# Finding Articles: Accessing and Using PsycInfo and Web of Science
*Created by Margaret L. Kern, University of Pennsylvania*

PsycInfo and **Web of Science** are excellent electronic databases that help you find articles, books, and other publications on various topics. **GoogleScholar** can also be very helpful, though it can be easier to find articles particularly relevant to the social sciences with the more specific search engines. For our purposes, I will focus on searching and obtaining articles through **PsycInfo**.

To access **PsycInfo** (or any of the other electronic databases), go to www.library.upenn.edu
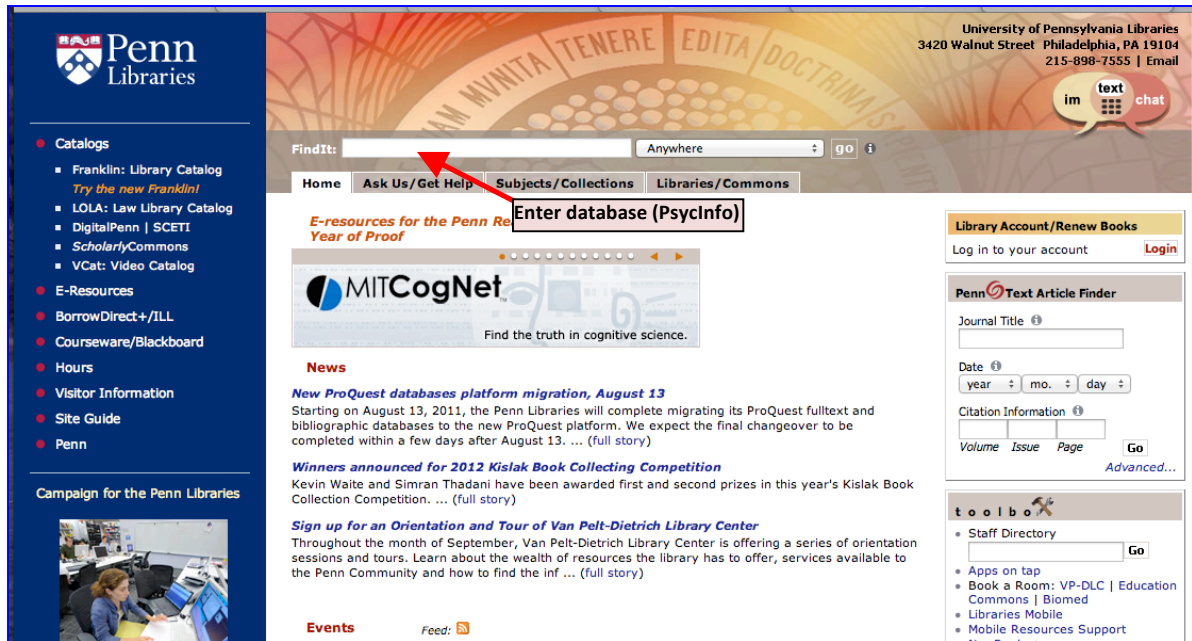
Under FindIt, type **PsycInfo** (all one word). This will bring up the following screen:
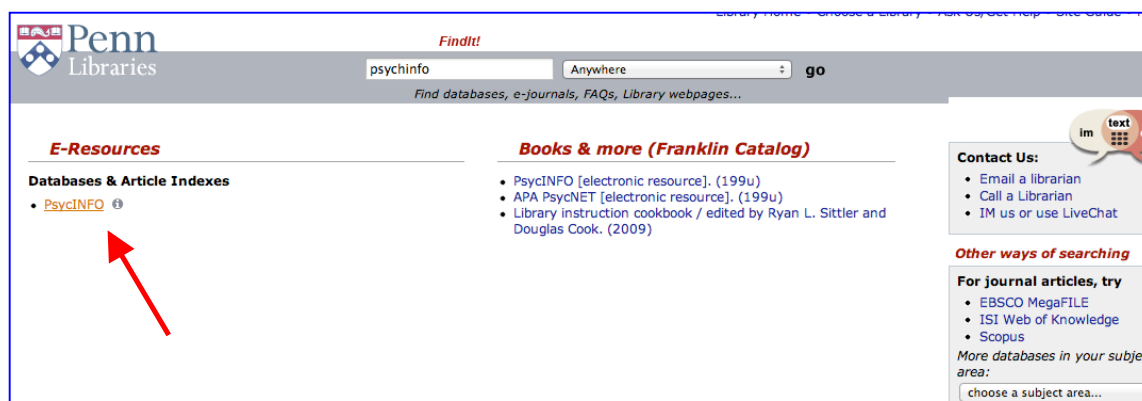
Click on PsycInfo. There are then two options.

