A Guide for Using PsycINFO

The Brown University library maintains a list of research resources for all major academic disciplines. The site for psychology can be found at: http://library.brown.edu/gateway/lrg.php?id=52&task=db

The most useful database for a background literature search is usually PsycINFO. The steps in searching for a particular topic through PsycINFO are:

1. Click on the link for PsycINFO. You will be taken to the main search page.
   - Note: You can select whether you want to search by **Keyword**, **Author**, **Title**, or **Journal**.
   - At this point you will most likely want to search by **Keyword**. Later, as you gain familiarity with the literature on a particular topic, searching by **Author** or **Title** may become useful.

Let’s say you’re interested in **gender differences in depression**.

2. Type in **depression** in the Basic Search box and select **Search**.
3. You’ll be provided with a list of relevant articles that contain your keyword. However, there will most likely be lots of articles relevant to your topic. We need to narrow our search.

4. Click the tan tab for “Recent Searches” to display all your recent PsycINFO searches up to this point.
5. Select both search terms (i.e., depression and gender differences) by checking the boxes next to the terms. Make sure the “AND” command is selected for how to combine the searches to search for the intersection of the two topics. After you click AND click “go” and PsycInfo combines your search terms and compiles a new list of relevant articles.

6. This will narrow the number of articles to ones that include BOTH keywords pertaining to gender and depression. This is a workable method to whittle down the number of articles to scan through.
To determine whether you can access an article electronically, select the **Find Text** button. An article may be:

- **Available electronically.** If it is available electronically, select the option **Go** to retrieve a pdf copy of the article.
- **Available only in a hard copy format** in a bound journal at the Science Library or the Rock; select “Find it” for call number and available volumes.

**Depression vulnerability predicts cigarette smoking among college students: Gender and negative reinforcement expectancies as contributing factors.**


Abstract: This study examined the association between vulnerability to depression and smoking behavior in 1214 college students (54% female), and evaluated gender and expectancies of negative affect reduction as moderators or mediators of this relationship.

Depression vulnerability predicted smoking in females, but not males. The relationship between depression vulnerability and smoking status was mediated by expectancies of negative affect reduction in females only. Female college students who are vulnerable to depression may smoke because they expect smoking to relieve negative affect. Smoking interventions for college females may increase in effectiveness by targeting depression and emphasizing mood regulation. (PsychINFO Database Record (c) 2010 APA, all rights reserved)

Subjects: Major Depression; Negative Reinforcement; Susceptibility (Disorders); Tobacco Smoking; Adulthood (18 yrs & older); Male; Female

Database: PsycINFO

**Add to folder**

**Linked Full Text**

**find it!**

**Find Full Text & Other Library Services**

**Title:** Depression vulnerability predicts cigarette smoking among college students: Gender and negative reinforcement expectancies as contributing factors.

**Source:** Addictive Behaviors [0396-4603] yr: 2010 vol: 35 iss: 6 pg: 607
Notes:

1. Try to retrieve electronic copies of the article(s). This will be easiest on you and your group, and for the most part all journals are electronic now. Having electronic copies of articles will make transmitting them among your group painless.

2. Don’t select articles that are written in a language other than English (for obvious reasons).

3. Don’t select articles that appear in “Dissertation Abstracts International...” because we do not have access to these articles.

4. Feel free to try different combinations of search terms. This will not only help you learn PsycInfo, but you may turn up interesting articles relevant to your project. This will also narrow down the number of articles you will have to scan through.

5. Other helpful resources available on the library website for Psychology include a link to APA citation format information, and the contact information for the Psychology Librarian.

Here is a website you might find helpful when citing your articles.
http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/citing/apa.html