PsycINFO

PsycINFO is the premier database for locating research in psychology.

Whether your field of study is Business, Education, Communication, Psychology or any of the many fields in the Social Sciences - if your topic includes human behavior - you will want to use PsycINFO.

To access PsycINFO:

1. Go to the Rod Library website
2. Click on Databases A-Z
3. Click on PsycINFO

PsycINFO will allow you to use all of the Boolean Operators and truncation.

You can also limit your search to Title, Abstract, and Subject.

Search: PsycINFO | Choose Databases

(online OR Internet OR "social media")  TI Title
AND  priva*  AB Abstract
AND  (adolescen* OR teen*)  TI Title
Subject Searching in PsycINFO

All articles placed in the PsycINFO database are reviewed by humans (not computers) trained in psychology and familiar with the terminology of psychology. An article might focus on privacy issues and teenage use of social media and yet “social media” is not found in title nor even the abstract. However, by inspecting other useful articles in PsycINFO you will find that there are standard subject headings assigned to all articles on a specific topic.

In the case of the search displayed above you will find there is an assigned subject heading for “social media” ... namely Online Social Networks. Likewise the subject heading Internet Usage might also prove useful. So after looking at the results from a search that focuses on words in the Title or Abstract you might try a revised “subject” search based upon the subject headings you find.

Subject headings are sometimes essential when a word has too many meanings.

For instance suppose you were trying to find articles that looked at the stress and strain of maintaining a “relationship” during adolescence.

If we tried to focus the search by looking for “relationships” in the titles of articles and perhaps adolescent* in the abstract - we would be in for a surprise (and a great deal of disappointment).

The following search ...

... produces both a large number (over 6,000) and wide variety of results. Just a few of the titles include:
“The relationship between personality traits and psychotic like experiences in a large non-clinical adolescent sample.”

“Adolescent violence in the home: Restorative approaches to building healthy, respectful family relationships.”

“Introduction to the special section on religion and spirituality in family life: Pathways between relational spirituality, family relationships and personal well-being.”

Eventually we would find a few more promising articles such as:

“Intimate relationship involvement, intimate relationship quality, and psychiatric disorders in adolescents.”

“Indicators of adolescent depression and relationship progression in emerging adulthood.”

“Trauma and secure base behaviors in dating relationships.”

“Longitudinal effect of defensive denial on relationship instability.”

When you look at the PsycINFO record (details) for each of these articles – you will notice that they all share a common Subject Heading: “Interpersonal Relationships”

If we repeat this search with Interpersonal Relationships as a Subject Heading the results are fewer (only about 1,000 rather than 6,000) and much more focused.
Locating Research in PsycINFO

Another strength of PsycINFO is the ability to limit your results to research or even a specific type of research.

Suppose you were looking for scholarly (academic) articles on military veterans and post-traumatic stress disorder.

You might try the following search in PsycINFO and limit the results to Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals as follows:

Now suppose you were looking for research (not just scholarly articles – but articles in which actual studies or experiments took place).

One solution would be to add another line to the search and look for the word “study” in the abstract.

However, a more sophisticated method is available in PsycINFO.

Instead of typing study in that last line (and then limiting that line to AB Abstract) ...

... you can scroll down the Search Options page and choose from the various categories under Methodology.
In particular you can limit to an “Empirical Study” or a “Qualitative Study” or a “Quantitative Study”

Or

If selecting only Peer Reviewed (Refereed) journals is an issue ...
... you can scroll down the Search Options page
to Publication Type and select
Peer Reviewed Journal.