Quick Reference Guide
PsycINFO® on OvidSP®

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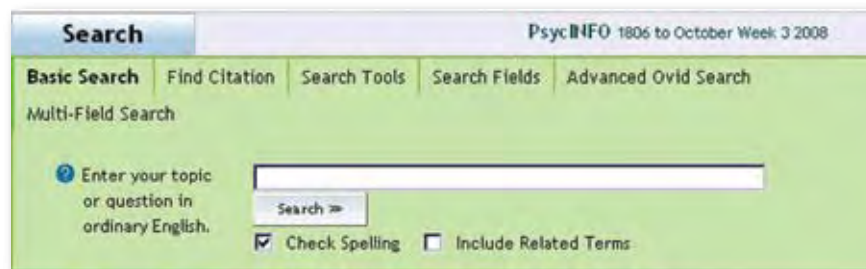
About this Guide

Access OvidSP through your library's webpage. If you need assistance, contact your librarian.

This quick reference guide will demonstrate how to search PsycINFO on the OvidSP Platform.

Starting Your Search
Basic Search

Basic Search is the default search setting. Enter a word or phrase in the search box, for example "forensic psychology". Citations relevant to "forensic psychology" will be retrieved based on Ovid's Natural Language Query algorithm.
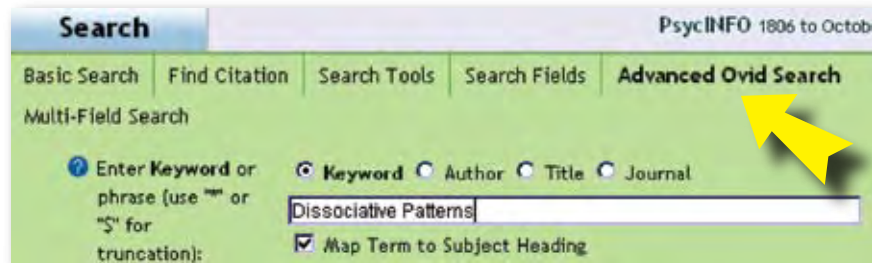
Index Term/Subject Heading Search

Select the **Advanced Ovid Search** tab. Leave the **Keyword** radio button checked, and the **Map Term to Subject Heading** box checked (these are default settings). Enter your search term(s) into the box to map your term to the most relevant Subject Heading.
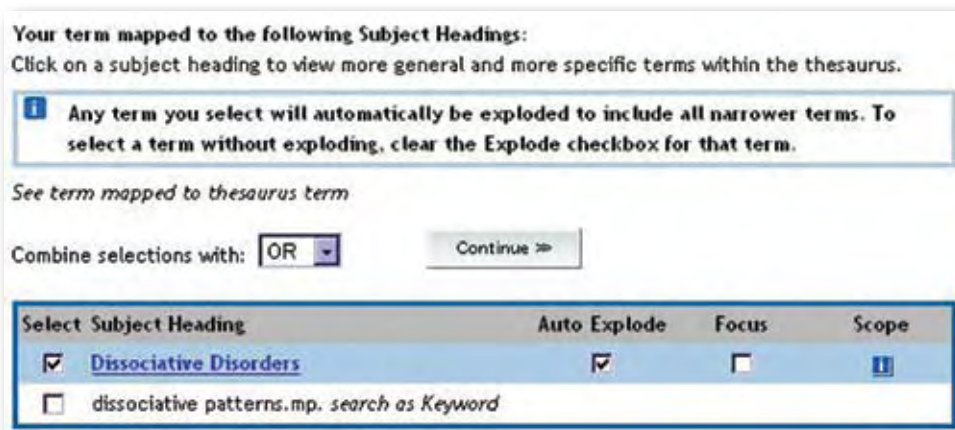
Subject Headings are terms taken from APA's *Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms®*. The *Thesaurus* provides the controlled vocabulary for PsycINFO. For example, searching "Dissociative Patterns" will map your term to the most relevant Index Terms, in this case "Dissociative Disorders".

The **Mapping** display appears. Select "Dissociative Disorders". If you select **Auto Explode** it will perform a broad search, finding the term "Dissociative Disorders" and any narrower terms. If you select **Focus** it will narrow your search, retrieving only results where "Dissociative Disorders" is a major index term. If the index term represents the main focus of a document, it is designated as a major index term.

Then click **Continue**.

