

Introduction

This document provides background information on the record structure used for PsycINFO and the full-text databases PsycARTICLES and PsycBOOKS. Because each article in PsycARTICLES and PsycBOOKS is indexed in PsycINFO, users may want to review this guide before searching those databases. Because the fields in each record differ, depending on the content and the indexing, we have described each field value in detail, followed by examples from PsycINFO.

More information is included here about how the values are assigned, records are created, and indexing is performed. Additionally, where possible, Historical Notes discuss how practices have changed regarding PsycINFO fields.

To help searchers use these fields in building their search strategies, we have included helpful hints for many of the fields. Some common questions about PsycINFO record structure are also answered to further assist novice and advanced searchers.

The guide is alphabetical, with links from the table of contents. Following the comprehensive description of the PsycINFO record structure, we provide links to sample records and other training and support materials. The names of fields in this guide are those used by APA on APA PsycNET. A chart for field names on EBSCOhost, Ovid, and ProQuest is linked at the end of this guide.

We indicate which fields are required (appearing in every PsycINFO record); repeating (may have multiple values in a PsycINFO record); and searchable. “Searchable” means this field has its own label in a dropdown menu or filter on the Advanced Search Page. Additional fields may be included in an “Any Field” search, or discoverable through Browse menus or other tools. Please note that there might be slight platform differences in which fields are searchable. This information may be helpful for instructional purposes for the librarian and faculty member. This document can be downloaded in its entirety for class use. Students and researchers may also find that the explanations in this guide offer information helpful to the research process.

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Abstract

 required repeating searchable

Records for virtually all books, chapters, and journal articles include summaries or abstracts. Author- or publisher-provided abstracts are preferred. In some cases, an abstract may need slight modification, and when one is not present, an abstract is created.

As of 2016, records can have more than one abstract. Every record will continue to have an English scientific abstract as its default. Some records will also have Impact Statements, or summaries of the research prepared for a non-specialist. Impact Statement is available as a search limit. Abstracts in languages other than English are also included in the record, when they are available from the publisher.

▶ *Historical Note: From 1995, dissertation records contain abstracts as well. Journal-provided abstracts have been used with little modification, whenever possible, since 2003. Older PsycINFO records have a higher percentage of staff-written and modified journal abstracts.*

▶ *Helpful Hint: The abstract is not a high-relevance field for searching, because its greater length and narrative form increase the likelihood of unwanted retrieval compared to the more tightly-controlled descriptor and keyword fields.*

However, including the abstract in a search is especially useful when your topic is unusually specific, when your project requires a comprehensive search that will retrieve even marginally relevant material, and when there are no appropriate index terms for the concept(s) you want to research.

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Affiliation

 required repeating searchable

The author's affiliation indicates either the institution or organization with which the author was affiliated when the research was conducted or the manuscript was written or the author's place of employment at that time.

The affiliation field contains the name of the institution, business, or organization and its geographical location, except for some pre-1967 records. Street addresses, building names, and so forth are not included in the affiliation.

Example:

Anderson, Peter Centre for Quality of Care Research, University Medical Centre
Nijmegen, Nijmegen, Netherlands

If an author indicates that he or she is in private practice and gives a geographical location, "Private Practice" can be entered as the author affiliation.

Example:

Kakoschke, Celia Private Practice, Bendigo, VIC, Australia

▶ *Historical Note: Up to 2002, only the first author's affiliation was entered into the document. Since then, affiliations are entered and displayed for all authors.*

▶ *Helpful Hint: An author's membership in a professional association is not considered an affiliation.*

You can search the affiliation field to find the top institutions where individuals are publishing research in a particular discipline or area of research.

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Age Group

required repeating searchable

Age Group provides standardized terms for age ranges of human populations. The most specific age group terms are applied, and there is no limit on the number that can be used.

Childhood (birth-12 yrs)

Neonatal (birth-1 mo)

Infancy (2-23 mo)

Preschool Age (2-5 yrs)

School Age (6-12 yrs)

Adolescence (13-17 yrs)

Adulthood (18 yrs & older)

Young Adulthood (18-29 yrs)

Thirties (30-39 yrs)

Middle Age (40-64 yrs)

Aged (65 yrs & older)

Very Old (85 yrs & older)

► *Historical Note: The present list of Age Groups has existed from 1996 to present. The three broad Age Groups (Childhood, Adolescence, and Adulthood) have been assigned by indexers since 1984 and are also applied to all records in which a narrower Age Group appears. However, Age Group values have been mapped back in the database to 1967, based on the records' indexing. Most of the records from the earliest to 1966 do not have Age Groups.*

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Article ID

The Article ID field contains a fixed identifier that uniquely identifies an article-by-article published record. This information is displayed in the Source field.

