Screen, databases are first listed alphabetically and then in chronological segments in the box on the left. Scroll down through the list of databases to where the PsycINFO segments begin.
- Double click on each desired segment, e.g. PsycINFO, 1996-1998/10, to move each segment to the box on the right. When all desired segments are selected, click on OK.
- At the **About PsycINFO** screen, click on OK.

## SUBJECT SEARCHING

### *FREE TEXT SEARCHING*

Free text searching allows any combination of terms or phrases as a search statement. In a free text search, it is possible to **truncate** a term, using an \*, to retrieve all variants of the root of the term being searched. For example, **teen\*** retrieves teen, teens, teenage, teenaged, teenager, teenagers.

- In the Search box, enter the search term(s) or phrase(s) and press **Enter**.

**attitude\* and smoking**  
**eating disorder\* and treatment**

- It is possible to combine the resulting set of records with another term or phrase. Use a # sign with the set number.

**#1 and advertising**  
**#4 and adolescen\***

## **ONLINE THESAURUS**

Five to six subject descriptors are assigned to each citation in PsycINFO based on the subject content of the article or book. Searching by descriptors is the most effective way of subject searching in PsycINFO. A list of subject descriptors is available online and is used to find a precise subject heading or related headings as well as to select multiple headings during one search.

The example below searches for records combining two concepts: how **television viewing** affects **reading skills**.

- To select the first term, click on the **Thesaurus** prompt in the upper right hand corner of the screen. At the prompt, type **television** and press **Enter** to display a list of descriptors.
- Click on the term, **television viewing**, and press **Enter** to display Term Information.
- To search for records with this term, click on **Search Now**.
- To select the second term, click on **Thesaurus** prompt. At the prompt, type **reading** and press **Enter** to display a list of descriptors.
- Click on the term, **reading skills**, and press **Enter** to display the Term Information.
- Click on **Search Now**. Because **reading skills** has narrower terms, the term is “exploded” during the search to select the term and all its narrower, more specific terms.
- At the Search box, combine the resulting set for first concept, **television viewing**, with the set for the second concept, **reading skills**, by combining both set numbers in a single statement, e.g. **#1 and #2**. When combining set numbers, be sure to include the **#** sign.

## **PRINTED THESAURUS**

A print version of the PsycINFO thesaurus --- Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms --- is kept in the Reference Area. Once a subject descriptor(s) is located in the thesaurus that fits the search topic, the term(s) may be entered in the Search box. When you type in a descriptor, be sure to type **in de** after the descriptor.

**adolescent-development in de**  
**anorexia-nervosa in de**  
**stress- in de**

## **LIMITING THE SEARCH**

It is possible to limit your searches by certain fields in PsycINFO. To limit a search, click on the **Limit** button to the right and select the desired limit field in the left-hand box, e.g. **LA - Language**. Then click on the desired value of that field in the right-hand box, e.g. **English**. Click on OK. Possible limit fields include publication year, language, and document type.

## REFINING THE SEARCH

Search terms can be combined with other search terms using one of three operators. To broaden your search, combine search terms with **OR** or **NOT**. To narrow your search, combine search terms with **AND**. Click on **Retype** to retrieve your previous search and then add additional terms.

**family and stress**  
**parents or stepparents**  
**family not daughters**  
**bulimia in de and anorexia nervosa in de**  
**eating disorders in de not bulimia in de**

## VIEWING RECORDS

After clicking on **Search** or pressing **Enter**, records that match the search will be displayed on the screen. Use the arrow keys or scroll bar to move forward or backward through the records. All fields should automatically display. If not, click on the **All Fields** button at the bottom of the screen.

## MARKING RECORDS FOR PRINTING OR DOWNLOADING

Click on the **Open Book** icon in the upper left corner of each record to mark the record for printing or downloading.  
To unmark the record, click on the **Open Book** again.

## PRINTING OR DOWNLOADING RECORDS

To print records, click on the **Print** button at the top of the screen above the Search box. At the Print Records window, click on the **Print** button.

To download records, click on the **Download** button at the top of the screen above the Search box. A dialog box will appear. Be sure to select the **A: drive** and enter a file name. Click on the **Download** button to begin downloading.

