

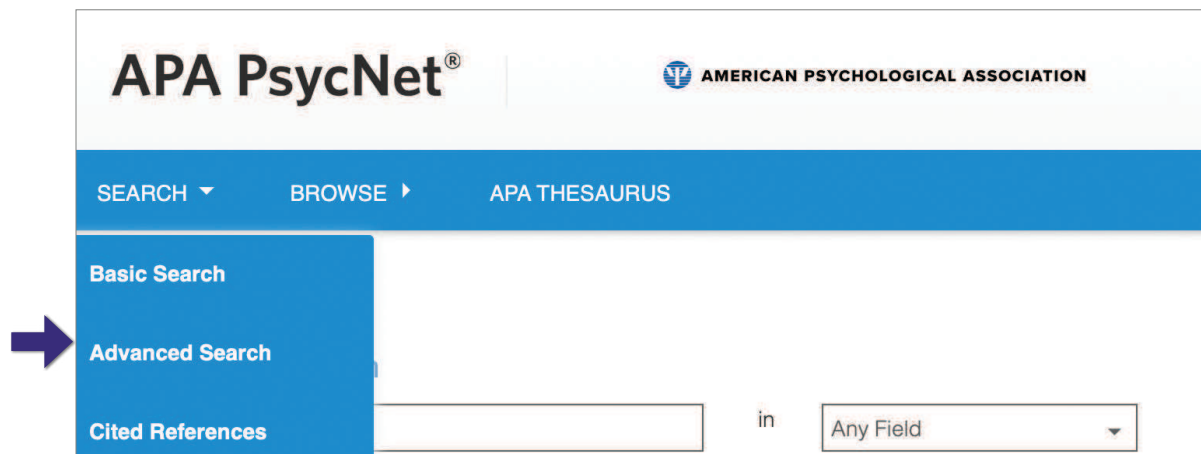


# APA PsycNet Quick Reference Guide

## ABOUT THIS GUIDE

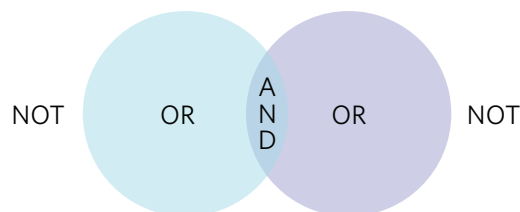
Access APA PsycNet through your library's webpage. If you need assistance, contact your librarian. This quick reference guide will demonstrate how to search APA PsycInfo® on the APA PsycNet platform in **Advanced Search** mode. APA PsycInfo® is an electronic bibliographic database that provides abstracts and citations for scholarly literature in the behavioral and social sciences. It contains a rich, interdisciplinary backfile that includes 4.8 million records.

Select the **Advanced Search** link to get started.



## SEARCH BASICS

1. **Boolean Operators (AND, OR, and NOT):** Combine search terms to narrow ("AND") or broaden ("OR") results. Use "NOT" to exclude records from retrieval.



2. **Phrases (""):** Enclose phrases in quotation marks if you want to find results in that exact order. For example, searching "perceived stress scale" will not retrieve "stress scale," "scale of perceived stress," or any other variation. It will retrieve only "perceived stress scale."
3. **Truncation (\*):** The \* replaces any number of characters. For example, **therap\*** finds therapy, therapies, therapist, therapists, therapeutic, therapeutically, etc.

## DEFINITIONS OF SELECT FIELDS

**Any Field:** automatically searches all fields, except for cited references

**Keywords:** searches the Keywords field, which contains the natural language terms describing documents' content as well as the Index Terms and Title fields

**Abstract:** a brief summary of the article

**Affiliation:** institutional affiliation of authors

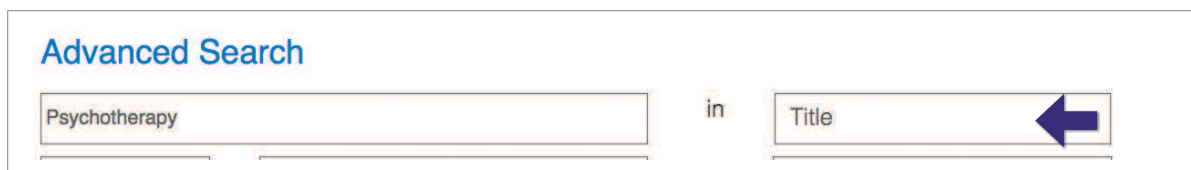
**Index Terms:** controlled vocabulary from *The APA Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms*<sup>®</sup>

