Calvin T. Ryan Library
Research Links & Tips for PSY 270

Key web addresses

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Which databases should I use to find articles in Psychology?

Follow either of these paths to access the online Psychology 270 Research Guide:

Starting at library.unk.edu → click on “Research Assistance” → click on “Research Guides” → Psychology → “Psychology 270”

- OR - type in this URL: guides.library.unk.edu/psy270

PsycINFO is the best database for finding peer-reviewed (scholarly) articles in psychology.

LOPERSearch and Google Scholar will often retrieve thousands more results, but will be less focused on psychology research.

What is a peer-reviewed journal?

Peer-reviewed journals usually contain:
- Lengthier articles written by scholars in that field and vetted by other scholars
- Articles contain parenthetical references to other quality sources
- Few if any advertisements

TIP: Both PsycINFO and LOPERSearch allow you to limit results to scholarly (peer-reviewed) journals, as shown at right.
What keywords should I use in searching PsycINFO?

*PsycINFO’s thesaurus* can help find official *descriptors* for precision searching. To use the thesaurus, click the “Suggest Subject Terms” box on PsycINFO’s search form, as shown below.

The subsequent screen offers a list of similar terms, and a number of options for adding these terms into your search query, as shown below.

- Use the "Add" button to add any terms checked below into your search. "OR" increases results; "AND" will decrease results.
- Clicking any of these terms will display a list of narrower, broader, and related terms which may help expand or filter your search results.
How do I get the full-text of an article?

A citation tells you where an article originally appeared, and is essential for your bibliography. There are several options for locating the full-text of an article:

1. **The direct link** — Sometimes, a database will include a link to an HTML or PDF version of a full-text article within the search results. If this isn’t available try step 2a or 2b below.

2A. **Article Linker** — Many databases, including PsycINFO, include a link within the search results labeled “Locate full text” similar to this icon:

   ![Full Text Finder](image)

   These links will open a new tab/window indicating whether that article is available online or in print at UNK (see image below).

   *This Article Linker screen indicates a 2018 article from the journal Biological Psychology is available in full-text online from several sources. If it were not, you could request it via Interlibrary Loan. See Step 3 for details.*

2B. **Journal Finder** — Don’t have a “Locate Full Text” icon or link (as shown in #2a above)? Search the Journal Finder to see if UNK has full-text available online or in print. The Journal Finder is available at [https://tinyurl.com/ydan9m91](https://tinyurl.com/ydan9m91) or follow this clickpath:

   *Library.unk.edu ➔ hover over “Resources” ➔ click on “Journals”*

   ...then enter the name of the journal, magazine, or newspaper you’re looking for.

3. **Interlibrary Loan** — If the UNK Library doesn’t have the article (see #2a and #2b on previous page), you can still request an electronic copy via Interlibrary Loan (ILLiad) at no cost!
Go directly to [unk.illiad.oclc.org/illiad/logon.html](http://unk.illiad.oclc.org/illiad/logon.html) or follow this clickpath:

**Library.unk.edu → click on “Services” → click on “Interlibrary Loan”**

Articles are typically delivered electronically within 2 business days. Books typically arrive within a week and will be held at the Circulation Desk for pickup.

**How do I format citations using APA style?**

- Copies of the APA style guide are available at the library’s Reference Desk and Circulation/Reserve Desk
- Helpful online links on APA style at: [guides.library.unk.edu/apa-style](http://guides.library.unk.edu/apa-style)
- The UNK Writing Center – a part of the Learning Commons – can help with reviewing research papers. Appointments are recommended and may be scheduled at the Learning Commons Welcome Desk (Library 2nd floor) or by calling 308-865-8905.

**How can I get more research help? Ask a Librarian!**

- Visit Us @ Calvin T. Ryan Library
- Call 308-865-8599
- Email, Text, or Online Chat: [library.unk.edu/ask](http://library.unk.edu/ask)
- Contact Librarian Laurinda Weisse ([weissell@unk.edu](mailto:weissell@unk.edu) or 308-865-8593) for in-depth assistance by email or by appointment.