

Search Strategies

RaP Power Hour

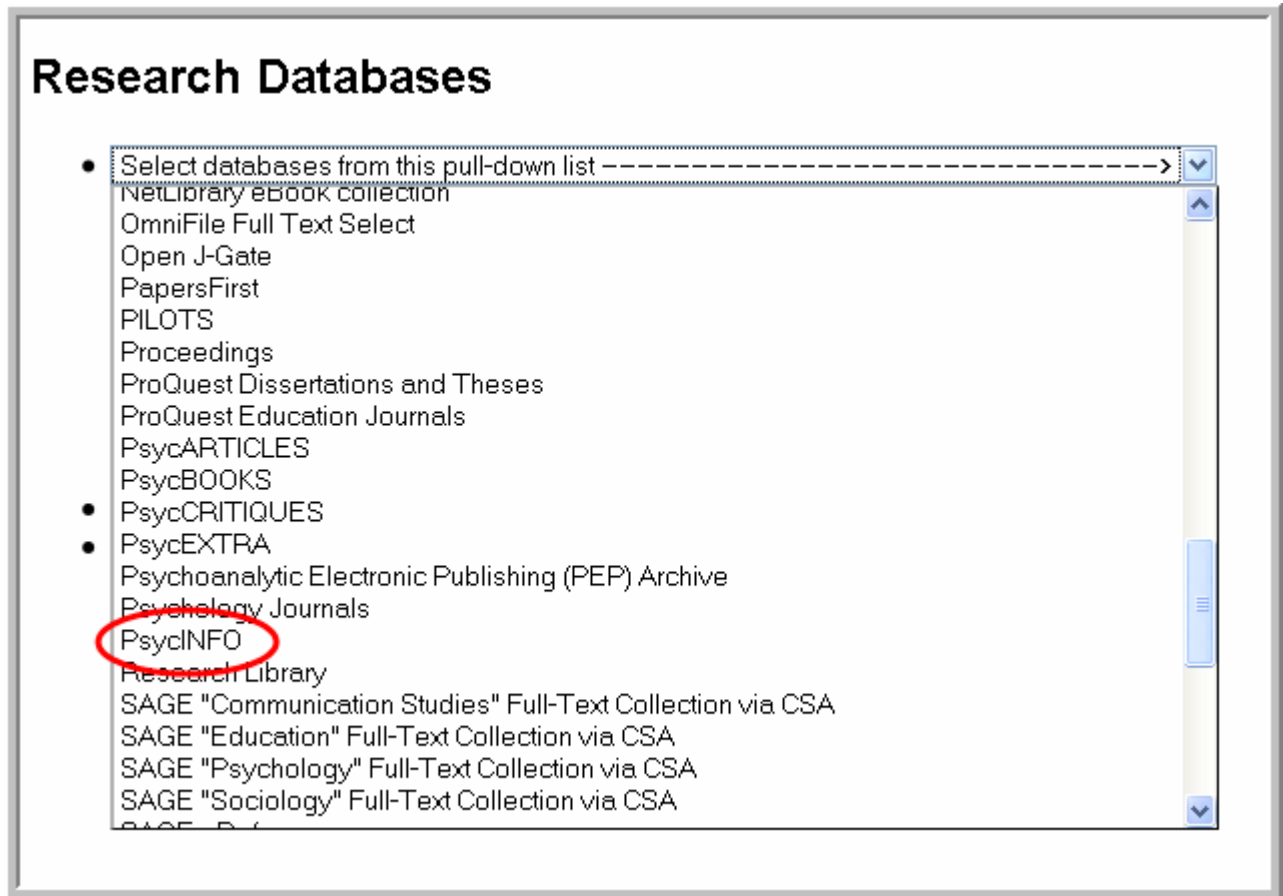
Wednesday 12 November 2008

In this session, we discussed two major search strategies:

1. Using the Thesaurus
2. Combine searches

We found that by using these two strategies together, we were able to retrieve more specific results than when using our own terminology and “freehand” searching.

