

## Introduction to Using PsycInfo @UNCG

Hi, my name is Mimi, and I'm going to be showing you how to search in PsycInfo. PsycInfo is a really good database that has almost any scholarly articles about psychology that you might need.

Let's start from the UNCG Libraries home page, and go to Databases, under Research. Usually from here you'll want to look for a database by title, but PsycInfo is right here under Top Databases, so we'll use that.

At this point, if you're off campus, you'll get a log-in screen. Log in with the same username and password that you use for your iSpartan email.

The search screen is going to look very similar for a lot of the databases that you can use through UNCG, but you can always look in the upper left hand corner of the screen and make sure you're in the one you want.

I'm going to be looking for information about self-esteem in teens with eating disorders. This Venn diagram represents scholarly articles about those two topic areas. (In this database, the age group part of it works differently, I'll show you that in a minute.) I can search for "self-esteem", and then I'll get this whole set of articles. But that's a huge amount of articles to look through. I want just the portion of those articles that are about self esteem and about eating disorders, so my search is going to be "self esteem" AND "eating disorders" which gives me these articles only.

Now I'm going to use the thesaurus. This thesaurus is specific to PsycInfo, so it's going to help me make sure that I'm using the correct terms for the field of psychology, and it may show me some terms that I didn't think of.

For self-esteem, if I click on that to see other related terms, I think "self-concept" and "self-perception" are good synonyms for my research topic. In this bar here, you can see that the default setting is that if I check those boxes, it will add those terms using "OR". I only need one self-esteem term in each article, not to narrow my search to articles that have all three of those terms. I'll click "Add" to put those in my search.

Now I'll do a thesaurus search for "Eating disorders". I'll pick terms that are in the area I'm interested in looking up, and add those to my search as well.

See how that search is coming together? Self-esteem OR self-concept OR self-perception, AND eating disorders OR anorexia OR bulimia. Any article that has one term from here and one term from here will show up in my search.

Let's search for that, but I'm not actually done. From the left side bar here, I can also make selections like... I only want articles in English... that have been peer-reviewed... and that are about an adolescent age group.

So, how does this search turn out? If we skim down the titles, they look pretty close to what I wanted to find. Around a hundred is usually a pretty good number of search results to get, but it's more important that the results are useful to you. If they're not, you're going to want to go back and adjust your search terms, maybe take some out, maybe add more, it depends what you find you need at this point.

One option is to narrow it by publication date: go to this date slider bar and set it to only include things published since, let's say, 1992.

I want to make sure you know how to get the actual article, too. This one looks good, based on the title. If I go into it, I can look at the abstract... ok, that sounds useful. For this one, I can just open the PDF from this link. I can save the file if I'm on my own computer, or email myself the article information. I could also add several articles to a temporary folder, and then email myself all of that information at once.

Sometimes you will see "Check for full text". That sends you through the library catalog, and this one sends us right to the article. In this case, you're going to want to just save the PDF. But if you ever get stuck accessing an article, or if you have any other questions about PsycInfo, you can always AskUs!

11/1/12