The purpose of this tutorial is to show you how to use *PsycINFO* to locate peer-reviewed journal articles.

*PsycINFO* is a web database of abstracts from journal articles. Journal articles are primary sources of psychological research and are the preferred sources of information for psychological papers. It is published by the American Psychological Association (APA), and indexes articles from 1887 to present. It can be accessed through the on-line Saint Leo library. One of the most important features of psycinfo is that you can combine searches or limit results in order to find the most relevant articles to your topic of interest.

**Accessing the Saint Leo Library**

You can access PsycINFO through the Saint Leo Library, using a search platform called EBSCO to access several Psych-related databases, including…

- *PsycINFO*
- PsycEXTRA
- PsycARTICLES
- And Academic Search Premier

To access the Saint Leo Library, log into the Saint Leo portal at [https://my.saintleo.edu](https://my.saintleo.edu)
- Then choose the **Library** tab at top
- Then select the **On-line Databases** link from list of **Quick Links** (on the left side)
After clicking the **On-line Databases** link

- Choose **EBSCO**

- Click on EBSCO log-in
- However, it is important to note that you will NOT actually need to log in again because you’ve already logged into the mysaintleo portal. Clicking the EBSCO log-in link will take you directly to EBSCO.
After clicking the EBSCO log-in link, select the top link from the list called ALL EBSCO reference host databases.

Next you will choose *PsycINFO* within EBSCO by clicking on the box next to the database *PsycINFO*, then hit “Continue.”

The databases are arranged alphabetically by name so you will have to scroll down to see *PsycINFO*.
Once you choose *PsycINFO and hit continue*, you will be taken to the basic/simple search screen.

You can move between the basic and advanced search screens by clicking on the tabs at top of the search page.

– Basic and advanced searching will provide the same results

– **BUT I recommend the ADVANCED search screen** because you can more easily refine, narrow, or expand your topic!!

– Advanced Search screen lets you refine your search by combining keywords using “AND”.

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**Example EBSCO Search**

Suppose you are interested in researching the **causes of violence** then in this case, you would combine the two search terms, “violence” and “causes.” To combine terms like this, in the advanced screen, type in Violence in the FIND TEXTBOX and select “KW keyword” from the SELECT A FIELD pull-down menu.
Now if I stop there and search for articles using only violence as a keyword, I get over 17,000 articles!! This is way too many to browse through, so instead I should narrow the topic by combining terms using the AND function to the left of the FIND TEXTBOXES.

For example, I might combine the terms “violence” and “causes”.

Now even though I’ve combined terms, there is still one more important step. Before clicking the “search button,” scroll down and select “peer-reviewed journals” because you want to search for scholarly articles that have been through a rigorous scientific review!

So the results of my search combining keywords “violence” and “causes” from peer-reviewed journals yields 52 articles, starting with the article titled, “The social antecedents of anger proneness in young adulthood.” This is much more reasonable than browsing through 17,000.
Accessing Articles Information

Clicking on the title of the article reveals a host of information about the article, including the author(s), abstract, name of journal, etc.

For example, if you click on The social antecedents of anger link, it reveals the following info about the article… This article was published in 2007 and is located in the Journal of Health and Social Behavior, Volume 48, on Pages 68-83.

Clicking on the title also gives you the abstract.
Accessing Full-text Articles On-line

In order to use the research articles that you find in any paper manuscript or presentation, you must read the full version of the article and not just the abstract. Some articles have Full-text links allowing you to access the full version of article on-line by simply clicking on the HTML or PDF link.

For example, # 4 in our search has a link to a full-text PDF file that can be easily downloaded.

Clicking on the PDF link will pull-up the article shown here.
Adding Articles to Your Folder

You can add articles to a folder, by clicking on the folder icon next to any articles you want to save, email, or print.

After adding articles to your folder, the “folder icon” at top of the search page will indicate that your folder has items. Clicking on your “folder has items” icon will take you to the articles you have selected.
E-mailing Your Folder Contents

You can then e-mail your folder contents, by selecting all the articles you want to email & then hitting the email link…

You must then fill in your email address and on the right, select HTML and PDF, to have the full-text attached if it is available.

Also on the right, select Standard Field Format (to get a copy of the abstract) or select Citation Format - APA (to get the APA reference)
Alternatively you can also highlight and then copy and paste (then save) the wanted references into Word from the search results screen.

![Alternative Save Method](image-url)