Author Search

Select the **Advanced Ovid Search** tab and then select the **Author** radio button. Enter the author's last name, a space, and first initial, if known, in the search box. For example "Maslow C" or just "Maslow" for Carey Maslow. Select **Search**.

An alphabetical list of names, with last name first, will appear including *Maslow, Carey*. Put a check next to the author(s) you want and then click **Search for Selected Terms**. You may need to check more than one if you are unsure of the author's first name or middle initial.

Title Search

Select the **Advanced Ovid Search** tab and then select the **Title** radio button. This searches for title of an article, book, book chapter or dissertation.

Enter a word or phrase to be searched in the title. For example, if you type "hypnotherapy" you will be told how many results are available with "hypnotherapy" in the title and you have the option to display the results or narrow them further. If you know the complete title, you can type that into the search box (such as *The treatment of anxiety neurosis through rational stage directed hypnotherapy: A cognitive experiential perspective*).


Journal Search

Select the **Advanced Ovid Search** tab and then select the **Journal** radio button. Enter the first few letters of a full journal name or the entire name, for example "Behavioral Neuroscience". Do not use abbreviations. Select **Search**.
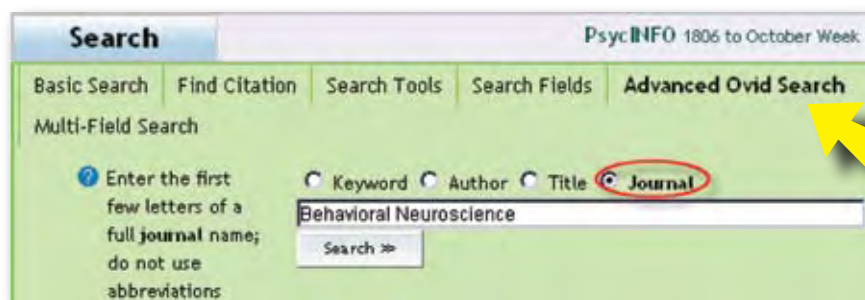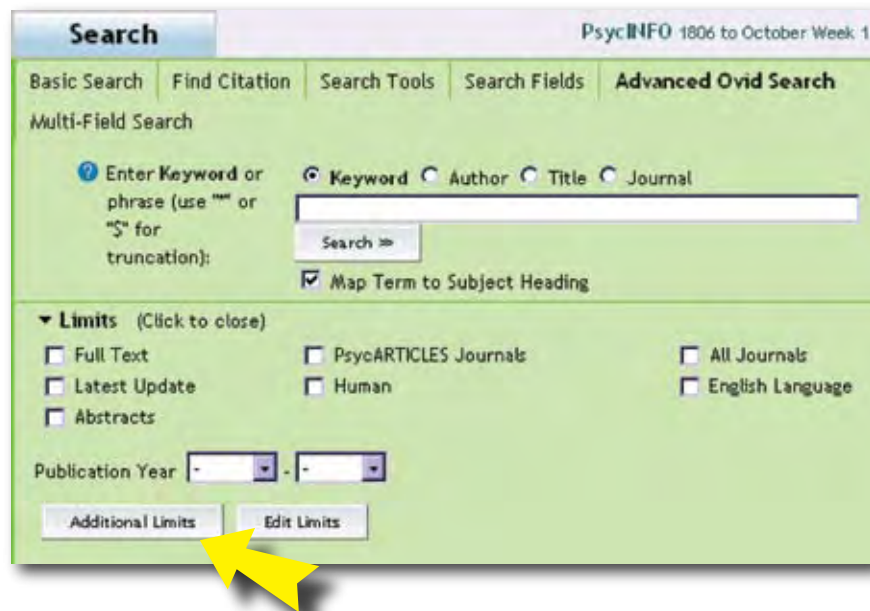
How to Limit Your Search

Select the **Advanced Ovid Search** tab and under the search box you will see **Limits**. Click on it for a list of possible limits.
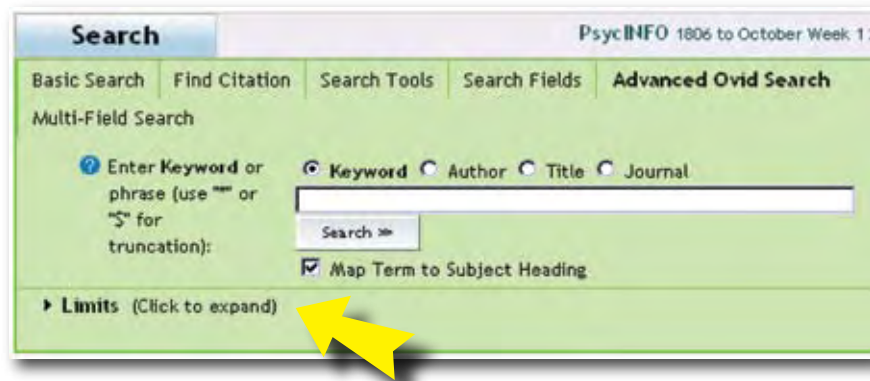
This will open a set of limits, including the option to limit the year range. Below that is **Additional Limits**. Click on that for a full list of limits.