**Tests & Measures:** lists the criteria used in the methodology of a study

**Grant/Sponsorship:** the source(s) of grants, sponsorship, and funding for the research or study

## TITLE SEARCH

Enter the title or the word(s) you want contained in the title in the search box. Select **Title** from the drop-down menu. For example, typing "psychotherapy" will return results with psychotherapy in the titles. If you know the complete title, such as "Principles for facilitating agency in psychotherapy," you may enter the full title in the search box. **Title** searches the title of a specific record, often an article or book chapter. **Journal Title** and **Book Title** are their own separate fields.





The screenshot shows the 'Advanced Search' section of a database interface. It features a search input field containing the text 'Psychotherapy'. To the right of the input field is the word 'in', followed by a dropdown menu currently displaying 'Title'. A blue arrow points to the dropdown menu, indicating it should be selected.

## JOURNAL SEARCH

Enter the journal title or the word(s) you want contained in the title into the search box and select **Journal Title** from the drop-down menu.

For example, searching for "American Psychologist" will yield a list of all citations from the journal entitled *American Psychologist*.

 **Helpful hint:** if you are unsure of which journal to select, click **Journal Lookup** for the complete Journal Index.



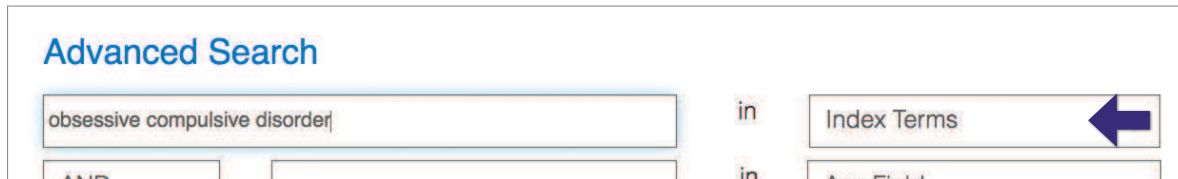
The screenshot shows the 'Advanced Search' section of a database interface. It features a search input field containing the text 'American Psychologist'. To the right of the input field is the word 'in', followed by a dropdown menu currently displaying 'Journal Title'. A blue arrow points to the dropdown menu, indicating it should be selected. Below the first search row, there is a second row with a dropdown menu set to 'AND' and an empty search box, followed by another 'in' and a dropdown menu set to 'Any Field'. A blue arrow points to the 'Journal Title' dropdown menu. On the right side of the interface, there is a 'Search Tools' button and a list of links: 'Author Lookup', 'Journal Lookup', and 'Test Lookup'. A blue arrow points to the 'Journal Lookup' link.

## INDEX TERMS


Index Terms are taken from the APA's *Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms*<sup>®</sup>. This is the controlled vocabulary for the database to help you find precise and relevant results.

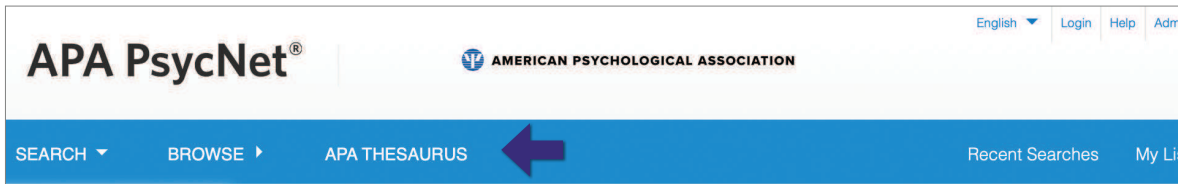
The *Thesaurus* was updated in 2020 with 102 new postable or “preferred” terms, and expanded terminology to reflect evolving research areas.