Many journal publishers are publishing electronically, article-by-article, rather than using the traditional volume/issue printing of their titles. These types of articles are generally identified by an Article ID rather than volume, issue, and print pagination.

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Audience (Books)

required repeating searchable

This designation is for books covered in the PsycBOOKS database, which includes books published by APA and other publishers.

Written for the General Public

Written for Professionals (Psychology: Professional & Research)

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Author

 required repeating searchable

Individual Authors

All authors provided on the source document are entered into the database. The format for entry and display of authors' names is:

<last name>, <first name or initial> <middle name or initial>, <suffix>

Examples:

Glenn, S. Lynn
Jacobs, David R., Jr.
Landolt, R. F.
Ricaud-Moreau, Michelle
Li, Xia

Prefixes such as von, van, de, and du are treated as part of the surname:

Examples:

Bin Khader, Abdul Majeed
De la Torre, M. A. Alonso
Vanden Heuvel, Audrey
Zur Oeveste, H.

Professional titles and academic degrees are generally omitted.

Authors are entered in the order provided in the source document.

For translated articles, the name of the original author(s) is entered first, followed by the name of the translator.

For errata/corrections, author names for the original article are entered.

For reviews, the name of the reviewer is entered as the author, rather than the author(s) of the item being reviewed.

► *Historical Note: The number of authors cited varies by entry year.*

1996-present: All author names.

*1987-1995: First four authors, followed by **et al.** if there were more than four authors. In 2009 **et al.** was replaced with the actual authors' names.*

*1967-1986: Up to four authors entered; but for publications with more than four authors, the first author ONLY was entered followed by **et al.** (See note above regarding **et al.**)*

Earliest-1966: Variable due to editorial differences among the printed source material.

Institutional Authors

Institutional authors can include institutions such as the World Health Organization, study or working groups, or a combination of institutions, study groups, and individual authors.

Examples:

Kamara, T. S., Whyte, E. M., Mulsant, B. H., Peasley-Miklus, C., Rothschild, A. J., Flint, A. J., Heo, M., Papademetriou, E., Mathis, E. R., & Meyers, B. S.; STOP-PD Study Group (2009). Does major depressive disorder with somatic delusions constitute a distinct subtype of major depressive disorder with psychotic features? *Journal of Affective Disorders, 112*, 250-255.

American Psychological Association. (2008). *Graduate study in psychology 2008*.

► *Helpful Hint: Vendors differ in whether or not they place individual and institutional authors in the same fields. Be sure to check the field labels and descriptions for whatever vendor you use to access APA databases.*

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Author Identifier

required repeating searchable

Added in 2012, the Author Identifier provides an author profile, derived from an authoritative source such as ORCID, and standardized author information. Since 2016, Author Identifier has been included for Parent Book Authors, found in the Source field of book chapter records.

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Book Series Title

This field only appears in Book and Chapter records. It contains the series title (and volume and number, if applicable) of the book or the chapter's "parent book." It may contain a non-English title. The Book Series Title field captures the ISSN for the book series, and volume and issue information when provided (as of the 2012 PsycINFO Update).

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Book Types

 required repeating searchable

Classic Book

Conference Proceedings (If the conference proceedings were put into book format. There is a separate **Conference** field for individual conference presentations.)

Handbook/Manual

Reference Book

Textbook/Study Guide

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Cited References

 required repeating searchable

Since 2001, the records in PsycINFO (as well as PsycARTICLES and PsycBOOKS) have included lists of references published with the source document. Although comprehensive coverage began in 2001, references appear in some records for earlier years, as APA continues to add retrospective coverage.

The references are not included if they are in certain nonstandard reference listing formats or are in a language that uses symbols.

► *Helpful Hint: If you are using the APA PsycNET or EBSCOhost platform, there is a Cited References tool in the top menu that allows you to search for records that have cited a particular publication.*

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Clinical Trial Number

 required repeating searchable

Introduced in 2016, this field identifies a research study sponsored by an institute or agency registered with the World Health Organization. Clinical Trial Numbers from NIH may be hyperlinked to the NIH website.

Example:

nct00000419 ; isrctn80764175

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Conference

required repeating searchable

This field contains information about where and when a document was presented at a conference or symposium and whether or not it was presented in its entirety or only portions.

In 2009, Conference Notes were separated to display in a separate field. The Conference Notes field will contain information about additional conferences at which the content of the document was presented or information about a conference from which the content of the document was derived.

