

PsycINFO through PsycNET Interface

Basic Information and Getting Started with Topic Searching

What is it?

- PsycINFO is an abstract database that provides systematic coverage of the psychological literature from the 1800s to the present. It contains citations, abstracts, cited references, and descriptive information to help you find what you need across a wide variety of scholarly publications in the behavioral and social sciences.
- Several thousand journals are indexed for inclusion in this database. Of the content included, 99% of citations are from peer-reviewed journals. 10-15% of the content included is from books and dissertations.

Accessing this resource

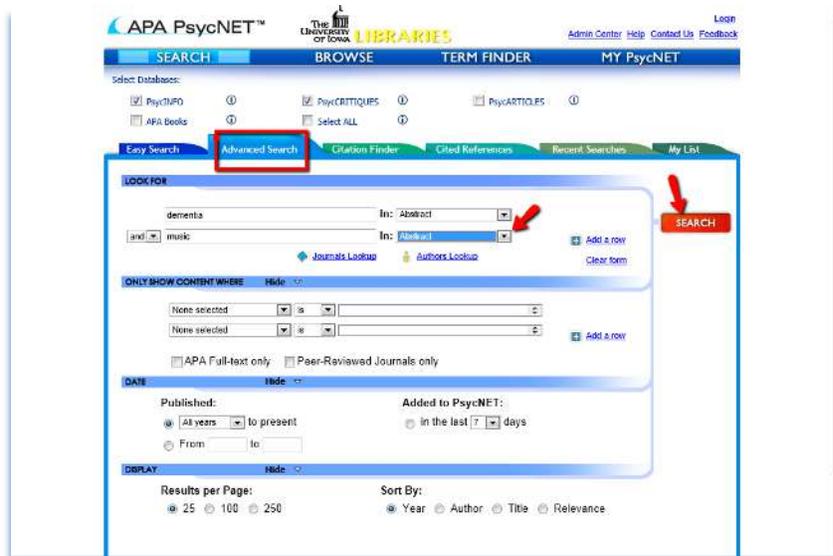
1. Start at the Hardin Library Homepage and navigate to the Health Sciences Resources A-Z list: <http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/hardin/healthdatabases.html> and select PsycINFO.
2. If you are off-campus, you will be prompted to enter your hawk id and password.
3. Once you have entered the resource, select the PsycINFO box, as pictured below.

The screenshot shows the APA PsycNET interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs: SEARCH, BROWSE, TERM FINDER, and MY PsycNET. Below these, there is a 'Select Databases:' section with several checkboxes. A red arrow points to the 'PsycINFO' checkbox, which is checked. Other checkboxes include 'APA Books', 'PsycCRITIQUES', 'PsycARTICLES', and 'Select ALL'. Below this section, there are tabs for 'Easy Search', 'Advanced Search', 'Citation Finder', 'Cited References', 'Recent Searches', and 'My List'. The 'Advanced Search' tab is active, showing a search form with fields for 'LOOK FOR', 'ONLY SHOW CONTENT WHERE', and 'DATE'. The 'LOOK FOR' section has two input fields and dropdown menus for 'In: Any Field'. The 'ONLY SHOW CONTENT WHERE' section has dropdown menus for 'None selected' and 'is'. The 'DATE' section has a 'Published:' dropdown set to 'All years' and an 'Added to PsycNET:' dropdown set to 'in the last 7 days'. A 'SEARCH' button is visible on the right side of the search form.



