

searching Psych articles



Open EBSCOhost and select the PsycINFO database

Select the *Thesaurus* button under the **Advanced Search** tab (near the top of the screen)

- Type your first term in the box next to *Browse for* (be sure to use this box not the *Find* box at the top of the screen)
- Change Alphabetical to Relevancy Ranked if desired
- Click *Browse*

You will receive a list of Thesaurus terms.

- Clicking on the box to the left of the Thesaurus term will select that as a search term.
- Clicking on the Thesaurus term will provide you with a definition of the term as used in this database as well as a list of narrower, broader, and related terms (which are often helpful when searching with Thesaurus terms)

To the right are two other columns often containing clickable boxes: *Explode* and *Major Concept*.

- Clicking on *Explode* will explode the search to include the Thesaurus term and all of the narrower terms listed. If a narrower term has a + sign it indicates an additional layer of narrower terms. This additional layer of narrower terms is not automatically included in the exploded search.
- Clicking the *Major Concept* box restricts the search to **only** those articles in which the Thesaurus terms is noted as a Major Concept. Unlike traditional subject headings, thesaurus terms are often assigned weight: Major concept, Minor concept, or subject.
- Click *Add* to add the Thesaurus terms to your search.
 - Be sure to change the Boolean connector to AND or OR as appropriate (next to *Add* at the top of the terms list) before clicking *Add* for additional terms. (Boolean AND retrieves only those articles that have **all** the search terms; Boolean OR retrieves all the articles that have **any** of the search terms)
- Repeat the steps above for additional concepts you wish to add to your search.
- When you have located and added all the concepts for your search, click *Search* (at the end of the *Find* box at the top of the search screen)

Under the **Refine Search** tab (near the middle of the screen)

- Click the box next to *Linked Full Text* to limit to full text articles
- Click the box next to *Peer Reviewed*

- Click *Search* (at the end of the *Find* box at the top of this search screen)
- Click on the article title to view citation information and abstract
- Click on *Linked Full Text* to retrieve the full article

Example: To do a search for drug abuse among Native Americans

- Type Drug Abuse
- Click on the title to see the narrower and broader terms. Drug Usage (a broader term) may be a better search term for you. Exploding Drug Usage includes all the narrower terms including Drug Abuse. Also, be sure to look at the related terms that may be useful when combined with Boolean OR.
- Click the box to the left of Drug Usage to include this term
- Also click the Explode box to the right of the term
- Click *Add* to begin building your search.

- Type Native American in the *Browse* box to start building the next concept of the search. When you click *Browse*, the results screen will prompt you to use American Indians instead. Click on the phrase American Indians to go to that entry.
- Click the box to the left of the term and change the Boolean connector to AND
- Click *Add*
- The find box now contains both your terms connected by AND
- Click *Search* to go to the article list.

- Click the box next to *Linked Full Text*
- Click the box next to *Peer Reviewed*
- Click *Search* (at the end of the *Find* box at the top of this search screen)

- Click on the article title to view citation information and abstract
- Click on *Linked Full Text* to retrieve the full article