

PsycInfo

Contents

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 3 million citations to journal articles, books and book chapters (Oct. 2013).

Start

- Go to the VU University Library homepage: www.ub.vu.nl
- Use **Search in A-Z Resources**-box (right hand side)
- Choose **e-Resources**
- Search for **PsycInfo**
- **Click Go!**

Search: Basic or Advanced

Use the start screen to perform a search or click on **Advanced** to make full use of the more

powerful search tools. Use the **Help**-button (right side above) for extra information.

Basic Search

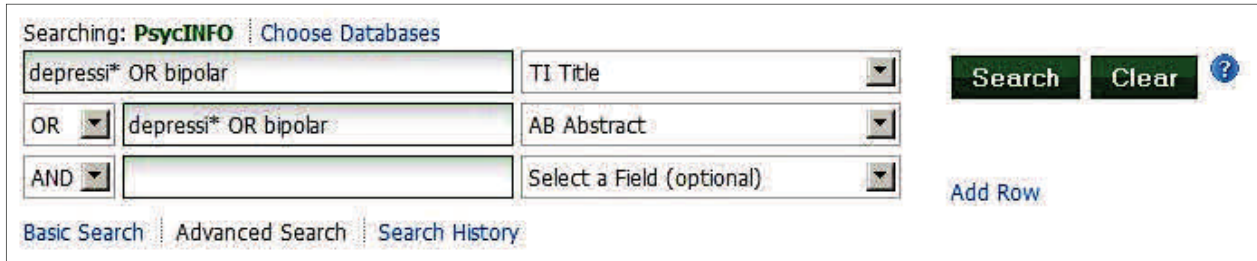
Enter a search term. When entering more than one word, e.g. **mental health**, PsycInfo will look for references that contain both **mental** and **health**. Surround the words with quotation marks – **"mental health"** – to look for the words as a phrase only.

Using the Thesaurus

Click the **Thesaurus** link to start searching for keywords. Browse for subject terms here and select one or more to add to the search. Choose and mark, if possible, to **Explode** (a keyword including it's narrower keywords) or choose for **Major Concept**. Mark keyword(s) and click **Add** to send them to the search box. Combine keywords with either **OR** or **AND**. Keywords can be combined with other terms or searches via the **Advanced Search**.

Advanced Search

Use **Advanced Search** to find terms in specific fields, for example in title or abstract. It is important for a comprehensive search to search this way also, as only a limited number of keywords are added to a reference. Combine title and abstract search with *OR*. In free text searching Boolean operators (*AND*, *OR* or *NOT*) and truncations (with an asterisk: *depress** will find *depressive*, *depression*, a.s.o.) can be used. Use the **Search**



Options to limit the search to *full text*, *publication date*, *peer reviewed journals* or others. For more specific search terms or limitations there are also **Indexes** (top of the screen) available for *methodology*, *tests and measures*, *population groups* and more.

Search History

It is possible via the History to combine or delete searches. Mark searches and click **Search with AND**, **Search with OR** or **Delete Searches**. It is also possible (and very useful!) to **print** the Search History. It is now easy to copy the History to a Word-document.

Results and downloading

Results can be limited with the **Refine Search** box on the left hand side. These are the same limitations as in the Advanced Search.

Results are sorted by relevance. This can be changed to *publication date* or *author*. The display of the search result can be changed by using **Page Options**.

To download selected or all references use **Share**. Use from *Share* either **Add to folder** for marked items. Or **Export results** to download all the retrieved items with a maximum of 5000. To export results the database host *Ebsco* will provide a temporary link by e-mail where a file of the retrieved items is available. Use this option also to download references to reference management software.

An **Alert** option is also provided via the **Share** screen. After an account has been created e-mail alerts will be send for the most recent additions to PsycInfo on the provided subject.

Fulltext

In limited cases PsycInfo will provide the fulltext of an item (either articles, books or book chapters). In other cases use the VU-link to find out whether the fulltext is provided by the University Library.

