

PsycINFO: A Tutorial

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PsycINFO is an index of information on psychology, pharmacology, physiology, linguistics, anthropology, law, and social work. The sources include over 1,800 professional journals, chapters, books, reports, theses and dissertations, published internationally. It covers the years 1840 to the present (most material starts after 1887). If you have any questions about using this or any of the journal index databases please call the reference desk: 651.523.2375

1 Search boxes where you will put your terms

2 Drop down menu allows you to select a type of search: anywhere, keyword, descriptor, title, author, etc...

3 Functions that let you limit your search by date or by material

4 To find the **Thesaurus** click on **Search Tools**

CSA ILLUMINA NEWS New Technology Database
Hamline University
Quick Search | **Advanced Search** | Search Tools | 0 Marked Records | Search History | Alerts
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() () () () Anywhere
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Search Tips (e.g., wildcard*, "exact phrase") Add Row | Remove Row
Search Clear

Databases: Selected Databases or Select Specific Databases
Now Selected: PsycINFO (1840-Current)
Date Range: Earliest to 2004
Limited to: Latest Update Journal Articles Only English Only
These limits apply only to the PsycINFO (1840-Current) database
Publication Type: Not Selected, authored book, autobiography/biography
Language: Not Selected, Afrikaans, Arabic

The **Advanced Search** has several components you will want to be aware of. (1) You have several search boxes to put your terms in (three search lines with 3 search boxes). Most of the time, you will place your terms on separate lines. You will see that they are connected by an "AND". Each line has three boxes separated by an "OR". The "Or" can be used for synonyms, such as "assessment OR evaluation" or different spellings like behavior OR behaviour". (2) Each search line can be set to a type of search: anywhere, keyword, descriptor (subject), title, author, etc... (3) There are several functions that allow you to limit your search to specific times or types of materials. (4) To find the **Thesaurus** and other advanced search tools click on the *Search Tools* tab at the top.



The *Search Tools* screen allows you to combine searches, be notified of items on a particular topic, look at your search history, and a few more options. Probably most important is the *Thesaurus*.

Using a database thesaurus can be a very useful tool to narrow your results. When one uses a general keyword search, it can lead to a high retrieval of **irrelevant** items. A keyword search looks at several parts of a record for a word and not the idea behind that word. **EXAMPLE:** Using the word “assessment” in a keyword search may pick up records that deal with educational assessment, tax assessment, housing assessment, or maybe psychological assessment. As you can see, a keyword search can pick up a variety of topics.

A Subject or Descriptor search looks specifically at the subject/descriptor field of a record. This field is what describes a particular item. Subjects/descriptors are usually assigned according to a standard of rules such as Library of Congress Subject Headings, National Library of Medicine Subject Headings, Thesaurus of Psychological Terms, ERIC Thesaurus, Sociology Terms, etc...

Don't Worry – You do not have to memorize the terms you would like to use. Most journal index databases provide a Thesaurus for you to use. If a database does not provide one do a normal keyword search, find a record you like, and look at the subject/descriptor field to find what they used to describe that item. Re-search with your new terms.

The end result is to narrow and focus your search to the most relevant items!!!

Select Thesaurus: [Change Databases](#) ← 1

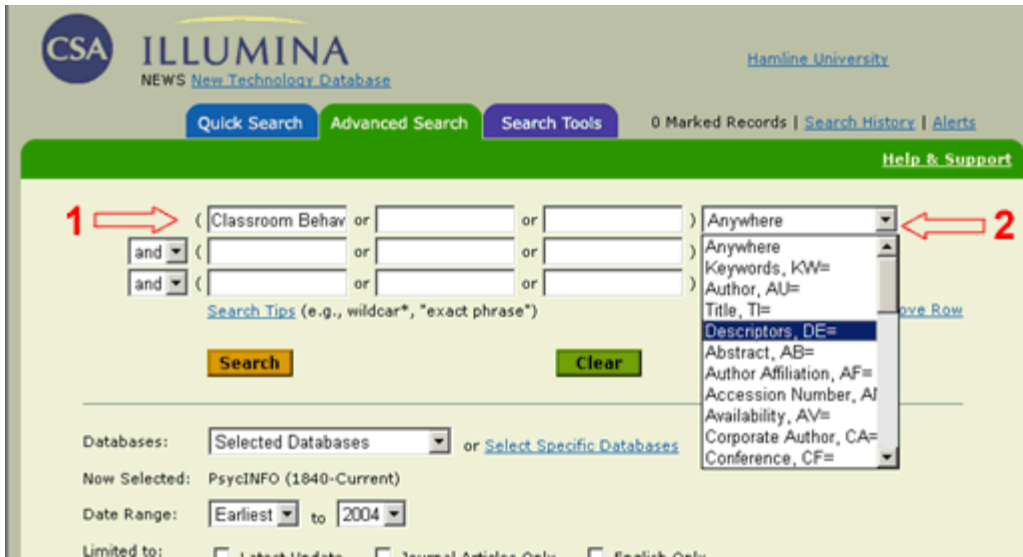
Search Thesaurus for: ← 2

Select Display: Hierarchy Rotated Index Alphabetical Index

From the (1) **Select a Thesaurus** drop down menu select **PsycINFO Thesaurus (English)**. (2) In the **Search Thesaurus for** box type in the term you would like to use. As an example, I have used *Classroom Behavior* as the term I would like to use.

