ADLT 601 – PsycINFO Search Examples

These examples and tips are very close to the examples used in class

Assume you are looking in PsycINFO for materials on the same topic you searched in ERIC, i.e., research articles addressing experiential learning and adult learning.

1. USE THE APA THESAURUS TO CHECK AND DISCOVER SEARCH VOCABULARY

Check adult learning and experiential learning

- Select APA Thesaurus
- Type adult learning into the search box
- Examine adult learning; note related terms.
- The numbers in parentheses indicate the number of records in PsycINFO with that word/phrase as a subject (Index Term).
- Do the same for experiential learning
2. CONSTRUCT A SEARCH FOR ARTICLES
Select Search at the top of the page; choose Advanced Search from the dropdown menu. Since the terms you used in ERIC and Education Research Complete searches are in PsycINFO start with the last strategy you used, e.g., from Education Research Complete:

1st line – “adult learn*” OR “adult student*”
2nd line – "experiential learning"
Select Peer-Reviewed

Use Filters to limit the results to research articles:
Choose Methodology from the Select Filter dropdown menu
Then select both Empirical Study AND Longitudinal Study [hold down the CTRL key (PC) or COMMAND key (Mac) to select]

Click on the SEARCH button. There will only be about 15+ results. This simply indicates that there are few research articles on this topic in PsycINFO. If you remove the filters, there will be only about 40+ articles.

3. REVISIING BASED ON RESULTS
Note the Filter Results choices to the left of the results. You may want to look at the Index Terms or the Age Groups. You may decide to revise the search by removing “adult learn*” OR “adult student*” from the search, and adding selected age groups to the filters.

Select Edit Search
Delete “adult learn*” OR “adult student*” from the first line
The methodology filter should still be selected; click on the add filter link next to it
Select Age Group and then Adulthood (18 yrs & older) as the filter

Run the revised search. There will be about 1,075+ results. Unfold the Index Terms on the left. The number of results for each term will display. Select a term to display the results; to de-select, simply click on the X that displays beside the term.

4. GENERAL ADVICE - EXAMINING AND EVALUATING ARTICLES
Click on ABSTRACT to reveal the entire article abstract. Click on the title to reveal the entire record for the item.

Note the subjects (index terms) used for the item. Note significant words used in the abstract. You may want to incorporate words you find into your searching. Note authors.

Look for Cited by [#] and References links. Cited by will be articles written after the reference; References will be articles written before the reference.