Type an index term into the search box and select Index Terms from the drop-down menu; for example, “obsessive compulsive disorder.”



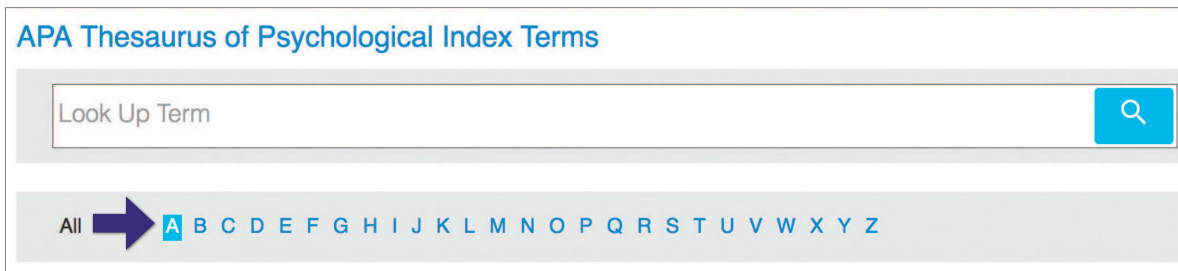
The screenshot shows the 'Advanced Search' section of a website. There is a search input field containing the text 'obsessive compulsive disorder'. To the right of the input field is a dropdown menu currently displaying 'Index Terms'. A blue arrow points to the dropdown menu. Below the input field, there are additional search options like 'APA' and 'in', but they are partially obscured.

 **Helpful hint:** If you are unsure if a term is an index term you can look it up in the online *Thesaurus*. Click on **APA THESAURUS** in the main navigation bar. You can access the *Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms* by clicking on the **APA THESAURUS** link.



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the APA PsycNet website. The header includes the 'APA PsycNet' logo, the 'AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION' logo, and a language selector set to 'English'. The navigation bar has links for 'SEARCH', 'BROWSE', and 'APA THESAURUS', with a blue arrow pointing to 'APA THESAURUS'. Other links like 'Recent Searches' and 'My List' are also visible.

You can search a term or use the alphabet navigation to browse the *Thesaurus*.




The screenshot shows the 'APA Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms' interface. It features a search input field labeled 'Look Up Term' with a magnifying glass icon. Below the search field is an alphabet navigation bar with letters A through Z, each in a blue box. A blue arrow points to the 'A' box. The word 'All' is also present with a blue arrow pointing to it.

## KEYWORD SEARCH

Search three fields at once for broad concepts. **Keywords** searches the Title, Index Terms, and Keywords fields simultaneously.

Enter the term(s) into the search box and select **Keywords** from the drop-down menu. For example, search “seasonality.” This will retrieve records with “seasonality” as a keyword.



The screenshot shows the 'Advanced Search' section of a website. There is a search input field containing the text 'seasonality'. To the right of the input field is a dropdown menu currently displaying 'Keywords'. A blue arrow points to the dropdown menu. Below the input field, there are additional search options like 'APA' and 'in', but they are partially obscured.

## FILTERS

The image to the right shows available options to focus your search.

**Age Group:** limit your search to the age of participants in a research study (this applies to humans)

**Supplemental Material:** indicates material separate from the source document

**APA PsycInfo Classification:** Classification Codes represent general areas of psychology which are used to classify each document. You can find the classification codes here: [www.apa.org/pubs/databases/training/class-codes.aspx](http://www.apa.org/pubs/databases/training/class-codes.aspx)

**Document Type:** limit your search to specific document types, such as bibliography, editorial, review, etc.

**Methodology:** limit your search to the methodology used in a research study, such as clinical case study, literature review, meta-analysis, etc.


**Population Group:** limit your search to the group of participants in a research study (human, animal, female, male, etc.)

