PSYCHOLOGY Graduate Student Orientation 2018

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Consultations:
• In-person
• Phone
• Email
• Online
Start from VCU Libraries home page: www.library.vcu.edu

Use VCU Libraries gold search box to find print and e-books, videos, articles, and more.

For more comprehensive literature searches, go to Discipline-Specific databases located on the Psychology Research Guide.

Find a specific journal
Find a specific citation

Go to the Psychology Research Guide

Locate “How do I” Guides like
• Find Funding for Graduate Research
• Print, Copy, Scan & Fax
• Borrow Materials from Other Libraries
Sign-up for **Interlibrary Loan** so you can access all the resources you need.

Select a **Citation manager** to keep track of resources and create bibliographies.
Be informed.
Keep in mind that where and how you search determines the quantity, quality, and relevance of results...

Things you should understand:

- The organizational structure of databases (tags, fields, filters/limiters); how they differ from Google/Google Scholar
- How to leverage Database tools (personal accounts, search histories, search alerts)
- The logic of searching/how to signal relationships between concepts using AND | OR | NOT

Things you should be able to do:

- Build a complex search in PsycINFO using
  - Fields and Filters/Limiters
  - Recent Searches (search history)
  - My PsycNET
  - Search alerts

Start from the Psychology Research Guide
First, a few comments on “limiters” or “filters.”

Although each research database varies somewhat, most enable you to ‘filter out’ or ‘limit results’ to what is important/relevant to you.

Most of your searches will be limited to Peer-reviewed literature published within a specific date range.

In PsycINFO, other frequently used filters include:
- Age Group(s)
- Population Group(s)
- Methodology

Press the ctrl key down to make multiple selections.
A few comments on **Fields**

Database records are divided into **fields** enabling you to specify where you want search concepts to appear.

In PsycINFO, widely used fields include Abstract, Keyword, Index Term, and Title.

To understand how fields function:

Search for peer-reviewed literature published in the last five years on the **concept** *mindfulness based stress reduction*

Try the search in different **fields** and record # of results below.
Any field: mindfulness based stress reduction AND Peer-Reviewed Journals only AND Year: 2013 To 2018
Search Databases: PsycINFO, PsycTHERAPY

#1

Any field = 468 Results

A broad search – terms can appear in any field
NOTE: In a phrase search, not all terms may appear together as intended. Placing in quotation marks can solve that problem – but may eliminate useful content. Best Bet: search without first; follow-up with “” (see next page)

#2

Keywords: mindfulness based stress reduction AND Peer-Reviewed Journals only AND Year: 2013 To 2018
Search Databases: PsycINFO, PsycTHERAPY

Keyword field = 223 Results

The keyword option searches three fields simultaneously—the title, index terms, and keywords (natural language words describing the document’s content). More focused than “Any field” and a good fit for researchers who are new to a topic.

#3

Abstract: mindfulness based stress reduction AND Peer-Reviewed Journals only AND Year: 2013 To 2018
Search Databases: PsycINFO, PsycTHERAPY

Abstract field = 404 Results

An abstract search is useful when your topic is very specific, when your project requires a comprehensive search that will retrieve even marginally relevant material, and when there are no appropriate index terms for the concept(s) you want to research (see next page).

#4

Index Terms: mindfulness based stress reduction AND Peer-Reviewed Journals only AND Year: 2013 To 2018
Search Databases: PsycINFO, PsycTHERAPY

Index Term = 0 Results

Indexers “tag” each article with words or brief phrases chosen from a pre-existing list in the Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms.® The terms describe the document’s content to increase searching precision.

To observe how fields affect the number of results, go to “Recent Searches”
Find a really relevant article? Follow the citation chain. View the author’s references and the citing articles. The article on the left was Cited By 6 in PsycINFO.

Remember to search titles of relevant articles in Google Scholar as well---the same article has been Cited by 26--& these may lead to other potentially relevant resources.
Using the Thesaurus: Understanding how terms are indexed/tagged and used to build searches

This phrase is **not** in the thesaurus (the pre-determined list of APA search terms)

Because **mindfulness** is the concept of interest, we’ll start there and look for similar concepts/ techniques related to a 2<sup>nd</sup> concept (**stress management**)

Each time a concept is selected, it appears in the box to the right.

Continue your selection of relevant concepts and then **ADD TO SEARCH** using **OR**
After adding Concept #2 from the thesaurus:
Stress management

Go to Recent Searches (search history) Combine searches with AND

Index Terms: {Mindfulness} OR {Meditation} OR {Relaxation Therapy} OR {Muscle Relaxation} OR {Yoga} AND Peer-Reviewed Journals only AND Year: 2013 To 2018
Search Databases: PsycINFO, PsycTHERAPY

Index Terms: {Stress Management} AND Peer-Reviewed Journals only AND Year: 2013 To 2018
Search Databases: PsycINFO, PsycARTICLES, PsycBOOKS, PsycEXTRA, PsycTESTS, PsycTHERAPY
RESULTS:

203 peer-reviewed articles published in the last 5 years that focus on specific techniques designed to facilitate Stress Management

{Mindfulness} OR {Meditation} OR {Relaxation Therapy} OR {Muscle Relaxation} OR {Progressive Relaxation Therapy} OR {Yoga}

The value of searching with Index Terms is evident; articles on every page of results match the search criteria.

