PsycInfo

PsycInfo is an electronic bibliographic database providing abstracts and citations to the scholarly literature in the psychological, social, behavioural, and health sciences. The database includes material of relevance to psychologists and professionals in related fields such as psychiatry, management, business, education, social science, neuroscience, law, medicine, and social work. Updated weekly, PsycINFO® provides access to journal articles, books, chapters, and dissertations.

The aim of this workbook is to help you to find references on PsycInfo. After working through this sheet you should be able to:

- Sign on to PsycInfo
- Search by keyword, subject, author and journal
- Display references in different formats
- Combine and limit searches
- Select and email references
- Find full-text journal articles
- Check availability of references

Always read these notes and the screen carefully as you work through the exercises.

Comments and queries: If you have any queries following the workshop, or any suggestions for how it could be improved please contact the Medical Sciences Liaison Team, ext. 87550, e-mail medliaison@ncl.ac.uk
Exercise 1  Access PsycInfo via the Ovid

Objective:  to sign on to PsycInfo

To log in to PsycInfo:

Go to the University Library homepage at:

http://www.ncl.ac.uk/library/

Click on Databases, e-journals, e-books in the Subject support box on the left hand side of the page

Choose Ovid from the databases listed.

Choose accessing the database ‘on campus connection’

Scroll down to the PsycInfo databases.
Tick in the box to select the PsycInfo database which covers 2002 to present, e.g. PsycInfo 2002 to Week (latest date) 2018. Click OK.
Exercise 2 Searching PsycInfo

Let’s try a search to find out what information has been published about anxiety in the last few years?

2.1 Searching

Click in the search box to begin.

Type the word anxiety then click on Search

PsycInfo matches (maps) this term to its list of subject headings

Click on Anxiety

PsycInfo now shows you the tree structure of the subject index, with broader and narrower terms. We want articles on all aspects of the anxiety so we want to include all the narrower terms in our search. PsycInfo calls this exploding

2.2 Exploding a search term

Ensure that there is a tick in the box next to anxiety and also tick in the box to the right, under the Explode heading

Now click on Continue

The search will now be completed

You are returned to the original search screen and the results of your first search appear in the Search History window

PsycInfo uses a shorthand in the Search History box to show you how you performed this search. The exp shows that you exploded the term, and the / at the end shows you included all subheadings.

2.3 Display the results of your search

Scroll down to look at the first few references. This is how the references are displayed:

Title of article/editorial/letter. Year, Author(s). Journal title. Volume (Part):page no.s, Month.

Scroll up to return to the search section.
Exercise 3  Focusing your search term

Use the focus function to find articles in which your topic is a key element.

Subject headings can be major or minor - **Focus** restricts your search to articles where your search terms are "major"

Let's look at the question, What information has been published specifically on citalopram?

3.1 Search by phrase

Click in the search box and type citalopram and then click on Search

This maps directly to the Subject Heading citalopram

Click on citalopram

Look down the page to where citalopram is highlighted.

You will see that there are no narrower terms in this subject tree so you do not need to explode the search.

Ensure that the box to the left of citalopram is selected, and click in the box under Focus to restrict our search to references where citalopram is the main focus of the article

Click on Continue

You will be returned to the main search page.

The * in front of citalopram shows that you focused your search.
Exercise 4  Search by keyword

Sometimes subject searching does not work satisfactorily as PsycInfo cannot ‘map’ your search to something useful. This is when a Keyword search should be used.

Let’s find out what has been published recently on bungee jumping?

4.1  Keyword Search
Enter the term bungee jumping and Search

PsycInfo is unable to map this to a useful Subject Heading.

Look down to the end of the list of subjects and you will see bungee jumping.mp. Search as Keyword

Click on the box next to this to perform a keyword search
Click on Continue at the top of the screen

PsycInfo will now look for this term in the titles and abstracts of the references contained on the database
You are returned to the Search History screen where you will see the results of your search

4.2 Truncating a keyword

At the Main Search Page enter the term bungee jump$ and search for this as a keyword.

This search will find articles containing the term bungee jump, bungee jumper, bungee jumping etc.

Complete the search as you did in the exercise above.

How has this affected the results of your search?

This is called truncation, and the dollar sign ($) and the asterisk (*) are the truncation operators in PsycInfo.
Exercise 5  Limiting your search

Sometimes you may want to limit your search to include factors other than subject. These might include publication date, document type or publication language.