First, let's look at the old platform. Click on the lower link. This will bring you to the following search page. [Note: if you are accessing this from off campus, first log in with your PennID and password, which lets you access all of the Penn resources.]

Enter your search term(s) in the text boxes. The click on **Search**. This will bring up the results, ranging from nothing to thousands of results. This is where it can get tricky. A few hints depending on whether the problem is not enough results or too many results:

1. It's often good to start with a single word and the shortest possible phrase. However, this can often give you thousands of results, in which case you will need to limit things down.
2. On a single line, you can enter multiple options. For example, if I want to look at longevity, I might include *mortality* OR *longevity* OR *survival*, as different authors will call the same thing different terms. Part of finding the right references involves finding the keywords that are most commonly used.
3. You can use the drop down menu to search for terms under *keywords, author*, *title*, *descriptors*, and many more.
    a. The default is *anywhere*, which can bring up a lot of useless results. It's often good to search by *keywords*.
    b. If you search by *author*, start with the last name. If that creates too many results, add the first name or initial (no comma prior, e.g., Kern M)
4. You can also reduce things by altering parameters such as *article type* or *publication date*. This can be helpful if you get a lot of results when you search, but it can also limit things too much, leaving no results.
5. For a specific phrase, enclose it in double quotes *("positive psychology")*. Without the quotes, you will get anything that says *positive* or *psychology*.
6. You can include wildcards (*). These can be very useful to find articles that use singular or plural terms, or add other endings. For example, searching for *health* will find articles that mention *health* somewhere in the manuscript. Searching for *health** will find *health*, *healthy*, *healthier*, etc.

After you search, you will get the results. For example, I searched for "positive health", limiting my search to keywords. I get 656 publication results. I can limit this more by looking at specific publication types. Often, I just want to look at journal articles. There are two types of journal articles. Respectable journals use a peer-review process for accepting and publishing articles. In this process, an article is reviewed by two or three peers, who look for flaws and week out problematic studies. Other journals, much like blogs on the internet, simply publish an article without controlling for

study quality. We like to focus mostly on peer-reviewed works, as these tend to be better quality studies. So an easy way to limit results is to click on **Peer-Reviewed Journals**. In this example, that limits my search down to 498 articles. For each article, the title, authors, source, and a brief abstract are listed. If you click on the title, it will take you to the full record, which will include the full abstract, references, and other detailed information about the study. For example, this is the full record for one of the articles from the search:

If you decide that you want to read or obtain the article, you can see if UPenn has access to the article (for free! The university has really good access to a broad range of journals. You should be able to access most articles that you need.) Click on the **PennText** icon. This will open a screen with options for accessing the article.

If access to the article is available, one or more links will appear under **Full text availability**. If only a print version is available, the **print availability** will tell you where in the UPenn library the journal is located. If the library does not have access (electronic or paper), then you can request the document through interlibrary loan (click on the **request document via the ILL form** and follow the on-screen options. You should be able to get a copy of the article sent to you within a few days).

Click on the link to the full text. This will usually take you directly to a copy of the article from the journal, though at times it will only take you to the main page for the journal, and you will have to manually locate the article (using the citation information from **PsycInfo**). You have the option then to read the full text (in HTML format), or click on **pdf** copy, and this will open a pdf of the article, which you can then print, save, etc.