## EXITING PSYCINFO

Click on **File**, and then click on **Exit**. At the Exit WinSPIRS window, click on **Exit**.

## CHANGING DATABASE SEGMENTS

Click on **Database** in upper left hand corner of the screen. Remove or add PsycINFO segments in the box on the right by double clicking on each segment.

## SOME IMPORTANT FIELDS IN PSYCINFO

To get a complete listing of [PsycINFO](#) fields as well as information about each field, click first on **Help** at the top of the screen, then **Guide**, and finally, **2 PsycINFO fields**.

### AB Abstract

All records include an abstract that describes the major points of the article and provides information on research methodology, results, and conclusions. This field can be used to locate particular tests, drugs, etc. that have been used but are not the focus of the article and for searching personal names as subjects. These fields are searched automatically (with title, key phrase, and descriptors) during a free text search. Use an \* to **truncate** a term whenever appropriate.

**human figures drawing test in ab**  
**elkind in ab** (for articles about Elkind)  
**yawn\* in ab**

### AF First Author Affiliation

This field provides the name and usually the location of the institution with which the first author is associated at the time of publication of the article, book, or chapter. This field helps identify research at particular institutions.

**cornell in af**

### AG Age Group

All records relating to human populations are assigned one or more age group designators depending on the content of the descriptors. There are three general age groups: **childhood**, **adolescence**, and **adulthood**, which are divided into more specific age groups. Most records before 1967 do not contain age groups. When searching, use only the name of the age group, not the age range. Use hyphens, as appropriate.

**childhood in ag**  
**ag=school-age**

The following are valid age groups:

<b>Childhood</b>	<b>(birth-12 years)</b>
<b>Neonatal</b>	<b>(birth-1 mo)</b>
<b>Infancy</b>	<b>(2-23 mo)</b>
<b>Preschool-Age</b>	<b>(2-5 yrs)</b>
<b>School-Age</b>	<b>(6-12 yrs)</b>
<b>Adolescence</b>	<b>(13-17 yrs)</b>
<b>Adulthood</b>	<b>(18 yrs &amp; older)</b>
<b>Young-Adulthood</b>	<b>(13-29 yrs)</b>
<b>Thirties</b>	<b>(30-39 yrs)</b>
<b>Middle-Age</b>	<b>(40-64 yrs)</b>
<b>Aged</b>	<b>(65 yrs &amp; older)</b>
<b>Very Old</b>	<b>(85 yrs &amp; older)</b>

## AN Accession Number(s)

Every record has a unique accession number composed of the Psychological Abstracts volume and abstract numbers. Using the accession number is the fastest way to retrieve a record.

**73-05061 in an  
an=73-0561**

## AU Author(s)

The simplest way to search by author is to type in the author's name in the Search box: **hauser-stuart-t**. However, be aware that a particular author's name may appear in the database in more than one form. The best way to retrieve all versions of an author's name is to use the online **Index**. Click on the **Index** button at the top of the screen. Type the last name of the author and press **Enter**. Highlight each version of the author's name: **hauser-stuart-t** and **hauser-stuart**. To highlight more than one line, click on the first line and drag the cursor to the second. Click on the **Search** button to display records containing any of the highlighted versions of the author's name.

## CC Classification Code

Each citation in PsycINFO is typically assigned one 4-digit code that corresponds to a broad subject classification category. For example, **2220 in cc and self esteem** will retrieve citations on tests measuring self esteem. **2220** is the code for test construction and validation. The category search can also be entered as **cc=2220**. A list of the classification codes is found on the Internet at <http://www.apa.org/psycinfo/applic/classcod.html>.

## CF Conference Information

This field contains the conference name at which the content of the document was presented. The date and location may also appear in the field.

**midwestern psychological association in cf**

## DE Descriptors

Each citation is assigned multiple subject descriptors -- some major (**MJ**) and some minor (**MN**). Major descriptors are asterisked in PsycINFO citations. To locate appropriate descriptors for your search, use either the print or online thesaurus. When you type in a descriptor, be sure to type **in de** after the descriptor. **DE** is used to search both major and minor descriptors simultaneously. **SU** is used to search for major and minor descriptors as well as key phrases (**KP**) simultaneously.