Choosing a database



- We choose PsycINFO from the drop-down menu on the Research Databases page: <http://www.fielding.edu/library/databases/>

Using Search Tools

The screenshot shows the CSA/ILLUMINA search interface. At the top left is the logo for CSA ILLUMINA with the tagline "From the Middle Ages to Modern Science". To the right, it says "access provided by Fielding Library Services". Below the logo are navigation buttons: "Logout", "Quick Search", "Advanced Search", "Search Tools" (highlighted with a red box and the number 2), and "Browse". On the right side, there are links for "Please log in to My Research" (with an XML icon), "0 Marked Records", and "Search History". A green bar at the top right contains the text "Help & Support".

The main search area features a table with three rows for building a search query. Each row has a dropdown menu with "and" selected, followed by a search input field (the first one is highlighted with a red box and the number 1), and a "Anywhere" dropdown menu. The table is flanked by "Add Row" and "Remove Row" links. Below the table is a "Search Tips" section with the text: "e.g., wildcard*, exact phrase; use Keywords for a single search of Title, Abstract, Descriptors". There are "Search" and "Clear" buttons below the tips.

Below the search area, it shows "Now Selected: ? PsycINFO". There are options to "Change:" the search by "Subject Area" or "Specific Databases". The "Date Range:" is set to "Earliest" to "2009". The "Limited to:" section has three checkboxes: "Latest Update", "Journal Articles Only", and "English Only", all of which are currently unchecked.

1. Even though you can enter important search terms quickly here, we learned that the results were often only distantly related to your research and often too numerous to sort through.
2. We learned it is best to first utilize the search tools available, namely the Thesaurus and Search History.

Using the Thesaurus

The screenshot shows the CSA ILLUMINA website interface. At the top, there is a header with the CSA ILLUMINA logo and the tagline "From the Middle Ages to Modern Science". To the right, it says "access provided by Fielding Library Services". Below the header, there are navigation tabs: "Logout", "Quick Search", "Advanced Search", "Search Tools" (highlighted with a red box and number 1), and "Browse". There is also a link to "Please log in to My Research" and an "XML" button. Below the navigation, there is a "Search the Thesaurus" section with tabs for "History/Combine Searches", "Command Search", "Thesaurus" (highlighted with a red box and number 2), and "Indexes". The main content area has a "Select Thesaurus:" dropdown menu set to "PsycINFO Thesaurus (English)" and a "Change Databases" link. Below that is a "Browse Thesaurus for:" input field containing "Death Penalty" (highlighted with a red box and number 3) and a "Go" button. Underneath, there are radio buttons for "Select Display": "Alphabetical Index", "Hierarchy" (selected), and "Rotated Index". The main results area shows "PsycINFO Thesaurus (English)" and a link to "Add to Marked Terms". A section titled "New Search Using Marked Terms" has three radio buttons: "Use AND to narrow", "Use OR to broaden" (selected), and "Explode to include all narrower terms". A red box and number 4 highlights the "Use Instead" section, which includes a checked checkbox next to the term "Capital Punishment". Below this, it shows "Previous Term: Death Instinct" and "Next Term: Death Rate". At the bottom left, a red box and number 5 highlights the "Search" button.

1. Click on the Search Tools tab, if it is not already selected.
2. Click on the Thesaurus Tab, if it is not already selected.
3. In the Browse box, enter the concept you're interested in. Our goal here is to identify the term used by PsycINFO. In some cases, the word you have in mind is different from the term used by PsycINFO.
4. If appropriate, use the term suggested by PsycINFO. If you're not sure that capital punishment is the same thing as death penalty, you can click on the term to read it's definition.
5. Put a check mark in the box next to the concept of interest. Then click search.

