

PsycINFO through PsycNET Interface

Basic Information and Getting Started with Topic Searching

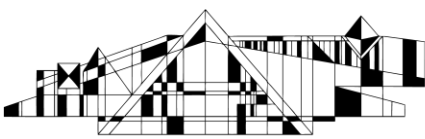
What is it?

- PsycINFO is an abstract database that provides systematic coverage of the psychological literature from the 1800s to the present. It contains citations, abstracts, cited references, and descriptive information to help you find what you need across a wide variety of scholarly publications in the behavioral and social sciences.
- It contains 2-3 million records. There are other 2000 journal titles indexed; of these, 99% are peer-reviewed. 10-15% of this content is from books and dissertations.

Accessing this resource

1. Start at the Hardin Library Homepage and navigate to the Health Sciences Resources A-Z list: <http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/hardin/healthdatabases.html> and select PsycINFO.
2. If you are off-campus, you will be prompted to enter your hawk id and password.
3. Once you have entered the resource, select the PsycINFO box, as pictured below.

The screenshot shows the APA PsycNET interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs: SEARCH, BROWSE, TERM FINDER, and MY PsycNET. Below these, there is a 'Select Databases:' section with checkboxes for PsycINFO, APA Books, PsycCRITIQUES, Select ALL, and PsycARTICLES. A red arrow points to the 'PsycINFO' checkbox. Below this, there are tabs for Easy Search, Advanced Search, Citation Finder, Cited References, Recent Searches, and My List. The 'Easy Search' tab is active, showing a 'LOOK FOR' section with input fields and dropdown menus. Below this, there is a 'ONLY SHOW CONTENT WHERE' section with dropdown menus and a 'DATE' section with 'Published' and 'Added to PsycNET' options.



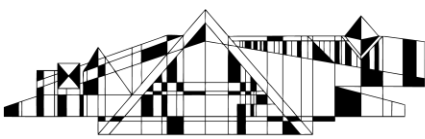
Performing a basic topic search

1. In advanced search (the default search mode), enter in your key words and consider using fields. The abstract field was used here.
2. Also consider options of adding rows if you have additional terms. Also consider the limits below the search boxes. It is usually a good idea to look at your search results before adding limits.

The screenshot shows the APA PsycNET Advanced Search interface. The 'Advanced Search' tab is highlighted with a red box. The search fields contain 'dementia' and 'music', both with 'In: Abstract' selected. A red arrow points to the 'SEARCH' button. Other options include 'Only show content where', 'Date', and 'Display' settings.

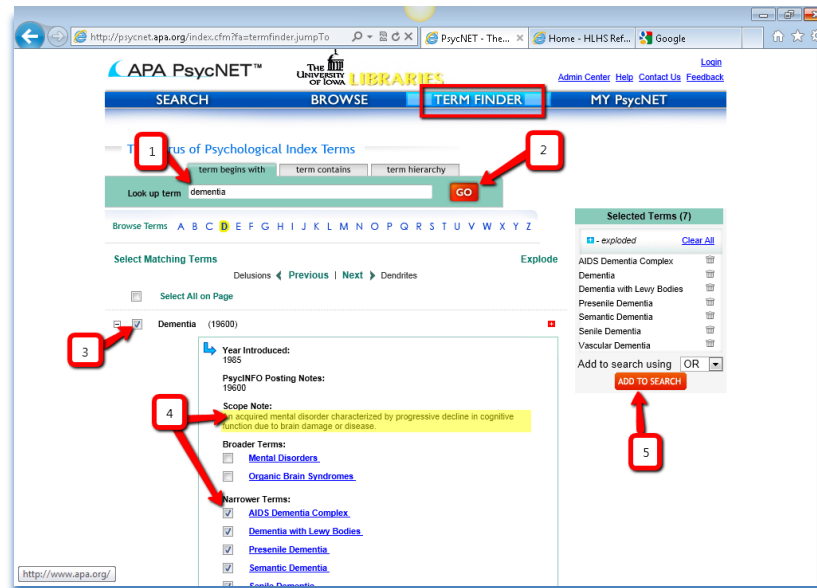
Performing a topic search by concept (or subject)

This resource has a comprehensive vocabulary which organizes the content of it by subject. It is worth learning how to do this, if you need your searches to be thorough.