You can also pull out a set of articles and look at them together, save the references, print a reference page, and more. From the main results page, check the box next to the articles you'd like to mark. You can also mark an article from the detailed view. Once you have several marked, you can look at your marked list by clicking on # Marked Records.

This will bring up a small list with just the records that you marked:

You can remove any of these from your marked list by unchecking the box, and clicking on Update Marked Lists.

3 Marked Records   Return to Results

Mark or Clear all on page | Update Marked List | Save, Print, Email | ● RefWorks

If you remove any, update your list

◀ Previous 1 Next ▶

efs, alcohol, and tobacco use: A prospective community study of change
moking in public places.
h, Patrick[1]; Henderson, Caroline J.[1]; Geeraert, Nicolas[1]; Uller, Claudia[1]; Uskul, Ayse K.[1]; Kyriakaki, Maria[1]
Health Psychology. Vol 28(6), Nov 2009, pp. 753-761
... change in smoking across time. Conclusion: Results suggest that the smoking ban may have **positive health** benefits that are supported by social–cognitive change. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2010 APA, all rights reserved) (journal abstract)
View Record | References | Cited by 1 | PennⓈText

☑ 2. Fitness support group for organ transplant recipients: Self-management, self-efficacy and health status.
Gentry, Amy C. S.[1]; Belza, Basia[2]; Simpson, Terri[2]
Journal of Advanced Nursing. Vol 65(11), Nov 2009, pp. 2419-2425
... designed to promote patient autonomy contribute to **positive health** outcomes after therapeutic interventions. Despite an increase in organ transplantation, little is known about the impact of self-management on health outcomes after adult ...
View Record | References | PennⓈText

Once you have your final list, click on Save/Print/Email. This will take you to the following screen:

Save, Print, Email   Return to Results

○ Use 3 Marked Records
○ Use 498 records from the current results list of Peer-Reviewed Journals
From record 1 to 498 of 498 Published Works (maximum 500 at a time)

Full format ▾   **Select format to save or print**
Comments:

Create an APA style bibliography

liography with QuikBib (Only records for Published Works will be processed.)
Choose a document format:
        ● HTML ○ Text
Choose a bibliographic style:
APA - American Psychological Association, 6th Edition   ▾
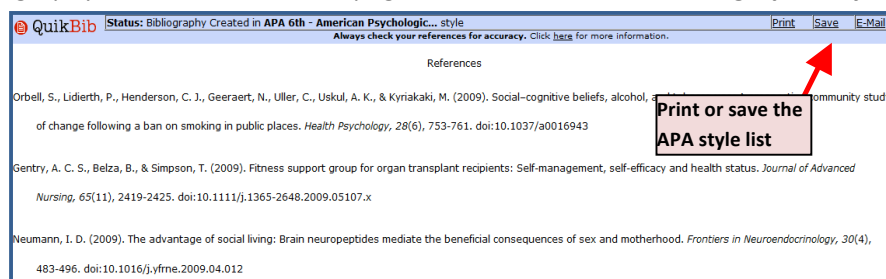Create

Email   To: From:

Save   File format: ● PC ○ Macintosh ○ Unix
Save your full references to your computer
Print Preview

Using the dropdown menu, you can select **full format** (which includes the citation, abstract, and references), **short format** (just the citation), **full format without references** (helpful if you just want the source and abstract, not the very long reference list), or you can **customize** it (I usually use full format with no references). Then click on **save** (to save it to your computer as a txt document), **email**, or **print preview**. One benefit of saving a list is that you can directly import the full information into reference programs such as Endnote.

You can also create an APA style bibliography. In the middle of the page, choose **APA for the bibliographic style**, and click on **Create**. This will bring up another screen with the citations formatted for a reference section in a manuscript (note that you must allow pop-ups, otherwise the screen will not open). You can then print, save, or email this list.

Ⓠ QuikBib Status: Bibliography Created in APA 6th - American Psychologic... style   Print Save E-Mail
Always check your references for accuracy. Click here for more information.