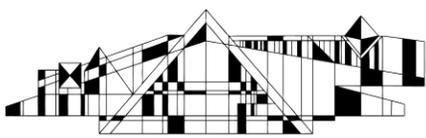
Performing a basic topic search

1. In advanced search (the default search mode), enter in your key words and consider using fields. The abstract field was used here.
2. Also consider options of adding rows if you have additional terms. Also consider the limits below the search boxes. It is usually a good idea to look at your search results before adding limits.
3. If you are looking for results that contain a specific phrase in the exact order, it may be useful to put quotation marks around your phrase. Ex: “cognitive processing therapy”



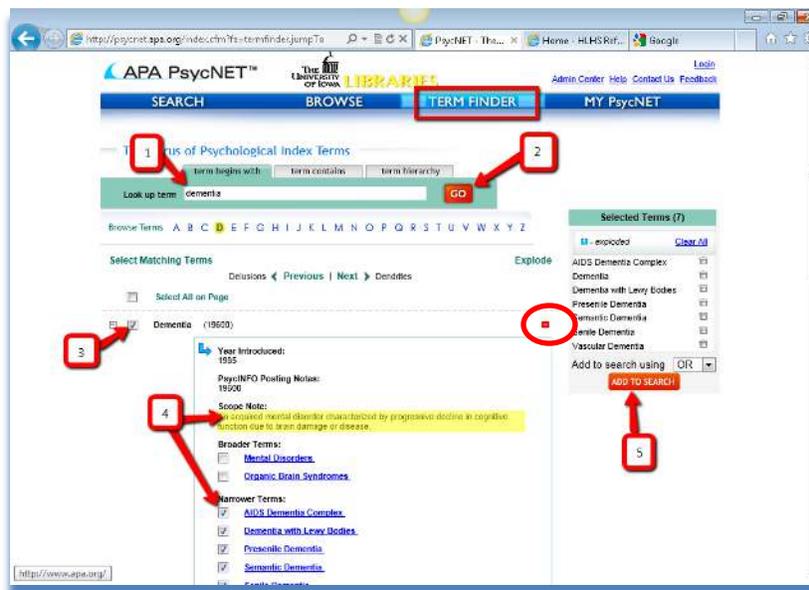
Performing a topic search by concept (or subject)

This resource has a comprehensive vocabulary which organizes the content of it by subject. It is worth learning how to do this, if you need your searches to be thorough.



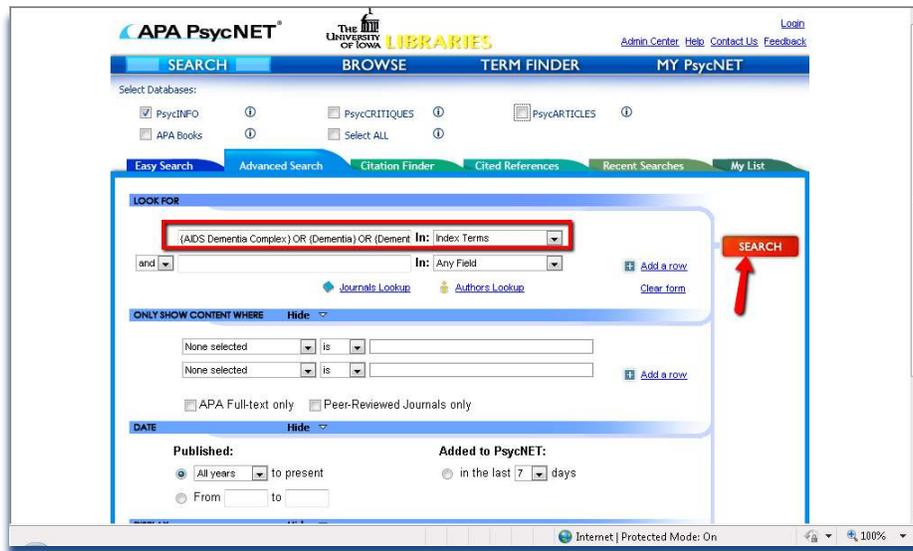
After you select the term finder tab...

1. Enter your concept. You may have to try a few synonyms if a match is not identified.
2. Select go.
3. Select the box adjacent to term you would like to view.
4. View the scope note to learn more about the concept (definition, history). Consider exploding by selecting the + sign (circled below); this will include narrower concepts. The term below was exploded.
5. Select *add to search*, which will combine all selected terms with an OR by default.