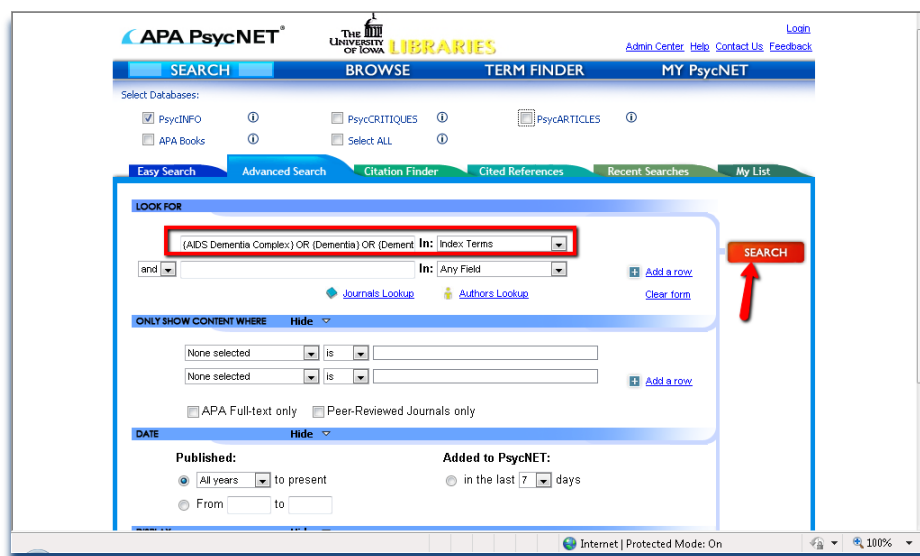


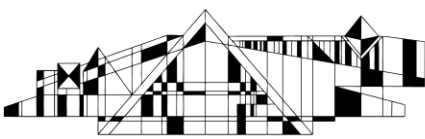
After you select the term finder tab...

1. Enter your concept. You may have to try a few synonyms if a match is not identified.
2. Select go.
3. Select the box adjacent to term you would like to view.
4. View the scope note to learn more about the concept (definition, history). Consider exploding (the + sign) to include narrower concepts. The term below was exploded. This is why there is a check mark for each of the narrower terms.
5. Select *add to search*, which will combine all selected terms with an OR by default.

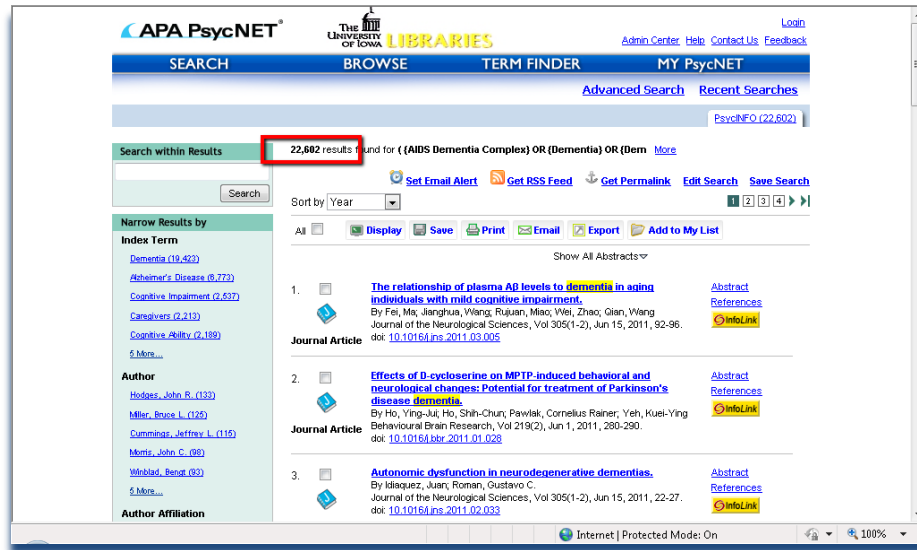


6. After you add the terms, you will see them appear in the search box. The drop down box will indicate that you are searching *Index Terms*, or by concept. Then select search.