Examples:

1) Conference:

Annual Meeting of the American Psychological Association, 1990

Conference Notes:

Portions of this work were presented at the aforementioned conference.

2) Conference:

Annual conference of the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies, Nov, 2007, Baltimore, MD, US

Conference Notes:

Portions of this paper were presented as a **poster** at the aforementioned conference.

► *Helpful Hint: You can retrieve articles that were presented in full or partially at a specific conference by searching the name of the conference and the year and selecting the conference field.*

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Copyright

This field was introduced in 2009 and captures the copyright of an article or chapter record at the time it was published. This field will help users know who owns the copyright when an article or chapter was first published.

The field contains, when present in the source document, the copyright statement, the copyright holder, and the copyright year.

Example: American Medical Association. All rights reserved. 2009.

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Correction Date

 required repeating searchable

Date that a corrected version of record entered the database in YYYYMMDD format. This date appears in the metadata records that have been corrected. Corrections are issued weekly but may appear online at a date determined by each vendor.

Example: 20080919

In 2009, APA began to include the correction release date (YYYYMMDD) and the corresponding product—PsycARTICLES and PsycBOOKS. A corrected record will contain at least one correction date, e.g., the PsycINFO correction date. If the PsycINFO record was corrected and added to another product, e.g., PsycBOOKS, this record contains two correction dates—one for PsycINFO and one for PsycBOOKS.

Examples:

- a) 20081201 (PsycINFO)
- b) 20090106 (PsycINFO); 200903011 (PsycBOOKS)

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Correspondence Address

 required repeating searchable

This field presents the address provided in the source document that is clearly identified as the person and address to be used for correspondence or to obtain reprints. The correspondence address can be a mailing address or email address, or both.

Example:

Peter Anderson, Centre for Quality of Care Research, University Medical Centre Nijmegen, 229 WOK, PO Box 9101, Nijmegen, Netherlands, 6500 HB, PDAnderson@aol.com

► *Historical Note: From 2002 forward, the correspondence author's name and address have been displayed in a separate field. Beginning in 2006, the correspondence address can be for an organization as well as an individual.*

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CrossMark

Added in 2012, this field provides CrossMark information for PsycARTICLES documents, enabling publishers to communicate changes and updates of their scholarly content.

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Data Set Access

 required repeating searchable

Introduced in 2016, this field provides DOIs or other links to a data set, for records that include a data set as supplemental material.

Example:

Data Set Access: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR36132.v1>

<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/ICPSR/index>

<http://schema.datacite.org/meta/kernel-3/indes.html>

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Data Set Description

 required repeating searchable

Introduced in 2016, this field describes a data set, for records that include a data set as supplemental material.

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Digital Object Identifier

 required repeating searchable

The Digital Object Identifier (DOI) provides an actionable, persistent link to the document to which it has been assigned. Users can click on the link (see example below) and be taken immediately either to the document (if the user is authorized to see it) or to a landing page that will tell the user how to get the document. Scholarly publishers register metadata and a DOI name (alphanumeric string) with CrossRef, and the system will maintain a persistent link. If the document moves from one publisher to another, the location is changed in the DOI system so that users get a persistent link.

Example: [10.1016/j.ijhcs.2004.11.002](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijhcs.2004.11.002)

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Dissertation Details

Introduced in 2016, this field includes five optional subfields for records that have a Document Type of “Dissertation.” **UMI** and **OpenURL** are pre-existing fields that now display in this section. They link to ProQuest’s purchase site for the full-text of the Dissertation. The three additional subfields are **Advisor(s)**, **Degree**, which includes the degree or degree acronym and the date the degree was earned, and **Institution**, which displays the university and department.

Example:

Dissertation Details

UMI Order Number	AAI3619621
OpenURL	http://gateway.proquest.com/openurl....
Advisor(s)	Andrew Salinas, Jr.; Lindsay Dilo
Degree	MPT, 2014
Institution	Florida Gulf Coast, Dept. of Human Performance

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Document Type

required repeating searchable

The values in this field identify the specific kind of document, or what a document *is* as opposed to what it is *about*. A Document Type is the segmentation of a [Publication Type](#), which is the top-level identification of a document, for example, a journal, book, or dissertation.

Abstract Collection

Bibliography

Chapter

Clarification

Column/Opinion

Comment/Reply

Dissertation

Editorial

Encyclopedia Entry (This value is applied only when the publication type is Encyclopedia.)

Erratum/Correction

Interview

Journal Article

Letter

Obituary

Poetry

Publication Information

Reprint

Retraction

Review—Book

Review—Media (Used for film and video reviews.)