Let's limit the range of your previous search to articles published since 2008 in English.

5.1  Limiting your search

Click on the **Limits** underneath the search box.

Your latest search appears at the bottom of the search history box. It is highlighted in a different colour to indicate that this is the active search.

Click in the box next to **English Language**

Change the publication years to **2008** to **2016**

Click on **Search**

What effect has this had on your search results?
Exercise 6   Displaying references in different formats

You can change the display format for the references you have found

6.1 Displaying references

Scroll down to use the list of references found in your previous search,

We will look at them in more detail.

Click on **Complete Reference** to the right of the article details.

The details of the reference are now displayed including an abstract or summary of the content of the article and all the keywords and subject headings used to index it.

As well as **Abstract** and **Complete Reference**, there are other options for display. The grey ‘Tools’ box on the right also shows:

**Library holdings** will take you to the University Library catalogue to see if the journal is stocked.

The **Find it** option will automatically take you to the full-text of the article if the University Library subscribes to an electronic version. We will look at this in a later exercise.

Click on the **Search** tab at the top of the page to return to the main search page.
Exercise 7  Combining Searches

It is essential to break the research question down into searchable elements before carrying out any search.

Let’s look at this question:

Have any articles been published on the effect of citalopram on major depression?

There are several elements to this question and it is good practice to break it down into those elements before you begin your search. The table below shows how you might do that:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject 1</th>
<th>Subject 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>citalopram</td>
<td>Major depression</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7.1  Subject searches

Search for your first subject, citalopram

Select the appropriate Subject Heading, and Explode if necessary.

Now search for the second subject major depression.

The results of this search will appear in the Search History

7.2  Combining searches

You need to combine your two searches together to find articles where both subjects appear.

Find your last two searches from the list and click in the boxes alongside each search.

Click on the appropriate combine button at the bottom of the box – AND or OR to combine. You will need AND for this search.

The results of your combined search appear in the Search History
Exercise 8  Selecting and emailing records

You are going to select references you are interested in and email them to yourself.

Display the references from your last search.

8.1 Mark records

Tick the boxes of the references you want to email. Click four references for the purposes of this exercise.

8.2 Emailing references

Above the results, click on the Email icon.

In the To: box type in your email address.

Tick one of the boxes from the Select Fields to Display drop-down menu in order to include the information that you want.

Tick the box at the bottom of the screen to Include Search History.

Click on Send Email.

You will then receive an email confirmation message.

Click on Search to return to the main search page.
Exercise 9  Searching by author and journal title

Sometimes you will want to search for references by a known author (or joint author) or for articles in a known journal.

You must use the correct format for the author’s name and in the case of journals, the full title, not an abbreviation (BMJ and JAMA are exceptions only when searching PsycInfo).

Let’s find out what articles has Prof Julia Newton had published in the Journal of the American Medical Association since 2000.

9.1 Search by author

Above the search box, change the keyword button to author.

Enter Newton, Julia and click on Search.

Tick in the box which says Newton Julia l.au and click on Search for selected terms.

The search results will appear in the Search History, you can Display them at this point or Combine with other searches, as we are going to do now.

9.2 Search by journal

Change the keyword button to journal.

Enter JAMA (Journal of the American Medical Association) and click on Search.

JAMA should be ticked-off, so click on Search for selected terms.

9.3 Combine the searches

The results appear in the Search History, combine these results with the previous search for the author Newton, Julia.

From the results, what is the title of Prof Newton’s 2008 paper?

__________________________________________________________________________________
Exercise 10  Locating documents

You will want to check if the article or journal you want is held in Newcastle University Library in print and/or via electronic journal subscriptions

10.1 Electronic journal collection

The following reference should appear in your search results of your previous search.

Medical challenges of improving the quality of a longer life.

Click on the link for this reference

You can click on the pdf icon if you want to download the full text article.

Close the Library catalogue window to return to your PsycInfo session.
Click on Search to return to your PsycInfo session.
Exercise 11  Try a search of your own

Construct your own search and break it down into its component parts.

11.1 What is your question?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Now break your question down into its main elements using the boxes below

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject 1</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subject 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population group</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publication language</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publication date</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publication type</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other limits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Now try doing a search, using Combining and Limiting as practised earlier

How many references have you found?

_________________________________________
Logging off.

From the main search page click on the **Logoff** icon in the top right hand corner.