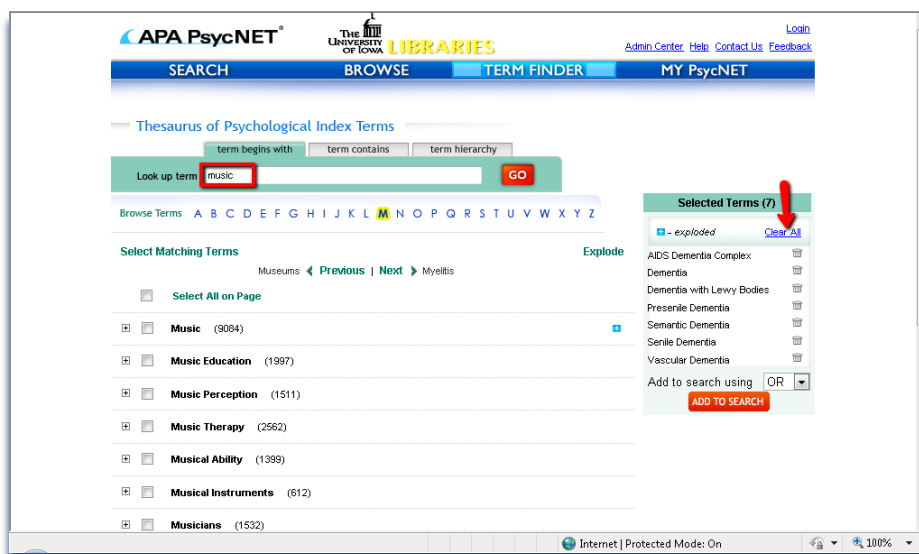


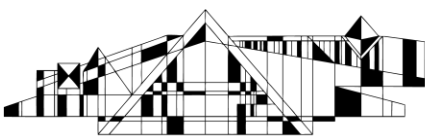


7. Results will appear at the top of the page.

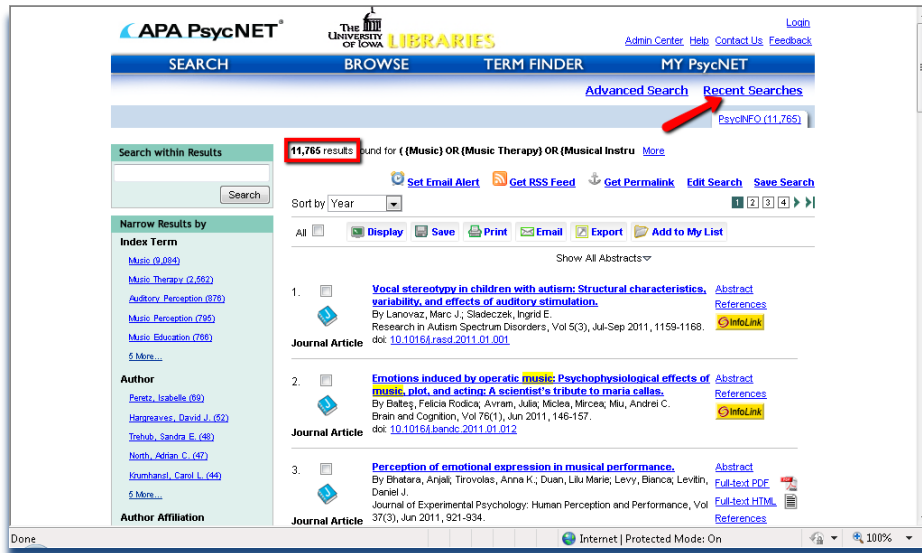


8. If you have additional concepts to search, repeat this process and combine your searches together. Go to term finder and enter in your next term. Before adding to search, the *clear all* link needs to be selected.