Review—Software & Other (Used for reviews of software, websites, and other reviews that are not reviews of books, film or videos.)

Test

- ▶ *Helpful Hint: Documents generally receive only one Document Type value. The exception is a Reprint, which can be used in combination with any of the other Document Type values.*
- ▶ *Historical Note: In 2009, the value Dissertation [2900] was added to the Document Type list. This change enables users to quickly either search for only dissertations or to quickly exclude them from a search strategy. In 2012, the value Poetry was added to the Document Type list for source documents that are actually poems rather than about poetry and Review—Other was changed to Review—Software & Other.*
- ▶ *Historical Note: In 2016, the values Clarification and Retraction were added, and backmapped to older records, to distinguish these types of editorial followups from the Erratum/Correction Document Type. Interview was also added in 2016, for records going forward.*

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Email

required repeating searchable

Email addresses provided by all authors are entered in this field. If an author provides more than one email address, only the first one listed in the source document is captured.

Example:

Anderson, Peter. PDAnderson@aol.com

► *Historical Note: From 2001 to present, author email became a standard field for all authors and all author emails in the source document are entered.*

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Format Covered

This indicates whether the electronic or print format is indexed in the database when both formats are available.

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Geographic Location

required repeating searchable

This limit is used to indicate where a study was done and when the document is about a specific country or countries.

For example, the following record included “Iraq” in the Geographic Location field because the study both took place in Iraq and was about Iraq:

Townsley, M., Johnson, S. D., & Ratcliffe, J. H. (2008). Space time dynamics of insurgent activity in Iraq. *Security Journal, 21*, 139-146.

The following example included “Australia” in the Geographic Location field because that is where the research population was located, although the research isn’t specifically about Australia:

Schimmelmann, B. G., Huber, C. G., Lambert, M., Cotton, S., McGorry, P. D., & Conus, P. (2008). Impact of duration of untreated psychosis on pre-treatment, baseline, and outcome characteristics in an epidemiological first-episode psychosis cohort. *Journal of Psychiatric Research, 42*, 982-990.

Introduction: To assess the impact of duration of untreated psychosis (DUP) on baseline and 18-month follow-up characteristics controlling for relevant confounders in an epidemiological first-episode psychosis (FEP) cohort. Method: The Early Psychosis Prevention and Intervention Centre (EPPIC) in Australia admitted 786 FEP patients from January 1998 to December 2000. Data were collected from medical files using a standardized questionnaire. Data from 636 patients were analyzed. Results: Median DUP was 8.7 weeks. Longer DUP was associated with worse premorbid functioning ($p < 0.001$), higher rate of schizophrenia-spectrum disorders ($p < 0.001$), and younger age at onset of psychosis ($p = 0.004$). Longer DUP was not associated with baseline variables but with a lower rate of remission of positive symptoms ($p < 0.001$) and employment/occupation ($p < 0.001$), a higher rate of persistent substance use ($p = 0.015$), worse illness severity ($p < 0.001$) and global functioning ($p < 0.001$) at follow-up after controlling for relevant confounders, explaining approximately 5% of variance of remission of positive symptoms ($p < 0.001$) in the total sample and 3% in schizophrenia-spectrum disorders excluding bipolar I disorder ($p = 0.002$). Outcome was significantly worse when DUP exceeded 1-3 months. Conclusion: Avoiding pitfalls of non-epidemiological studies, DUP appears to be a modest independent predictor of prognosis in the medium-term. Results support the need for assertive early detection strategies. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2008 APA, all rights reserved

► *Helpful Hint: If you want to retrieve records about a country, search in the title and keywords fields in addition to the Geographic Location.*

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Grant/Sponsorship

required repeating searchable

This field was added in 2006 and captures grant and sponsorship information for research studies.

In 2012 Grant/Sponsorship was fielded to allow display, search and limiting for individual sponsors, grant numbers, grant recipients, and principal investigators. Additional fields include the sponsor country, grant date, funding amount, and recipient country. A free-text field, Other Details, contains relevant information that cannot be fielded such as named awards and fellowships, institutional recipients, and project names.

Example 1:

Sponsor: State of Connecticut, Department of Mental Health and Addition Services, US

Recipient: No recipient indicated

Grant Number: MH088971

Other Details: NIH grant

Sponsor: Patrick and Catherine Weldon Donaghue Medical Resesarch Foundation

Recipient: Srihari, Vinod H.