Reviewing results

CSA ILLUMINA access provided by Fielding Library Services
From the Middle Ages to Modern Science

Please log in to My Research XML
0 Marked Records | Search History

Logout Quick Search Advanced Search Search Tools Browse

Results Edit Search Help & Support

1
803 results found for: DE="capital punishment" in PsycINFO Alert Me

Published Works 803 Web Sites 375

All Publication Types 803 Journals 653 Peer-Reviewed Journals 628 Conferences 44 Books 15 More >

Mark or Clear all on page | Update Marked List | Save, Print, Email | Sort by: Most Recent First Go

RefWorks

Previous 1 2 3 4 5 Next Record # Go

1. **Gall, gallantry, and the gallows: Capital punishment and the social construction of gender, 1840-1920.**
Linders, Annulla¹; Van Gundy-Yoder, Alana²
Gender & Society. Vol 22(3), Jun 2008, pp. 324-348
In this article, the authors examine how the debate over women's executions during the nineteenth and early twentieth century funneled and in various ways processed the contrary demands of gender and capital justice. They show how encounters with ...
View Record | References | Table of Contents | Full-Text Linking | Full text available in other databases?

Database: PsycINFO
Descriptors: Capital Punishment* | Punishment* | Sex Roles* | Social Processes*

2. **Societal threat, authoritarianism, conservatism, and U.S. state death penalty sentencing (1977-2004).**
McCann, Stewart J. H.¹
Journal of Personality and Social Psychology. Vol 94(5), 2008, pp. 1000-1010

Database: PsycINFO
Descriptors: Authoritarianism* | Capital Punishment* | Conservatism* | Religious Beliefs

3

1. Make a note of how many results your search retrieves.
2. Review the titles and abstracts of a few results. Did this search retrieve relevant results? Are the articles actually about the death penalty?
3. Some articles may be available in Full Text. Click on either "Full-Text Linking" or "Full Text available in other databases?" to determine if Fielding carries the journal and article you need.

Exploring thesaurus terms

The screenshot shows the CSA ILLUMINA PsycINFO Thesaurus interface. The search results for 'Sociopathology' are displayed, with 'Antisocial Behavior (1971) [+]' selected. The expanded view for 'Antisocial Behavior (1971) [+]' is shown on the right, detailing its use for 'Deviant Behavior (1973)' and 'Sociopathology (1973)'. It also lists broader terms like 'Behavior [+]' and narrower terms such as 'Child Neglect', 'Criminal Behavior [+]', 'Cruelty', 'Elder Abuse', 'Emotional Abuse', 'Harassment [+]', and 'Juvenile Delinquency [+]'. A red arrow points from the 'Use Instead' section of the search results to the 'Antisocial Behavior (1971) [+]' term in the expanded view.

CSA ILLUMINA access provided by Fielding Library Services
From the Middle Ages to Modern Science
Please log in to My Research XML
0 Marked Records | Search

Logout Quick Search Advanced Search Search Tools Browse

Search the Thesaurus
History/Combine Searches Command Search Thesaurus Indexes

Select Thesaurus: PsycINFO Thesaurus (English) Change
Browse Thesaurus for: Sociopathology Go
Select Display: Alphabetical Index Hierarchy Rotate

PsycINFO Thesaurus (English)
Clear Marked Terms | Add to Marked Terms

Sociopathology (1973)
Use Instead [Antisocial Behavior \[+\]](#) 1
Previous Term: [Sociopath](#)
Next Term: [Sociotherapy](#)

Antisocial Behavior (1971) [+]
Use For
Deviant Behavior (1973)
Sociopathology (1973)
Broader Terms
 [Behavior \[+\]](#)
Conceptually broad term referring to any or all aspects of human or animal behavior. Use a more specific term if possible.
Narrower Terms
 [Child Neglect](#)
Failure of parents or caretakers to provide basic care and emotional support necessary for normal development.
 [Criminal Behavior \[+\]](#)
This term was introduced in June 2003. Relevant records were re-indexed with this term. The posting note reflects the number of records that were re-indexed.
 [Cruelty](#)
 [Elder Abuse](#)
Abuse or neglect of elderly persons in a family, institutional, or other setting.
 [Emotional Abuse](#)
 [Harassment \[+\]](#)
 [Juvenile Delinquency \[+\]](#)
Behavior of children or adolescents that is antisocial, dangerous, or criminal, and usually subject to legal action. The age at which juveniles become adults varies across countries and cultures, but usually ranges from 15-18 years. In 2000, this term became the postable counterpart for the discontinued term JUVENILE DELINQUENTS. JUVENILE DELINQUENTS was removed from all records containing it and replaced with JUVENILE DELINQUENCY.
 [Partner Abuse \[+\]](#)
Includes married and unmarried persons.
 [Patient Abuse](#)
 [Persecution](#)
 [Physical Abuse](#)
 [Recidivism](#)
Repetition or recurrence of previous condition or behavior pattern (e.g., behavior disorder or criminal or delinquent behavior), especially when recurrence leads to recommitment or subsequent