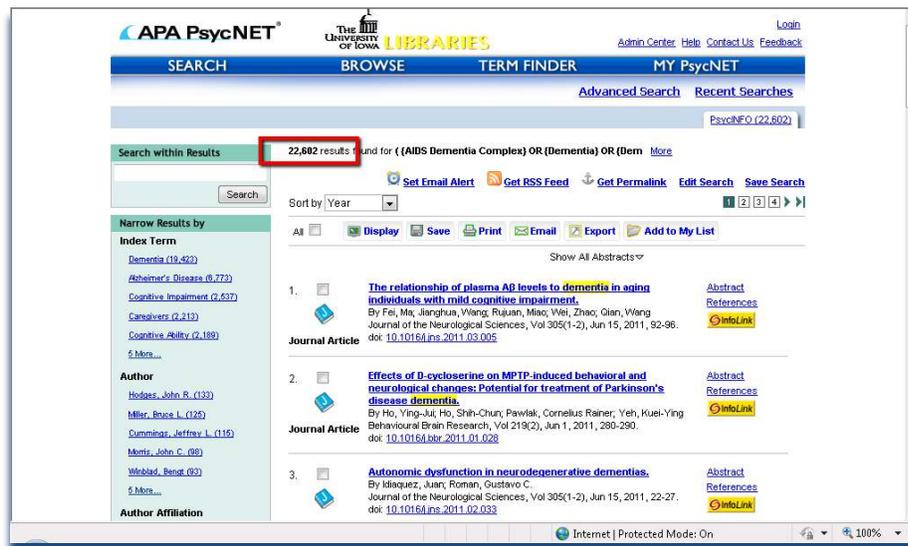




6. After you add the terms, you will see them appear in the search box. The drop down box will indicate that you are searching *Index Terms*, or by concept. Then select search.



7. Results will appear at the top of the page.





8. If you have additional concepts to search, repeat this process and combine your searches together. Go to term finder and enter in your next term. Before adding to search, the *clear all* link needs to be selected.

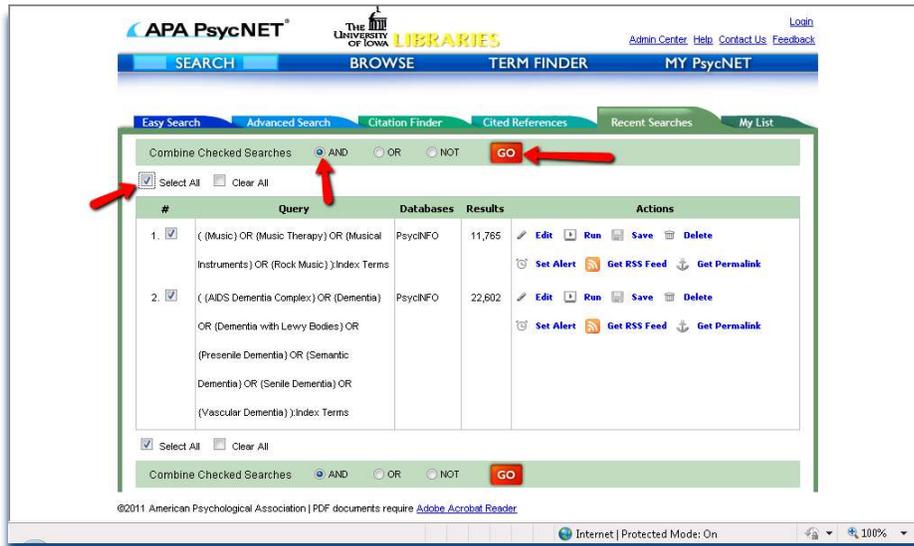
The screenshot shows the APA PsycNET Term Finder interface. The search term "music" is entered in the "Look up term" field. The "Selected Terms (7)" panel on the right shows a list of terms including "exploded", "AIDS Dementia Complex", "Dementia", "Dementia with Lewy Bodies", "Presenile Dementia", "Semantic Dementia", "Senile Dementia", and "Vascular Dementia". A red arrow points to the "Clear All" link in the "Selected Terms" panel.