Example 2:

Sponsor: National Institutes of Health, US

Recipient: No recipient indicated

Grant Number: K08 NS 52232

Sponsor: Mayo Foundation

Recipient: Lee, Kendall H., US

Date: 2008 to 2010

Other Details: Early-Career Development Award for Clinician-Scientists

► *Helpful Hint: This field is useful if you want to find out what research has been funded by a specific organization, government agency, or other institution. For a comprehensive search, look for both the full institution name and the acronym (e.g., National Institutes of Health or NIH).*

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Impact Statement

See Abstract.

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Index Terms

required repeating searchable

PsycINFO records are indexed with index terms that have been standardized to encompass synonyms that different authors may use to express the same concepts. These terms, also known as descriptors or subjects, are published in APA's *Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms*®. Most vendor systems provide an electronic Thesaurus for automated access to the controlled vocabulary. Please refer to your vendor's search guide for more information. In this guide, we will refer to this controlled vocabulary as "index terms."

Example: *Emotionality (Personality); *Human Computer Interaction; Computer Anxiety

► *Helpful Hint: When an asterisk * precedes the term it is a **Major Term**. This is a term applied to PsycINFO records that represents the primary focus of the reference. If no asterisk exists it is a **Minor Term**, or a secondary focus of the reference.*

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Index Term Selection

Indexers assign index terms to reflect the frame of reference of the author(s) and the level of specificity of the document. Scope Notes are consulted to ensure accurate application of index terms. Scope Notes are written for index terms with ambiguous meanings. In many cases, Scope Notes provide a definition and/or information on proper use of the index term. At least one index term is designated as Major, and there can be no more than 15 total index terms per record. The primary purpose of designating Major and Minor terms is to indicate the index terms' relative importance in representing the subject matter.

► *Helpful Hint: Major and Minor index terms increase indexing and searching precision and isolation of key concepts, which results in a more accurate reflection of the focus of the source document. Many vendor platforms allow the searching of Major index terms to increase precision of retrieval.*

Index Term Application Tips

- Animal index terms are applied in both experimental and observational research settings.
- Student index terms are generally applied in educational settings.
- Index terms reflecting methodology are applied when methodology is the focus of the study.
- When a document is focusing on a specific test and its psychometric properties, appropriate index terms are applied to represent that test (or type of test if there is not a specific test name term) and the psychometric properties under investigation.

What is the difference between keywords and index terms?

Keywords, or key concepts, are taken from the source document and represent the natural language used by the author(s). Authors sometimes provide keywords or key concepts, and these may be applied during indexing as well as additional concepts that are deemed important. Index terms are controlled vocabulary terms from the *Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms*. The index terms are applied to reflect the key concepts and provide another point of access for the searcher. Indexers apply these index terms to a level of specificity, so that using index terms in your search strategy is the most precise approach.

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ISSN/ISBN

required repeating searchable

The ISSN is a unique eight-digit standard number assigned by the International Serials Data System (ISDS) to identify a specific serial title, for example, **0363-0277**. The ISBN is a unique number assigned to identify a book or other monographic publication issued by a given publisher. As of 2012, book series ISSNs and book set ISBNs are included.

- ▶ *Helpful Hint: If a journal has an ISSN for both the print and electronic versions, both are listed in the record:*

ISSN 0254-4962 (Print); 1423-033X (Electronic)

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Keywords

 required repeating searchable

Keywords are the natural language words or phrases used to reflect the major concepts in a source document. Keywords, or key concepts, are pulled from the title or abstracts and reflect the author's language. Important concepts for which there are no corresponding index terms in the Thesaurus are always represented in this field.

Sometimes a journal editor or author provides keywords to their publication. These are considered for inclusion in the PsycINFO record, but may be altered to reflect the source document's major points and psychological relevance. The keywords provided by authors of articles included in PsycARTICLES are always used.

Example of keywords in a PsycINFO record:

prenatal attachment; postnatal infant sleep; pregnant mothers

► *Historical Note: For records processed from 1967-1995, the keywords field for experimental records contains the independent variable, the dependent variable, and the population. These data are generally presented in this order in a structured phrase format.*

Example:

craniospinal irradiation for medulloblastoma, temporal lobe calcification & development of learning disabilities, patients treated under 10 yrs old

- *Helpful Hint: When searching, use truncation (consult your vendor search guide to determine the truncation symbol) to broaden your retrieval from the keywords.*
- *This natural language field is labeled differently on some of the vendor platforms, and can be called identifiers, keywords, key concepts, and so forth. Consult your vendor search guide for the field labels.*

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Language

 required repeating searchable

The language represents the language that the document is written in.