The screenshot shows the CSA ILLUMINA search interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs for 'Quick Search', 'Advanced Search', and 'Search Tools'. Below this is a search bar with the text 'classroom behavior' and a 'Go' button. The search results are displayed under the heading 'PsycINFO Thesaurus (English)'. The first result is 'Classroom Behavior (1973)', which is marked with a red arrow and the number '1'. Below this, there are sections for 'Broader Terms' and 'Related Terms'. The 'Related Terms' section includes 'Classroom Behavior Modification', 'Classroom Discipline', and 'Classroom Environment', with a red arrow and the number '2' pointing to the 'Classroom Behavior Modification' link. The interface also includes a 'New Search Using Marked Terms' section with options for 'AND', 'OR', and 'Explode', and a 'Go' button.

(1) If the term you type in is a **DESCRIPTOR** it will be listed as such. Sometimes it may tell you to use another term instead. (2) The *Thesaurus* will then list, if applicable, *Broader Terms*, *Related Terms* or *Narrower Terms*. This allows you the opportunity to get even more specific with your topic. You can then take the term(s) you find and return to the *Advanced Search*.



(1) Back in the *Advanced Search* you can create your search. Put your descriptor in one of the search boxes and (2) change your search to a *Descriptor Search* from the drop-down menu. Feel free to select any limiters below and then hit the *Search* button.



(1) How many records your search yielded. (2) The breakdown of those results. Feel free to click on the appropriate tab for narrower results. (3) Start of the records. Basic citation information will be listed. Click on *View Record* to view the full record. (4) Listing of the *Descriptors*. Make use of these if you see a record you like.

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Record View Return to Results Help & Support

1 of 6158 [Next >](#) Mark This Record | [Update Marked List](#) | [Save, Print, Email](#)

5 → [ARTICLE LINKER](#)

1 → **Title & Author Info.**

2 → **Citation Information:** Journal, volume, issue, dates

3 → **Descriptors (Subject Headings)**

4 → **Abstract of the item**

Database: PsycINFO (1840-Current)

Title: Exploring the Relationship between Cognitive Style and Teaching Style

Author: [Evans, Carol](#)

Affiliation: University of Durham, Durham, United Kingdom [Evans]

Source: Educational Psychology, Vol 24(4), Aug 2004, pp. 509-530

ISSN: 0144-3410

Descriptors: *cognitive style teaching style classroom behavior student teachers gender differences

New Search Using Marked Terms: Use AND to narrow Use OR to broaden

Abstract: To a great extent the nature of the relationship between the cognitive style of a student teacher and their predominant teaching style in the **classroom** has been ignored by educational research. This study used an opportunist sample of 84 trainee teachers studying for one year full time for a Post Graduate Certificate in Education, in a range of subject specialist areas, based at a single English university. Students' cognitive styles were assessed, and those with more extreme cognitive style scores were selected to participate in semi-structured interviews. A subject specialist mentor had been assigned to each student, 77% (n=59) completed a questionnaire on their perceptions of the teaching style of their PGCE student. Statistically significant differences in approaches to learning and teaching were identified between the four cognitive styles. Gender differences were also noted with analytic-verbaliser females adopting the most analytical style in the **classroom** and wholist-imager males the most wholist style. Qualitative analysis identified differences in approach to teaching between the students with more extreme cognitive styles. Wholists were more sensitive than analytic students to situational factors such as the culture of the school, support from the mentor, and in their ability to accept criticism. Further research is recommended to verify such findings. In this respect, a longitudinal study focusing on changes in cognitive style and approach in the **classroom** could be fruitful. Consequently, universities need to adopt varied teaching and assessment tools varied in order to accommodate the continuum of cognitive styles. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2004 APA, all rights reserved) (journal abstract)

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We can break down the item record into several important parts. (1) Title & author. The author is hyperlinked so you can do a search for other items by a particular author. (2) The rest of the citation information: journal name, volume, issue, dates and pages. (3) Descriptors that describe the item are listed. You can mark any of them and continue to a new search. (4) The abstract or summary of the item. (5) If you decide you would like to find the article and see if Bush Library has a subscription to the journal in print or electronic format, you will need to click on the **Article Linker** button. When you click on the button a second window will appear. See below.



Search Results

[Refine or alter search](#)

Article: A Multi-method Approach to the Study of School Class Size Differences

Author: Blatchford, Peter

Journal: International journal of social research methodology

ISSN: 1364-5579

Date: 2005

Volume: 8

Issue: 3

Page: 195

DOI: 10.1080/13645570500154675

← 1

Content is available via the following source(s)

Coverage Range	Links to content	Source
01/01/1999 - 1 year ago	Article Journal Academic Search Premier	
01/01/1999 - 1 year ago	Article Journal Business Source Premier	

2b →

← 2a

Other options:

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by calling (651) 523-2375

[by email \(bush_reference_email@hamline.edu\)](mailto:bush_reference_email@hamline.edu)

(1) The citation you are looking for will be shown in this area. (2a) The sources that might possibly have the article you are trying to find. If you see **Bush Memorial Library's Periodicals Collection**, that will denote that Bush Library has or had a print subscription to the journal. Click on the Journal link to search CLICnet and see if we have that particular issue of the journal. If a journal index database appears as it does in the example check (2b) the *Coverage Range* to see if that particular issue is covered in the database.

If there are no listings, then Bush Library does not subscribed to the item and you will either want to (3) search CLICnet and see if one of the other CLIC schools has it or request it through *Interlibrary Loan*.