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PsycINFO Tutorial

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Welcome to the Biola Library. This tutorial will help you access psychology journals articles using PsycINFO.

Begin at the Biola Library website: biola.edu/library.

Click on the Databases tab and enter Psychology. Click Search.

Select PsycINFO.
And this is the database.
I will enter the keyword Sleep.

Notice how the database suggests additional keywords.
I will click Search.

There are 73,000 results.

To narrow our search, I will add more keywords.
I will type college students.

Notice how the database suggests a series of keywords all connected by the word OR. Researchers may use different terms when referring to college students, and this expanded search will produce results that contain college students or university students or undergraduates. I will click search.

We can further refine our results by using the left-hand menu.

Click Linked Full Text for a less comprehensive search yet every result will have a full text article.

Limit to Peer Reviewed for articles which have undergone a rigorous evaluation process by other psychology researchers. Psychology professors normally require their students to only use peer reviewed articles.

Feel free to ignore the Open Access option, unless you are researching that publishing methodology.

Check your syllabus because many assignments require resources from the last five years so I will enter 2013.

Under Source Types, we only see Academic Journals because we selected Peer Reviewed. If we did not, we might see Dissertations, Books, and Electronic Collections which are not subject to a peer review process.

Subject terms are like hashtags used by researchers to label articles. In our current search, there are 32 which have been labeled Insomnia.

Publication shows the Journals which published the articles in our search.

Publisher includes the companies that own the Journals.

Language of the article being published.

The Age or Gender of the participants being studied.
The Classification of the research.
And the Methodology employed by the researchers. Some professors may ask you to limit on the basis of Empirical Study or other research methodologies.

Tests and Measures offers the ability to locate a specific index, scale, or inventory used by researchers.

Finally, you can also narrow a search using Population.

Let's look at an article now. By clicking on the title, we can view additional publication information. We can view the authors, their place of employment, and even google them to find out more about their expertise on the subject.

Before clicking on the article, be sure to read the abstract for a concise summary of the article.

And finally, you can click the Linked Full Text to download the whole article.

By adding keywords, limiting our search results, and evaluating the articles, you will soon find all the research you need for your assignment.

If you have any questions, please contact the Information Desk at the Biola Library. Thank you!