<b>adolescent-development in de</b>	(searches for both major and minor descriptors)
<b>health- in mj</b>	(searches for only major descriptors)
<b>anorexia-nervosa in mn</b>	(searches for only minor descriptors)
<b>phobias- in su</b>	(searches for all descriptors and key phrases- KP)

## **DT Document Type**

This field identifies the general type of document the record represents. Use this field to limit searches to records of a particular type of document, such as journal articles. Use hyphens, when appropriate.

**dt=journal-article**  
**journal-article in dt**

The following are valid document types:

<b>authored-book</b>	<b>edited-book</b>
<b>book</b>	<b>journal-article</b>
<b>chapter</b>	<b>report</b>
<b>dissertation-abstract</b>	<b>secondary-publication</b>

## **JN Journal Title**

This field provides the journal title as a phrase. The title must be searched as a hyphenated phrase. It is not necessary to end the search with **in jn**. The **Index** can also be used to select journal names.

**journal-of-applied-psychology**  
**child-development**

## **KP Key Phrase**

This field contains a brief, concise, and relevant description of the contents of a document. Search the key phrase field with the title field when no descriptors are available, for ambiguous terms, or for possible acronyms.

**midlife crisis in kp**  
**Job training in kp**

## **LA Language**

This field can be used to locate articles, books or chapters in a particular language or languages. A list of languages that are searchable in [PsycINFO](#) is available in the users manual or in the online **Help -- Guide**.

**english in la**  
**la=german**

## **LO Population Location**

This field indicates the country in which the group that is the subject of the document is located.

**haiti in lo**  
**lo=usa**

## PO Population

This field indicates the classification of population the record concerns. Up to six population groups may be assigned: **human, animal, female, male, inpatient, outpatient**. Records have consistent population terms beginning in 1998.

**po=human**  
**male in po**

## PT Publication Type

This field identifies the specific form or function of the document, describing what the document is as opposed to what it is about.

**pt=bibliography**  
**classroom material in pt**

Values for this field include:

<b>autobiography/personal account</b>	<b>professional policies/standards</b>
<b>bibliography</b>	<b>program evaluation</b>
<b>case law</b>	<b>reprint</b>
<b>comment</b>	<b>translation</b>
<b>comment appended</b>	<b>sponsor</b>
<b>conference proceedings/symposia</b>	<b>classroom material</b>
<b>editorial</b>	<b>textbook</b>
<b>empirical study</b>	<b>introductory textbook</b>
<b>case study</b>	<b>undergraduate textbook</b>
<b>clinical case report</b>	<b>graduate textbook</b>
<b>experimental replication</b>	<b>study/curriculum/resource guide</b>
<b>followup study</b>	<b>workbook</b>
<b>longitudinal study</b>	<b>collected works</b>
<b>treatment outcome study</b>	<b>handbook/manual/guide</b>
<b>errata/retractions</b>	<b>self-help guide</b>
<b>fiction/creative work</b>	<b>reference material</b>
<b>interview</b>	<b>dictionary/glossary</b>
<b>letter</b>	<b>directory</b>
<b>literature review/research review</b>	<b>encyclopedia</b>
<b>meta analysis</b>	<b>taxonomy</b>
<b>obituary</b>	<b>thesaurus</b>
<b>oral history</b>	<b>selected readings</b>
<b>panel discussion</b>	

## PY Publication Year

This field gives the year in which the document was published. One can search a single year or a span of years.

**1994 in py**      **py<1990**      **py>=1998**  
**py=1994**      **py=1990-1998**      **py<=1996**

**SE Series Title**

This field contains the name of the series in which a book was published and can be searched by single words or phrases.

**experimental psychology in se**

**SO Source**

This is a free-text field that includes the journal title, publication date, volume, issue number, and pagination. Any element of the source field may be searched.

**american journal in so  
child development and may and 1996**

**TC Table of Contents**

This field provides the full table of contents for many edited books. In the contents, the chapters selected for separate records are marked by a link so that the user can go directly to that chapter record from the table of contents.

**air pollution in tc  
author index in tc**

**TI Title**

Titles are entered in the title field exactly as they are written in articles, books, or chapters. Use the title field when you are looking for the citation for a specific article, book, or chapter or in combination with the key phrase when a descriptor is not available.

**alcoholism in ti  
familial contexts of adolescent in ti**