References

Orbell, S., Lidierth, P., Henderson, C. J., Geeraert, N., Uller, C., Uskul, A. K., & Kyriakaki, M. (2009). Social–cognitive beliefs, alcohol, a   ommunity study
        of change following a ban on smoking in public places. *Health Psychology, 28*(6), 753-761. doi:10.1037/a0016943

Print or save the APA style list

Gentry, A. C. S., Belza, B., & Simpson, T. (2009). Fitness support group for organ transplant recipients: Self-management, self-efficacy and health status. *Journal of Advanced Nursing, 65*(11), 2419-2425. doi:10.1111/j.1365-2648.2009.05107.x

Neumann, I. D. (2009). The advantage of social living: Brain neuropeptides mediate the beneficial consequences of sex and motherhood. *Frontiers in Neuroendocrinology, 30*(4), 483-496. doi:10.1016/j.yfrne.2009.04.012

Now let's look at the **new platform**, which is what I typically use now.

Enter several search terms, and select the type of field to search. For example, here I've entered "Seligman" and "optimism" as search terms, and selected "Author" and with no restraints to the field to search, respectively. This will bring up the search results.

Similar to the old platform, we get source information. Your search terms will be highlighted. You can mark the record to save, read the abstract by clicking on the title, or search for the article on the Penn system by clicking "PennText". The icon indicates what type of publication it is.

Along the sidebar, there are options to narrow your search. "Record type" let's you narrow down to Peer-reviewed journals.

When searching the literature, a particularly helpful option is "Cited by". This indicates more recent articles that referenced this article. Between an article's references (who they cite) and newer articles that cite this article, you can branch out and cover a topic.

