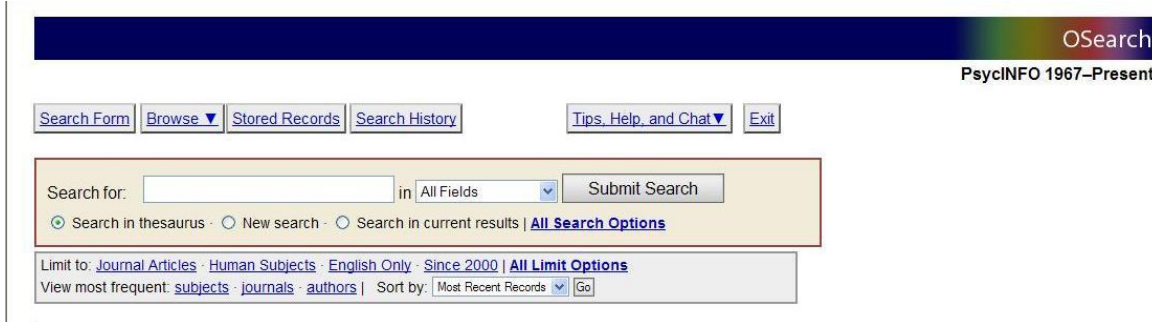


# Help with PsycINFO

## Getting There

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1. Start at Rentschler Library's website: [www.ham.muohio.edu/library](http://www.ham.muohio.edu/library)
2. Click on "Research by Subject"
3. Click on "Psychology"
4. Select "PsycINFO" (if you are off-campus, you will need to enter your Miami username & password to connect)



The screenshot shows the PsycINFO search interface. At the top right, there is a logo for "OSearch" and the text "PsycINFO 1967-Present". Below this, there are several navigation buttons: "Search Form", "Browse" (with a dropdown arrow), "Stored Records", "Search History", "Tips, Help, and Chat" (with a dropdown arrow), and "Exit". The main search area contains a "Search for:" input field, a dropdown menu set to "All Fields", and a "Submit Search" button. Below the search field, there are radio buttons for "Search in thesaurus" (selected), "New search", and "Search in current results", along with a link to "All Search Options". At the bottom, there is a section for "Limit to:" with links for "Journal Articles", "Human Subjects", "English Only", and "Since 2000", and a link to "All Limit Options". Below this, there is a "View most frequent:" section with links for "subjects", "journals", and "authors", and a "Sort by:" section with a dropdown menu set to "Most Recent Records" and a "Go" button.

## Finding Search Terms

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1. Look at your topic statement and select relevant keywords to search
2. Brainstorm words similar to your keywords to use if you have problems searching  
*Example 1:* If your keyword was violence, you could try aggression
3. Consider the medical term for a prescription, condition, or illness. To find the proper term, you can use PsycINFO's "Thesaurus" search  
*Example 2:* If you're looking for "Autism Spectrum Disorders" you would want to look for: "Pervasive Developmental Disorders"
4. As you find articles, look to see what keywords the author used in the title or abstract to describe his/her topic and include these in your search.

## Start Searching

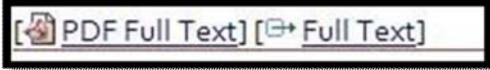
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1. Change the search to a "Keyword" search
2. Enter your keyword—if using more than 1 keyword, click "More search boxes"
3. On your results page, click "All Limit Options"
  1. Under "Publication Type", select "Journal Article"
  2. Under "Methodology", select "Empirical Study"
  3. Use whatever additional limiters are helpful for your topic. These may include the "Age Group", publication date range (for more recent articles), or more. If you get many results in a foreign language, you may want to select "English" to weed out those you can't read.
4. If your search results are still not narrow enough, use the "Search within current results" button to add additional keywords.

**More on Next Page!**

## Find your Articles

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1. When your search results are a manageable number to review, you will see the *citation* information for each numbered result. The part underlined in blue is the article title—if it seems relevant to your topic...
2. Click on the blue article title to see the article's abstract (summary).
3. If it seems relevant, click the "FindIT" button to search our holdings for full text.
4. If the article is available full-text online, you will see a yellow highlighted link at the top left of the page. You will need to click the link to follow through for full-text.
  1. Clicking the link will take you into another database that holds the article. In most cases, you will first see the article's abstract again. Look for a .pdf sign or link to view/save the actual full-text article. 
  2. You may have to use the *citation* information to locate the article within the journal—for this, you will need to know at least the year, volume/issue, and article title/author.
  3. Be sure to save your articles!
5. If the article is NOT available full-text online, you will not see a yellow link. If Miami University has the journal that carried that article in print copy, you will see results that list what years/volumes of coverage we have. If Miami does have the print version of the journal you need, you can go to the library that has it and photocopy it out of the print journal. In most cases, this would mean going to Oxford's King Library.
6. If Miami does not have a print copy, or if you cannot go to retrieve the print version, you will want to keep sorting through your results to find an appropriate article that is available full-text online.

## Research Tips

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1. **RE**search. You will probably have to try multiple search strategies to find the best articles. Keep track of which keywords are successful and brainstorm new ones if you are not getting results.
2. **Analyze** your articles to make sure they meet the assignment criteria and that they are appropriate for you and your topic. The "Limiters" are a tool, but they are not a guarantee and you are responsible for making sure the assignment criteria is met.
3. **Save** all of the full-text articles that you think may be appropriate. Chances are that not all of them will meet the assignment criteria or fit your topic—it may take 10 full-text articles to find 2 that you can use. You won't know for sure until you read them in their entirety.
  1. If you are working on-campus, be sure to save your articles to your flashdrive or to your university NetDisk space, or email them to yourself as attachments. Saving it to the computer does not guarantee that it is going to be there the next time you login (or that you'll even be able to get back on that computer!).
4. **Explore** other databases from Psychology's "Research by Subject" page. If you are having problems in PsycINFO, you may have more success in "PubMed" or in the "Psychology & Behavioral Science Collection". Use the "Advanced Search" option in these databases to limit your results.