You will be able to limit your search in many ways, including:

Age Group: limit your search to the age of subjects (this applies to humans).

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, etc.

Population Group: limit your search to the group of subjects (human, animal, female, male, etc).

Publication Type: limit your search to specific publications, such as peer reviewed journal, authored book, encyclopedia, etc.

Publication Year: allows you to set a date range or a particular year.

Definitions of Selected Fields

Abstract: brief summary of the article

Classification: general areas of psychology which are used to classify each document and can be searched. Classification Codes are available at http://www.apa.org/databases/training/classcodes.html

Institution: institutional affiliation of authors

Keywords: a group of subject fields, including title, abstract, subject headings and other subject fields
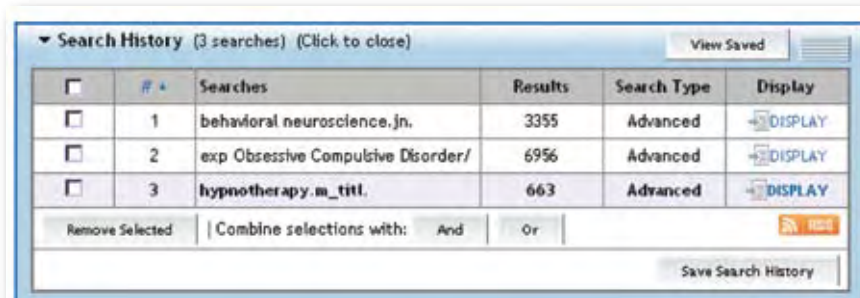
Publisher: organization/company that publishes the journal or book

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

Tests & Measures: lists the test(s) used in the methodology of a study

How to Combine Your Searches

Click on **Search History.** This will open your search history and allow you to combine any of the searches you have performed.

	# ▲	Searches	Results	Search Type	Display
☐	1	behavioral neuroscience.jn.	3355	Advanced	DISPLAY
☐	2	exp Obsessive Compulsive Disorder/	6956	Advanced	DISPLAY
☐	3	hypnotherapy.m_titl.	663	Advanced	DISPLAY

Search History (3 searches) (Click to close) — View Saved

Remove Selected | Combine selections with: And Or | Save Search History

Search Basics

Boolean Operators (And, Or, Not) combine search terms to narrow or broaden results.

Wildcard (?): The "?" replaces one character, for example, **ne?t** finds neat, nest or next, but will not find net.

Truncation ($ or *): The "$" or "*" replaces any number of characters and will find all forms of a word root, for example, **therap$** or **therap*** finds therapy, therapies, therapist, therapists, therapeutic, therapeutically.

Print/Email/Save

While in the results list or in the record view, go to the **Results Manager**. Under **Actions** you can select **Print Preview**. Then go to **File**, then **Print** in your web browser's tool bar. This will print the record.

Go to **Email** to send it to yourself or others.

Go to **Save** to save it.
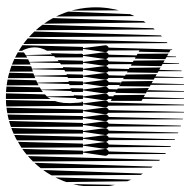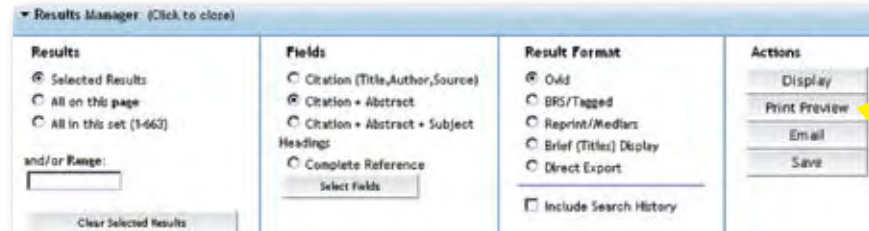
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