Psycinfo
This tutorial is all about Psycinfo, one of our most popular databases for psychology research.

To access Psycinfo, open the library homepage. [On screen text and link is library.uncw.edu]

From here, go to "find & research," subject and course guides, and then chose "Psychology."

Or, click on this link. [On screen text and link is library.uncw.edu/guides/psychology]

This research guide is your homebase for psychology topics, so it is worth bookmarking or saving for future use.

Psycinfo is the first recommended database on this guide, and we'll click on its name to open it. If you are off-campus, you'll be prompted to login using your UNCW username and password.

[on screen text says “Click here for help logging in” and links to library.uncw.edu/off_campus_access]

Searching Psycinfo
In each box of the advanced search, you'll want to put in a single concept from your research topic.

For example, if you are interested in bullying among teenagers, you would enter teenagers in one box and bullying in the other.

If we search now, we get a good number of results, but I bet we can find more.

To help the database find the most articles, we'll want to use related terms. For example, terms related to teenagers might be

- Teens
- Teenager
- Adolescents
- "young adults"
- "high school"
- "middle school"

You may come up with more related terms when you are further along in your research

Enter the related terms in each box with OR in between them.

[ On screen text says “Why should I use OR in between them? Click to learn” and links to library.uncw.edu/resources/broaden_your_search_or ]

Notice that we put "young adults," "high school," and "middle school" in quotation marks because those ideas have more than one word.

[ On screen text says “Why should you use " " around multiple words? Click to learn.” and links to library.uncw.edu/resources/using_quotation_marks_searches ]

Now when we search, we find a great deal more results, but you probably don't want to look through thousands of results.
Filtering Results

So, we can use the filters located along the left-hand side of the results to narrow our search and display only the most relevant results.

(By the way, if you prefer, you can also set these filters back on the first search page, underneath where you entered your search terms).

We may want to limit our results to publications within a certain time (in this example, the past 10 years) and to those published in a peer-reviewed academic journal.

There are also three limiters that allow you to refine results based on the type of person studied. These are

- age
- gender
- Population

Note that age only allows you to narrow down to a developmental period, not one specific age.

Under population, some of the parameters overlap with other filters (like male/female), but this population option does allow you to narrow down to other population groups like outpatients. This is also where you can limit your results to nonhuman trials, by selecting animal.

There are two filters that allow you to narrow your results by the type of research conducted. These are:

- Methodology
- tests & measures

Your instructor may ask you to find articles that use a particular methodology such as an empirical study or a quantitative study. This is how you can limit your results to just what you are looking for.

Tests & Measures is even more precise, allowing you to narrow your results to those studies that used a particular research measurement tool.

Finally, three filters allow you to narrow your results by topic. These are:

- subject: major heading
- subject
- classification

Subject: Major Headings and subjects are similar, though major headings are broader.

Classification is very useful when you are searching on a term that can mean different things in different subfields of psychology. For example, the word “drone” may mean a bee to an animal behaviorist, but it may mean a piece of technology to military psychologist.

Looking at Articles

To view an abstract of the article, click on the article's title. This is a concise summary of the article. By the way, when you search, notice that you can change the drop-down box next to your keywords. Using
this drop-down box, you could choose to limit your search just to the article abstracts. This is a useful technique if you aren’t finding what you are looking for when searching.

If you would like to see the full text of the article, just click "Get it from UNCW." One of three things will happen.

1) You may be told that the item is not available. In this case, just click "request through interlibrary loan," and Randall Library will try to get it from another library at no cost to you.

2) You may be directed to an entry like this, that says the article is available in print at Randall library. Just ask a librarian for help retrieving it!

[ On screen text says “How can I get help from a librarian?” and links to library.uncw.edu/ask ]

3) You may be taken directly to the article, which will usually be available as a downloadable .pdf.

If you want to return to your search later, you can click share, then copy the permalink.

**More Research Needed?**

If you aren't finding what you are looking for in Psycinfo, the psychology research guide has numerous other databases that you can use.

It also has the contact information of our psychology librarian, so you can contact them with questions or to set up a one-on-one research consultation. If you need immediate assistance, you can also chat live with a UNCW librarian.