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MeSH

 required repeating searchable

Introduced in 2016, this field provides Medical Subject Headings assigned by PubMed. PsycINFO records include MeSH headings if the article or publication described is also covered in PubMed's database; approximately 35% of PsycINFO records are cross-listed in PubMed. All major and minor terms at all levels of the MeSH hierarchy will then display in PsycINFO. There is no term-to-term mapping or preservation of MeSH's hierarchy. Each MeSH term in the PsycINFO record is hyperlinked to the PubMed website.

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Methodology

 required repeating searchable

Methodology values identify the specific kind of methodology used in the research. As many values as are appropriate may be applied. Visit <http://www.apa.org/databases/training/method-values.html> to view the definitions of the methodology values.

Brain Imaging
Clinical Case Study
Clinical Trial
Empirical Study
 Experimental Replication
 Follow-up Study
 Longitudinal Study
 Prospective Study
 Retrospective Study
Field Study
Interview
 Focus Group
Literature Review
 Systematic Review
Mathematical Model
Meta Analysis
Metasynthesis
Nonclinical Case Study
Qualitative Study
Quantitative Study
Scientific Simulation
Treatment Outcome
Twin Study

Example:

Methodology: Empirical Study; Quantitative Study

- ▶ *Helpful Hint: If the Follow-up Study value is applied, the Empirical Study value will automatically be applied as well.*
- ▶ *Historical Note: In 2016, the Methodology "Treatment Outcome/Randomized Clinical Trial" was separated into two Methodology values: "Treatment Outcome" and "Clinical Trial," which were backmapped to older records. Metasynthesis was also added in 2016, for records going forward.*

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NLM Title Abbreviation

Introduced in 2016, this field provides the PubMed abbreviation for a journal title. You can use this abbreviation to search in the Journal Title or Publication Title field.

Example:

Source	European Journal of Psychological Assessment
NLM Title Abbreviation	Eur J Psychol Assess

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Open Access

required repeating searchable

Introduced in 2016, this field is available as a checkbox limit. An Open Access icon rather than a text field indicates which records are open access.



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Other Publishers

required repeating searchable

This field consists of other variations of the publisher name, resulting from publisher or publisher name changes.

► *Historical Note: This field was added in 2007 to reflect variations in the publisher name resulting from publisher changes or publisher name changes occurring over the course of a publication's history.*

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Other Serials Titles

required repeating searchable

This includes previous titles that a journal was published under. For example, the *Journal of Abnormal Psychology* was published under that title from 1906-1920; it was then published as the *Journal of Abnormal Psychology and Social Psychology* from 1921-1924, then it became *Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology* from 1925-1964 and is presently once again the *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*.

► *Helpful Hint: For a list of historical titles and their dates of publication for journal titles covered in PsycARTICLES, visit http://www.apa.org/pubs/databases/psycarticles/title_history.pdf.*

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PMID

required repeating searchable

The PubMed Identifier (PMID) has been added to records also indexed in PubMed.

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Population Group

required repeating searchable

This limit is assigned to indicate certain characteristics of the population that is the focus of the document. As many population group limits as are applicable will be assigned.

Human
Animal
Male
Female
Transgender
Inpatient
Outpatient

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PsycINFO Classification

required repeating searchable

Records include one or two content classification codes. The PsycINFO classification system consists of four-digit numerical codes representing broad psychological subject areas. The classifications and codes are listed on the PsycINFO website at <http://www.apa.org/pubs/databases/training/class-codes.aspx>.

Note that the content classification scheme has 22 broad categories, each of which appears in bold type and, with the exception of 3800 Military Psychology, includes at least one subcategory. In assigning these codes to records, PsycINFO's indexers aim to represent each article's subject area as specifically as possible. The broad categories are primarily for

- General discussions
- Topics that encompass two or more subcategories
- Topics for which there is no subcategory

▶ *Historical Note:*

Classification System History

- *1992: The system expanded from 17 to 22 categories. All categories and subcategories are searchable for records entered and were mapped back to relevant records. The classification codes were mapped back to all records.*
- *1989: Classifications corresponding to the current changes were mapped back to relevant records.*
- *1976: Four-digit subcategories were used for the first time. Before 1976, the classification system consisted of broad, two-digit codes only. For records entered prior to 1976, concepts represented by subcategories in the current system can be searched at the broad level only.*

Consult the search guide for your vendor for instructions on how to search classification codes.

- ▶ *Helpful Hint: The PsycTESTS database has its own separate list of Classification Codes <http://www.apa.org/pubs/databases/training/psyc-tests-class-codes.aspx>. You can use them to search in much the same way as the PsycINFO Classification codes, but we recommend that you search PsycINFO and PsycTESTS separately for best results.*

Searches that need to be comprehensive over PsycINFO's full range of coverage must be adjusted for classification differences in older records. If necessary, add index terms and natural language/all text terms to your classification search to retrieve older records when the current subcategories did not exist.