Logic Grid:
Use AND | OR to specify relationships between concepts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONCEPT 1 (and synonyms)</th>
<th>CONCEPT 2 (and synonyms)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mindfulness OR Meditation OR Relaxation Therapy OR Muscle Relaxation OR Progressive Relaxation Therapy OR Yoga</td>
<td>Stress management</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results with any of these terms combined with this term
Sign-up for a free My PsycNET account

Save & name productive searches

Set an email alert for notification when new content matching the search criteria is added to the database
NOTE:
Set up alerts in multiple databases to keep from missing important content. While there will be some overlap in results, each database provides unique content that may not be found in others.
For this example, we are searching for biomedical literature published in the last 5 years related to new psychoactive substances and death. This is the basic (single-line) search option in PubMed...

```
new psychoactive substances AND death
```
You can also open the Advanced Search Builder which facilitates comprehensive searches.

PubMed Advanced Search Builder

(new psychoactive substances) AND death

Edit

Builder

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Fields</td>
<td>new psychoactive substances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AND</td>
<td>All Fields</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AND</td>
<td>All Fields</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Search or Add to history
New psychoactive substances emerge quickly and the terminology is quite varied. So, in this example, the goal is to look for alternative keywords/concepts and add them to a logic grid for subsequent searches.

Searching is an iterative process of trial, error, and intelligence gathering...

For example:

- "new psychoactive substances" OR cathinones OR "designer drugs"
- Death OR fatalities

A 3-year review of new psychoactive substances in casework.

Elliott S¹, Evans J².

Abstract

Following the initial popularity of mephedrone (4-methylmethcathinone) there has been a stream of new "recreational drugs" entering the global market. The lack of clinical studies on the effects and toxicity of these drugs has made interpretation of toxicological findings difficult. In an attempt to assist in a better understanding of the extent of their use and the fatalities that have been linked to these compounds, we present our collated findings in post-mortem and criminal casework where these have been detected and/or implicated. Between January 2010 and December 2012 we have detected new psychoactive substances (NPS) in 203 cases, with 120 cases in 2012 alone. The drugs detected in life or post-mortem blood and urine are, in order of decreasing frequency: mephedrone, 4-methylethcathinone, BZP, MDPV, TFMP, methoxetamine, 4-fluorometcathinone, 4-methylamphetamine, PMA, methylene, PMMA, naphyrine, alpha-methyltryptamine, butylone, MDAI, desoxypipradrol, D2PM, MPA, synthetic cannabinoids, 2-IAI, 5-IAI, 5-MeODALT, MDPBP, 5/6-APB, pentedrone and pentedylone. Other drugs or alcohol were detected in 84% of the cases including other NPS and in fatalities it should be noted that alternative causes of death (including mechanical suicide, accidental death and non-pseudoactive drug overdose) accounted for the majority. Related to this was that all fatalities involving cathinones, 41% of these were hangings or other mechanical suicides, this was a higher proportion than seen with other drugs found in such cases. The presence of multiple NPS and/or other stimulants was a particular feature in various cases, however, of the drug deaths only 7% were solely involved in NPS. Across all case types and including some cases investigated in 2013, NPS concentrations showed a wide range but these and selected cases are presented to assist toxicological interpretation in future cases.
The added terms generate far more results (see search history below).

![Search History]

Builder

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All Fields ▼</th>
<th>&quot;new psychoactive substances&quot; OR cathinones OR &quot;designer drugs&quot;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AND ▼</td>
<td>Death OR fatalities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PubMed

Format: Abstract ▼ Sort by: Best Match ▼ Per page: 100 ▼

Search results

Items: 1 to 100 of 177

![Search Results]

History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Add to builder</th>
<th>Query</th>
<th>Items found</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Add</td>
<td>Search (&quot;new psychoactive substances&quot; OR cathinones OR &quot;designer drugs&quot;) AND (death OR fatalities) Sort by: Best Match Filters: published in the last 5 years</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>14:01:11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add</td>
<td>Search (new psychoactive substances) AND death Sort by: Best Match Filters: published in the last 5 years</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>13:22:51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
...and so it goes. The terms below were the result of multiple searches.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONCEPT 1</th>
<th>CONCEPT 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“new psychoactive substances” OR “novel psychoactive substances” OR “street drugs” OR “legal highs” OR “research chemicals” OR “synthetic cathinone” OR mephedrone OR methylone</td>
<td>“death” OR “mortality” OR “fatal outcome” OR “premature mortality” OR “cause of death” OR “fatal intoxication” OR “fatal poisoning”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The final search specifies that concepts appear in the Title/Abstract Field (see next page)
This strategy produced 164 results. The majority addressed deaths related to a wide range of new psychoactive substances and could serve as the basis for a literature review on the topic.

The search will be saved in My NCBI account (see next page)
From the Search History, right click the search # you want to Save in My NCBI.

Name the search
Request e-mail updates
Specify frequency, day, etc.

The best way to hone your skills? Practice with concepts that interest you. Go over the examples, try several databases, and start taking advantage of the powerful tools at your disposal.

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