

# Searching *PsycINFO*

## What is *PsycINFO*?

*PsycINFO* is a database that consists of citations and abstracts of journal articles, books, book chapters, technical reports, and dissertations in psychology and related fields. The USF Library has the database covering journal articles from 1887 to the present.




## How do I get to it?

From the library's homepage at [www.usfca.edu/library](http://www.usfca.edu/library)

- Go to *Start Your Research*.
- Click on *Psychology*.
- Go to *Journal and Newspaper Articles*. Choose *PsycINFO*.

## Does it have the full text of articles?

*PsycINFO* has some full text, but mostly has citations and abstracts. If there is a direct link to full text, one of the following links will appear:

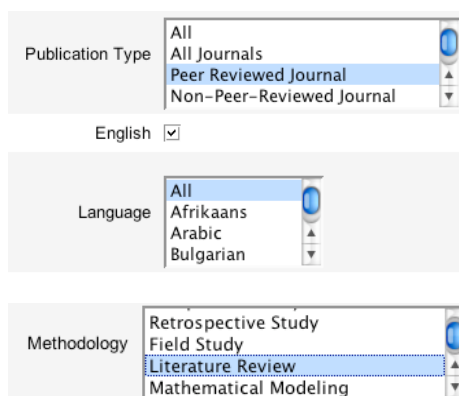
-  [PDF Full Text](#)
-  [Linked Full Text](#)
-  [HTML Full Text](#)

If there is no direct link to full text, click on  to find the full text of an article.

## How can I get better results?

### Limit your results by using the options on the main search page

- For Peer Reviewed Journal articles, use **Publication Type** / Peer Reviewed Journal and click the Peer Reviewed checkbox.
- For articles in a specific language, use **Language** or click the English checkbox.
- For specific types of articles (e.g. Empirical Study, Literature Review, Meta Analysis) use **Methodology**.



The image shows three filter sections from the PsycINFO search interface. The first section is 'Publication Type' with a dropdown menu showing 'All', 'All Journals', 'Peer Reviewed Journal' (highlighted), and 'Non-Peer-Reviewed Journal'. Below it is an 'English' checkbox which is checked. The second section is 'Language' with a dropdown menu showing 'All', 'Afrikaans', 'Arabic', and 'Bulgarian'. The third section is 'Methodology' with a dropdown menu showing 'Retrospective Study', 'Field Study', 'Literature Review' (highlighted), and 'Mathematical Modeling'.

### Search using specific fields

- Go to **Database Help** then **Searchable Fields** for a list of field abbreviations and their definitions.

**Use Subject Terms to find articles on your topic**

- To check your terminology and to get term details, go to the **Thesaurus** for a scope note of a term and its related, broader, and narrower terms. Always notice the **Descriptors** in the record to find other search terms.

[Stress](#)

Year Term Introduced 1967

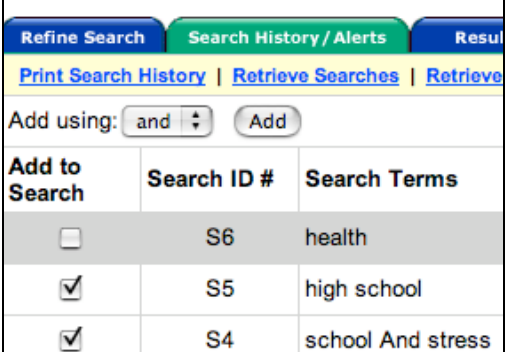
Scope Note Refers to the emotional, psychological, or physical effects as well as the sources of agitation, strain, tension, or pressure. Compare DISTRESS. Used for both human and animal populations.

Narrower Terms  [Environmental Stress](#)  
 [Occupational Stress](#)

**Use the operators in the chart below to construct your search**

OPERATOR	EXAMPLE	SEARCH RESULT
and	school and stress	Both terms must be present. Reduces results.
or	school or stress	Either term can be present. Increases results.
not	school not stress	Excludes second term. Limits results.
*	educat*	Retrieves records with the terms educate, education, educators, educational, etc.

**How can I combine searches?**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Click on the <b>Search History/Alerts</b> button.</li> <li>Mark the searches you want to combine.</li> <li>Select AND or OR.</li> <li>Click Add.</li> </ul>	 <p>The screenshot shows a search interface with tabs for 'Refine Search', 'Search History / Alerts', and 'Results'. Below the tabs are links for 'Print Search History', 'Retrieve Searches', and 'Retrieve'. An 'Add using:' section shows a dropdown menu set to 'and' and an 'Add' button. Below this is a table with columns 'Add to Search', 'Search ID #', and 'Search Terms'. The table contains three rows: one with an unchecked checkbox for 'S6 health', one with a checked checkbox for 'S5 high school', and one with a checked checkbox for 'S4 school And stress'.</p>
--	--

**How can I save/print/email my results?**

- Select records you want to save, print, or email by clicking on **Add** to the right of each record.
- When you're ready to save, print, or email, click on **Folder Has Items**.
- Choose Print, Email, or Save to Disk.

**Questions?**

- Click on **Database Help** for an overview of the database software.
- Or contact Reference Services at (415) 422-2039 or at [reference@usfca.edu](mailto:reference@usfca.edu)