- ▶ *Helpful Hint: Using classification codes in searching can be helpful in limiting retrieval to a specific setting. If you are looking for concepts for which the terminology is the same across multiple disciplines, limiting to classification codes is a useful strategy. Browsing within a classification code can help a searcher identify a research topic within a certain discipline.*

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Publication Date

required repeating searchable

This field was introduced in 2009. It includes the previously separate Publication Year and Month/Season for the document.

The Publication Date field includes, when available, day, month, season, and year of publication. It will accommodate a variety of formats:

June 30, 2009
June 2009
Summer 2009
June Summer 2009

► *Historical Note: With the 2009 PsycINFO Reload, Publication Year was replaced with the new field Publication Date, which includes the day, month, season, and year of publication. Publication Date now appears in all records from any year.*

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Publication History

This field, introduced in 2009, captures multiple dates for the publishing history of an article; it only appears in journal records. This information allows users to track the publishing cycle for an article as well as time to publication for a particular journal.

The field will include full dates for four subfields: first submitted, revised, accepted, and first posting:

First Posting: Feb 10, 2009
Accepted: Nov 28, 2008
Revised: Nov 1, 2008; Sept 21, 2008
First Submitted: June 20, 2008

► *Helpful Hint: First Posting records (see **Publication Status**) will not have a Publication History field. Publication History will only appear in “fully published” articles.*

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Publication Status

This field was introduced in 2009 to capture the publication status of an article. First Posting refers to articles that are published ahead of print or pre-publication articles. Many journals are releasing these articles before they have gone through the entire publishing process.

First Posting articles differ from standard records and contain only the metadata supplied by the publisher. When the fully published article is available, a standard PsycINFO record will be created and a correction to the first posting record will be provided. The two versions of the article will be matched on the DOI.

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Publication Type

required repeating searchable

The Publication Type indicates whether an item is a journal, book, dissertation, electronic source, or encyclopedia. It is the top-level designation to describe what an item is rather than what it is about. [Document Types](#) further segment the Publication Type.

Journal

- Peer Reviewed Journal
- Non-Peer Reviewed Journal
- Peer Reviewed Status-Unknown

Book

- Authored Book
- Edited Book

Dissertation Abstract

Electronic Collection (Database Collection)

Encyclopedia

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Publisher

required repeating searchable

This field contains information about the book and journal publisher.

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Release Date

 required repeating searchable

The date the record entered the database, in YYYYMMDD format. PsycINFO and PsycARTICLES are updated twice weekly, and PsycBOOKS is updated monthly.

Example: 20080919

As of 2009 this field includes the release date (YYYYMMDD) and the corresponding database—PsycARTICLES or PsycBOOKS. A released record contains at least one release date for PsycINFO. If the PsycINFO record is part of another database, e.g. PsycBOOKS, this record will contain two release dates—one for PsycINFO and one for PsycBOOKS.

Examples:

- a) 20081201 (PsycINFO)
- b) 20090106 (PsycINFO); 200903011 (PsycBOOKS)

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Reviewed Item

 required repeating searchable

Articles that review a book, film or video, or other item contain detailed information on the item being reviewed. The information includes the title of the reviewed item, the authors or editors, the copyright year, ISBN, publisher, and other information such as pagination, running time, and price.

▶ *Helpful Hint: Title of Reviewed Item, Author of Reviewed Item, and Year of Reviewed Item, are searchable fields.*

Example:

Reviewed Item

- Author(s): O'Donnell, Angela M. (Ed); D'Amico, Miranda (Ed); Schmid, Richard F. (Ed); Reeve, John Marshall (Ed); Smith, Jefferey K. (Ed)
- Title: Educational psychology: Reflection for action (Canadian edition).
- Year: 2008
- ISBN13: 978-0-470-84032-0 (paperback)
- Other Info: John Wiley & Sons Canada, 584 pages.

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Series Title

The series title is applied to a group of separately published works related in subject and issued in succession (numbered or unnumbered) by a single publisher or distributor. Each of these published works will bear a title of its own in addition to the series title.

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Source

 required repeating searchable

This is basic information that identifies the publisher and the publication. It contains several elements, including:

- The journal name, volume/issue, page range

▶ *Historical Note: Beginning in 2000, publisher name and country were added and mapped back for all records on the current coverage list.*

- The publisher, publisher location, pagination.
- The parent-book citation and page range of book chapters.
- The Article ID for article-by-article publications.
- The Page Count field to capture the length or total number of pages for article-by-article publications.