### Filters

✓ Select Filter  
Age Group  
Supplemental Material  
PsycInfo Classification  
Document Type  
Methodology  
Population Group

## RECORD DISPLAY

The record displays a wealth of bibliographic data, including the Title, Author(s), Author Contact Information, Abstract, Publication Source, Publisher, ISSN, Language, Keywords, Digital Object Identifier, and much more.

Title	A measure of cognitions specific to seasonal depression: Development and validation of the Seasonal Beliefs Questionnaire.	
Publication Date	Jul 2019	
Publication History	First Posting: Mar 28, 2019 Accepted: Feb 4, 2019 Revised: Jan 25, 2019 First Submitted: Jun 7, 2018	
Language	English	
Author	Rohan, Kelly J.; Meyerhoff, Jonah; Ho, Sheau-Yan; Roecklein, Kathryn A.; Nillni, Yael I.; Hillhouse, Joel J.; DeSarno, Michael J.; Vacek, Pamela M.	
Author Identifier	Meyerhoff, Jonah	 <a href="http://orcid.org/0000-0001-5149-7959">http://orcid.org/0000-0001-5149-7959</a>
Email	Rohan, Kelly J.	<a href="mailto:kelly.rohan@uvm.edu">kelly.rohan@uvm.edu</a>

## MY LIST

You will be prompted to sign in or create your My APA account. Add items of interest to your folder by checking the box to the left of the title and then clicking on the “★” (Add To My List) icon.

The screenshot shows the 'MY LIST' interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with icons for 'All', 'Add to List', 'Email', 'Print', and 'Star' (highlighted with a blue arrow). The 'Sort By' dropdown is set to 'Year' and the page number is '25'. Below the navigation bar, there's a link to 'Show All Abstracts And Test Descriptions' and a pagination control showing '1 2 3 4 5' with '1' selected. The main content area shows a journal article titled 'Seasonal variations in psychiatric admissions to hospital.' by Slaunwhite, Amanda K.; Ronis, Scott T.; Peters, Paul A.; & Miller, David. The article is from 'Canadian Psychology/Psychologie canadienne, Vol 60(3), Aug 2019, 155-164' with a DOI link. To the left of the article title is a checkbox labeled 'Journal Article' (highlighted with a blue arrow). Below the article title are tabs for 'Abstract', 'References', 'PDF' (selected), and 'Full-Text HTML', along with a 'Delete From My List' button. At the bottom, there's a section for 'Images (7)' with a 'Show all' link and a preview of the images.

## MANAGE SEARCHES

On the Search Results page, you can manage your search by setting up an email alert (📧) or an RSS feed (📡), creating a Permalink (🔗), and editing (✏️) or saving (💾) your search strategy.

The screenshot shows the 'MANAGE SEARCHES' interface. It features a row of buttons: 'Edit Search' (with a pencil icon), 'New Search' (with a plus icon), 'Save' (with a floppy disk icon), 'Permalink' (with a link icon), 'Email Alert' (with a bell icon), and 'RSS Feed' (with an RSS icon).

## MY PSYCNET

Click the My PsycNet tab to create a free personalized area.

The screenshot shows the 'MY PSYCNET' interface. It features a row of tabs: 'Recent Searches', 'My List', and 'My PsycNet' (highlighted with a blue arrow).

My PsycNet allows you to create and edit a user profile, save searches, and set up alerts. It also stores APA PsycNet and APA PsycNet Direct purchases.

The screenshot shows the 'MY PSYCNET' interface, specifically the 'Saved Searches' section. At the top, there's a navigation bar with tabs for 'Saved Searches' (highlighted with a blue arrow), 'PsycALERT®', 'APA PsycNET Purchases', and 'My Profile'. Below the navigation bar, there's a section titled 'Saved Searches' with a link to 'Click on a saved search below to run the search'. A table lists the saved searches:

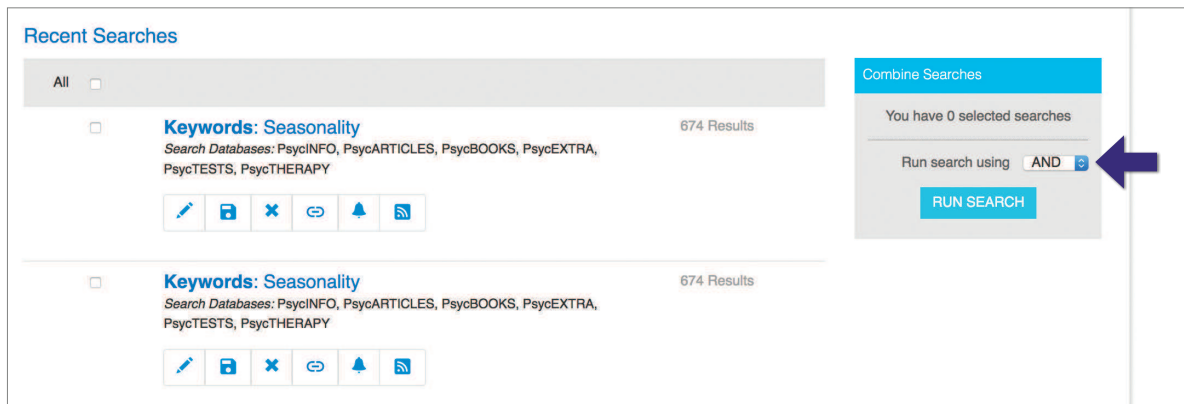
Name	Query	Database	Alert	Action
viktoria2	Abstract: =("post-traumatic stress disorder" OR "post-traumatic stress disorders" OR "post-traumatic distress" OR "post traumatic distress")	PsycINFO, PsycARTICLES, PsycBOOKS,		<a href="#">✏️</a> <a href="#">🔗</a> <a href="#">📧</a> <a href="#">📡</a> <a href="#">✖️</a>

## RECENT SEARCHES

Click the Recent Searches link to combine recent searches with AND, OR, or NOT Boolean operators.

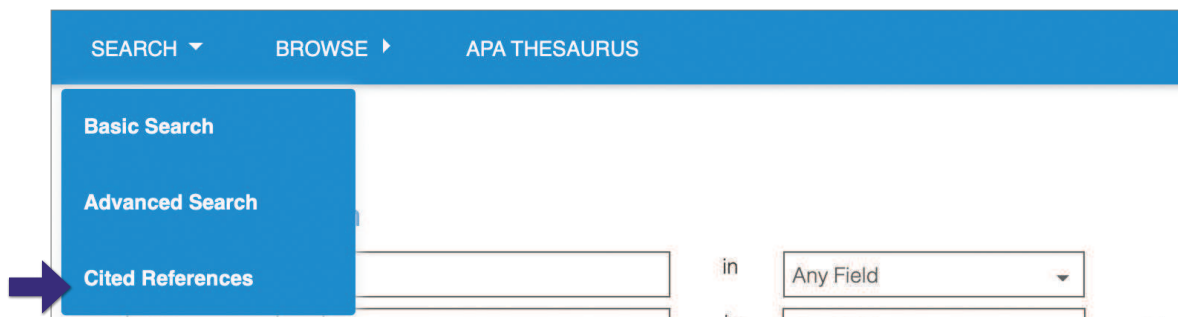


You have the full range of search actions available here as well.



## CITED REFERENCES

The **Cited References** search allows you to find works that cite a particular author or publication.

A screenshot of the 'Cited References' search form. It includes fields for 'Author Name' (with sub-fields for 'Last Name' and 'First Initial'), 'Title', 'Source', and 'Year'. There is a 'Q SEARCH' button and a 'clear form' link.

## TRAINING AND SEARCH HELP

Find **search tips and tools** from APA training experts:

[www.apa.org/pubs/databases/training](http://www.apa.org/pubs/databases/training)

View database **tutorials** on the **APA Publishing Training** YouTube page:

[www.youtube.com/APAPublishingTraining](http://www.youtube.com/APAPublishingTraining)

Register for a **free webinar** led by an APA training specialist:

[www.apa.org/pubs/databases/training/webinars](http://www.apa.org/pubs/databases/training/webinars)

Contact Customer Engagement for **training and search help** at [psycinfo@apa.org](mailto:psycinfo@apa.org).

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