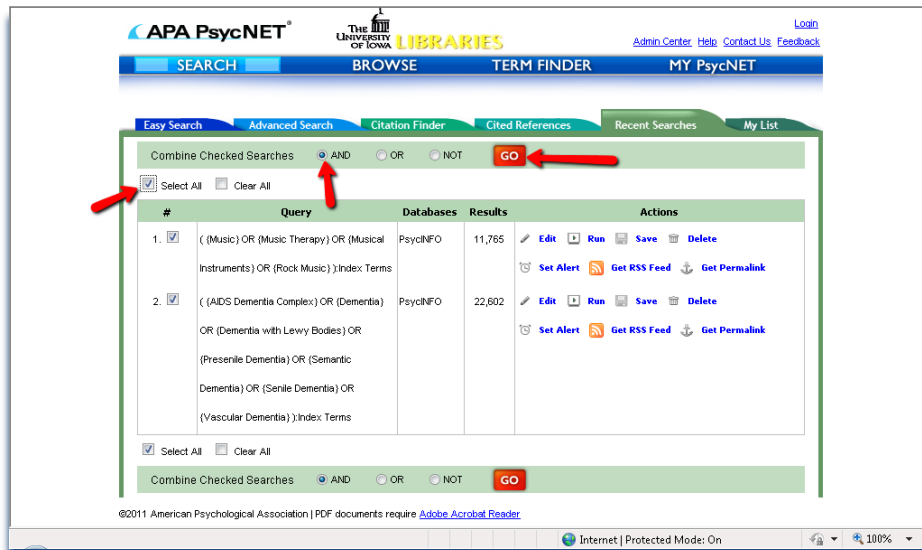


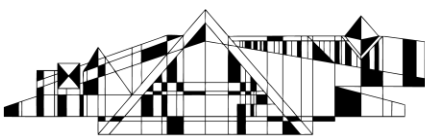


9. In order to combine both searches together, go to the link *Recent Searches*.



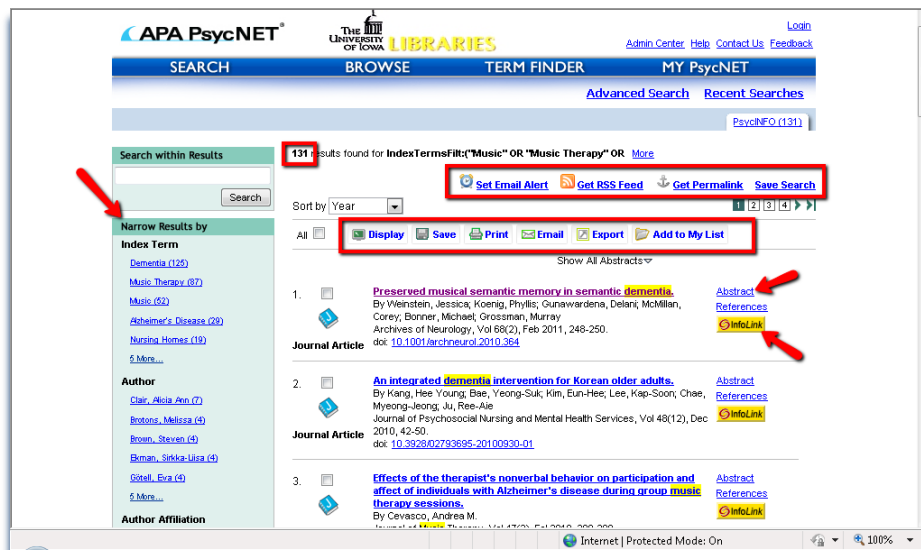
10. Then, select both and combine with AND, in order to retrieve citations with both of these concepts in common.



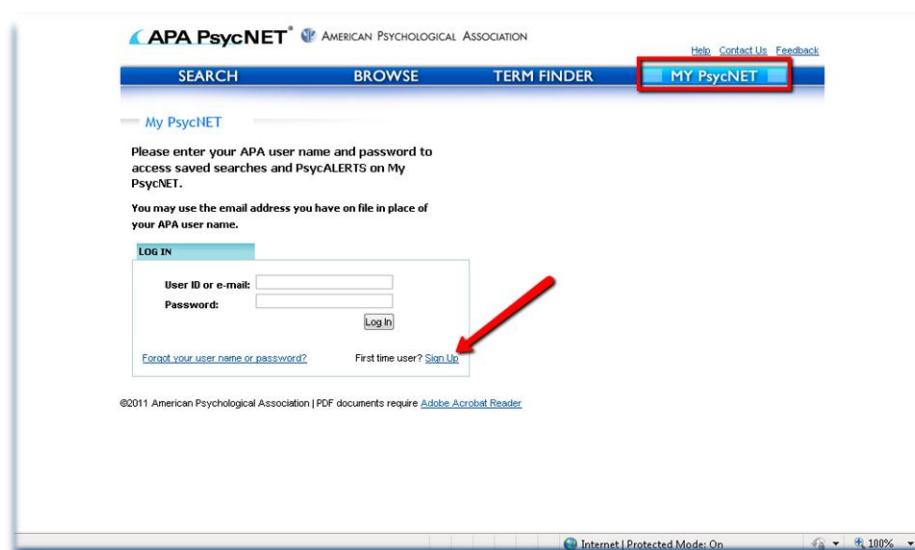


Reviewing and managing results

1. View abstracts on the right side. Also, select on the infolink button for full text options.
2. Consider narrowing your search with limits on the left side, if necessary.
3. Decide what to do with your results. Direct export to RefWorks is available, as well as options for print, save and email.



4. If you would like to save your search, create a link to your search, or create a list (My List), you will need to create an account. This is called MyPsycNET.





THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA LIBRARIES
Hardin Library for the Health Sciences

We can provide guidance customized to your topic, in person or over the phone. Please contact the reference desk at 319-335-9151 OR lib-hardin@uiowa.edu

Or connect with the librarian assigned to your subject area:

<http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/hardin/liaisons.html>

Dorothy Persson, Psychology Librarian, who is absent from the above list, is an expert instructor for this resource and is available for appointments.

Contact her at: 319-335-5232 or dorothy-persson@uiowa.edu