▶ *Helpful Hint: The content, format, order, and searchability of these data elements vary among vendors. Consult the search guide for your vendor for field labels and search procedures.*

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Source Title Translation

Introduced in 2016, this field provides the English translation of a non-English journal title.

Example:

Source	Revista de Psicopatología y Psicología Clínica
Source Title Translation	Spanish Journal of Clinical Psychology

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Special Issue Title

If a journal issue is a special issue in its entirety, the title of the special issue will be entered in this field. On some vendor platforms this information is included in the Source field.

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Special Section Title

Applicable only to journals in the PsycARTICLES database — If a journal issue contains a thematic, titled section within the issue, articles within that section will display the themed title in Special Section Title.

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Supplemental Materials

required repeating searchable

Auxiliary Materials are supplemental material or data that are available separate from the source document, including Data Sets or Appendixes available on the Internet only, a Work Book or a CD that is sold with a Textbook, or a Video. Some supplemental material is appended to the main document.

3-D Modeling Images	Tables and Figures
Appendixes	Test
Audio	Tests - Internet
Computer Software	Video
Data Sets	Web Sites
DVD/CD	Work Book/Study Guide
Experimental Material	Other

In 2005, the optional attribute of Appended or Internet Available was added to this field, but only one of these values could be assigned to each record. In 2009, it became possible for both values to apply if the material was available both on the Internet and appended to the document and also available on the Internet.

► *Historical note: In 2012 the field Auxiliary Materials was renamed Supplemental Materials*

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Table of Contents (Books Only)

The Table of Contents is entered for both authored and edited books but not for foreign language or introductory psychology textbooks. Table of Contents are considered abbreviated when chapters, subheadings, or sections are omitted due to length restrictions. If the book provides a “Contents in Brief” for lengthy Table of Contents, that is entered in its entirety.

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Tests and Measures

 required repeating searchable

This field is used to capture the tests and measures used in a research study. Non-standardized and unpublished measures used in a study are also included in this field. If a test is appended or included in the body of the source document, this is indicated with an Appended label:

Tests and Measures:

Quest Atlantis Commitment Questionnaire (Appended);
Motivation Questionnaire (Appended)

DOI links are provided for tests listed in the Tests and Measures field that have records in the PsycTESTS database

Tests and Measures:

Parkinson's Disease Questionnaire
Beck Depression Inventory doi:10.1037/t00741-000
Unified Parkinson Disease Rating Scale

► *Helpful Hint: Users can search and determine how often a test has been used in research. Another use for this field is to locate published or unpublished measures on a certain topic.*

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Title

 required repeating searchable

An effort to standardize the entry of document titles for journals by capitalizing only the first word of the title and of the subtitle, if any, and any proper nouns began in 2007.

Example:

Adjustable gastric banding and conventional therapy for type 2 diabetes: A randomized controlled trial.

For most records, if the title is written in Roman-alphabet languages other than English, both the original, non-English title and the English translation appear.

Example: O interventie psihoeducatională. / A psychoeducational intervention.

- *Helpful Hint: Depending on the vendor, the original and translated versions may appear in the same field or in different fields.*
- *Historical Note: For non-Roman-alphabet titles, and for many non-English records added to the database during the 1970s, the original title field is left blank and only the English translation is provided.*
- *Historical Note: From 1967-1977, records with non-Roman alphabet titles will only display the English translated title:*

[The egocentrism of children.]

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Unique Identifier

required repeating searchable

This number identifies each record uniquely.

The format is YYYY-NNNNN-LLL, where

- YYYY = year the record was processed
- NNNNN = a unique sequential number for that year for all of the articles in the same journal issue, a book record, or all of the chapters in a book
- LLL = a sequential number for each article or chapter selected from a journal issue or an edited book; LLL for an authored book is always 000

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Sample Record Links

[View a Journal Record](#)

[View a Book Record](#)

[View a Chapter Record](#)

[View a Dissertation Abstracts Record](#)

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Training and Support Links

[APA Databases Search Help & Training Center](#)

[Search Guides for APA Databases](#)

[Video Tutorials on the PsycINFO YouTube Channel](#)

[PsycINFO Topic Guides](#)

[APA Databases & Electronic Resources Blog](#)

[Webinar Schedule](#)

[APA Databases Presentation Archive \(SlideShare\)](#)

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Field Guide by Platform

The fields described in this guide use the titles assigned by APA for the APA PsycNET platform. The [linked chart](#) translates field names across platforms offering PsycINFO, PsycARTICLES, and PsycBOOKS.