9. In order to combine both searches together, go to the link *Recent Searches*.

The screenshot shows the APA PsycNET search results page. The search results show 11,765 results found for the query ((Music) OR (Music Therapy) OR (Musical Instru...). The "Recent Searches" link is highlighted with a red arrow. The search results list includes articles such as "Vocal stereotypy in children with autism: Structural characteristics, variability, and effects of auditory stimulation" and "Emotions induced by operatic music: Psychophysiological effects of music, plot, and acting: A scientist's tribute to maria callas".

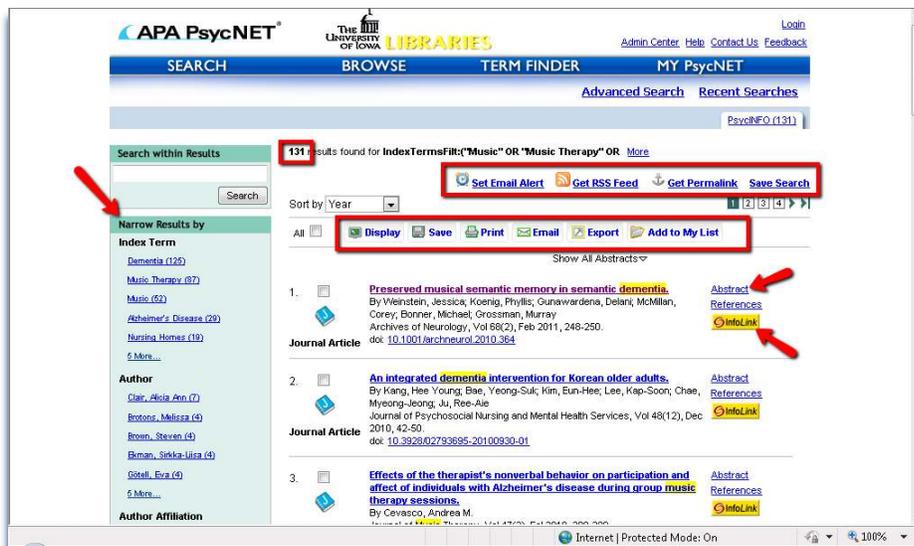


10. Then, select both and combine with AND, in order to retrieve citations with both of these concepts in common.



Reviewing and managing results

1. View abstracts on the right side. Also, select on the infolink button for full text options.
2. Consider narrowing your search with limits on the left side, if necessary.
3. Decide what to do with your results. Direct export to RefWorks is available, as well as options for print, save and email.





4. If you would like to save your search, create a link to your search, or create a list (*My List*), you will need to create an account. This is called *MyPsycNET*.

The screenshot shows the APA PsycNET website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for SEARCH, BROWSE, TERM FINDER, and MY PsycNET. The MY PsycNET link is highlighted with a red box. Below the navigation bar, there is a section titled 'My PsycNET' with instructions on how to log in. A login form is displayed with fields for 'User ID or e-mail' and 'Password', and a 'Log In' button. A red arrow points to the 'Log In' button. Below the form, there are links for 'Forgot your user name or password?' and 'First time user? Sign Up'. The footer of the page includes copyright information for the American Psychological Association and a note about PDF documents requiring Adobe Acrobat Reader.

We can provide guidance customized to your topic, in person, over the phone, or by email. Please contact the reference desk at 319-335-9151 OR lib-hardin@uiowa.edu

Or connect with the librarian assigned to your subject area:
<http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/hardin/liaisons.html>

Dorothy Persson, Psychology Librarian, who is absent from the above list, is an expert instructor for this resource and is available for consultation.
Contact her at: 319-335-5232 or dorothy-persson@uiowa.edu