1. Remember that you can “open up” a thesaurus term to learn how PsycINFO describes that term exactly. Often you will find your terms belongs to a larger category (here “Behavior”) and may also include more specific, narrower terms---you may find a term you didn’t know you were looking for! Occasionally, PsycINFO may suggest related terms (not shown here). Browse those as well.

Search history

The screenshot shows the CSA ILLUMINA search interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with buttons for 'Logout', 'Quick Search', 'Advanced Search', 'Search Tools', and 'Browse'. A red box labeled '1' highlights the 'Search Tools' button. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with 'Search History' and 'Help & Support' links. A red box labeled '2' highlights the 'Search History' link. The main content area is titled 'Search History' and contains two search entries. The first entry, 'Search Query #1 DE="capital punishment"', has a red box labeled '4' next to its checkbox. The second entry, 'Search Query #2 DE="antisocial behavior"', has a red box labeled '5' next to its checkbox. A red box labeled '3' highlights the 'View Results' link for the second query. At the bottom, there is a 'Combine Searches:' section with a text input field and a 'Search Tips' link. A 'Now Selected:' section shows 'PsycINFO' selected.

1. Choose Search Tools.
2. Choose History/Combine Searches.
3. Review your search history. You may have performed two or more searches, depending on how things went in the Thesaurus.
4. Choose the terms that together address the topic you're interested in. Place check marks in these boxes.
5. Most of the time, you'll approach a research question from multiple angles, that is, you'll be looking for articles that address more than one concept. In these cases, you'll AND the relevant searches. Here, we want articles that discuss both antisocial behavior and capital punishment.

Combining searches

The screenshot shows the CSA/ILLUMINA search interface. At the top, the logo for CSA ILLUMINA is displayed with the tagline "From the Middle Ages to Modern Science". The search results page shows 2 results found for the query: (DE="capital punishment") and (DE="antisocial behavior ... in ?) PsycINFO. The results are listed in a table with two entries. The first entry is titled "The Aum Cult leader Asahara's mental deviation and its social relations." and is by Akimoto, Haruo. The second entry is titled "Inmate responses to lengthy death row confinement." and is by Gallemore, Johnnie L., Panton, James H., and Kaufman, Edward. The interface includes navigation buttons like "Previous" and "Next", and a "Record #" field. A red box with the number "1" highlights the first result, and another red box with the number "2" highlights the second result.

1. In this case, combining the two search terms significantly reduced the number of results retrieved.
2. Nevertheless, these two results are exactly about the topic we're interested in. Note the Descriptors (the Thesaurus terms) assigned to these articles.

SOLUTION: Go back to the Thesaurus, and search for related terms. Use your search history to perform new combinations of searches.

Marking records

The screenshot shows the CSA ILLUMINA search interface. At the top, the logo for CSA ILLUMINA is displayed with the tagline "From the Middle Ages to Modern Science". The search criteria are shown as "DE=("ethnic identity" and "human sex differences") in PsycINFO". The results page shows 443 results, with a filter for "Published Works 443" and "Web Sites 0". The results are sorted by "Most Recent First". The first result is a book review, and the second result is an article. The second result is marked with a checkmark in a box labeled "2". The navigation bar at the bottom shows "Previous 1 2 3 Next" and "Record #".

1. In addition to being stored in your Search History, the search you performed is also listed at the top of your results.
2. When you find a citation to an article that looks good, mark the record by placing a check in the box next to it. I'm looking for original research on the topic of gender and ethnicity; hence I did not select the first result: it's a book review, not original research.
3. You can then Save, Print, or Email the records to yourself. Remember, you are not emailing yourself the articles themselves, just the records to them. And, remember that for authentication reasons, you cannot click on any links provided in the email you receive. Instead, use the Full Text Resources list to go back and find the articles.

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