Another great option is **Web of Science**, which is very similar to **PsycInfo**, but taps into a broader range of the social and biological sciences. On the library home page, type in "Web of Science" or "Web of Knowledge". The first brings up many options. Select "ISI Citation index (web of science)"
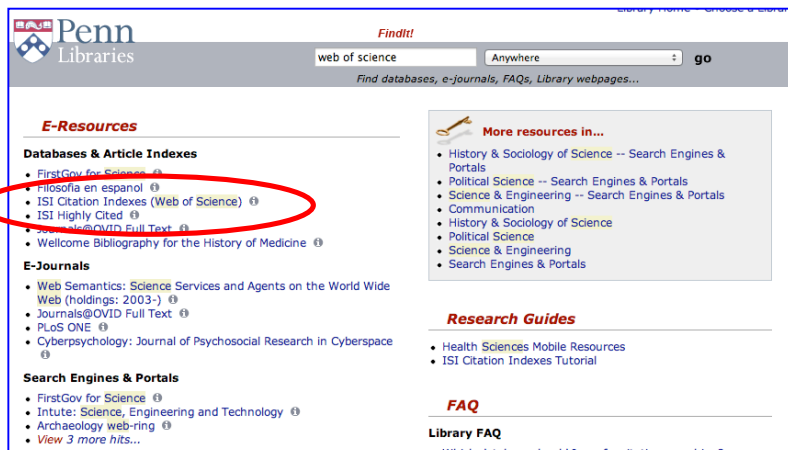
Just like PsycInfo, you get a search page. The publication types are a bit different, so I typically stick with "topic", "author", and "title".
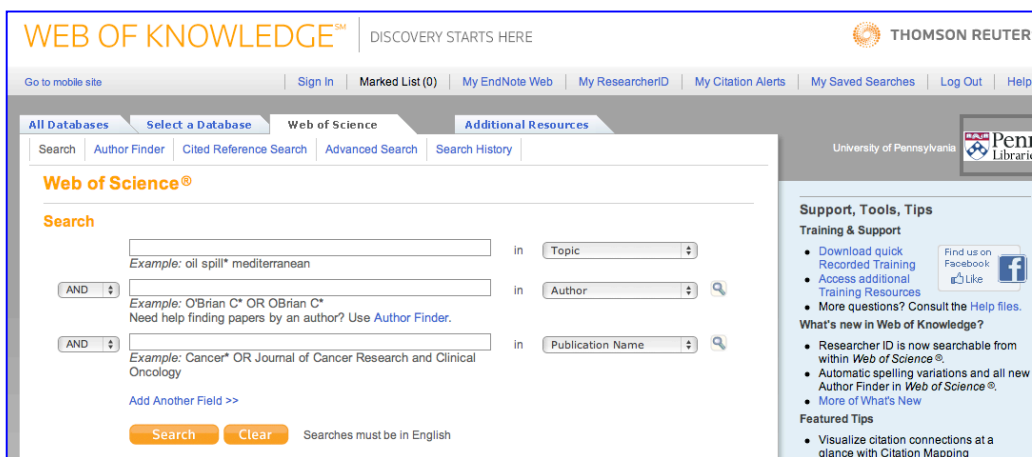
The search will bring up a series of results, which I'll leave you to explore, using the principles and ideas outlined above with PsychInfo.
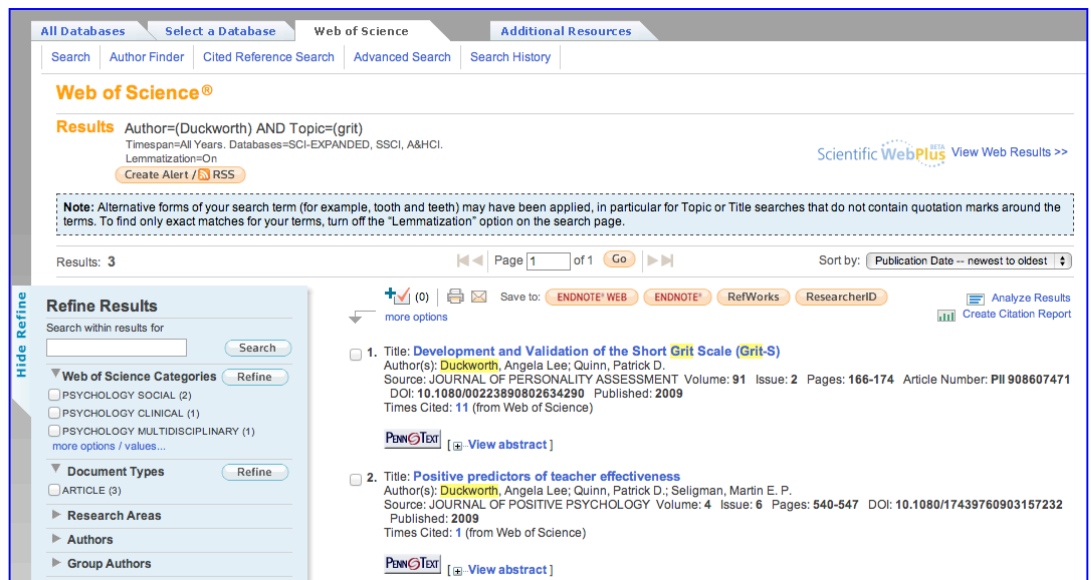
This information gives you a place to start. A good way to get to know the database is simply by trying things and seeing what works. PsycInfo and Web of Science have traditionally been used in psychology the most. **GoogleScholar** is also very popular now. Unlike the basic Google, this specifically taps academic-type studies. Note that if you use GoogleScholar, start on the library cite (rather than going through Google). Then, you will be connected to the library resources, and can go directly to articles that otherwise you might not have access to. This can be a huge resource, but be careful using this. It's hard to sort out sources – whether articles come from good peer reviewed journals, or from lower quality journals. As with everything else on the Internet, use caution!

For other fields, some of the other databases will be more useful. You can find these through the libraries **Electronic Resource** site (search for others, either by name or subject area). For medical and biological studies, **PubMed** is an excellent database. If you use **PubMed Plus** (available through UPenn), it seems to have some good resources and help information. The one issue is that the search function can be strange, so I tend to turn to that if **PsycInfo** and **Web of Science** fail to find what I need.

Unfortunately, I have no experience with business or other fields, so I am not sure what the good search engines are for these fields. If you get stuck, **contact the library**. The librarians are there to help – it is their job to help us find the resources that we need!