Researching with PsycINFO

Occupational Therapy Assistant Subject Guide:  http://subjectguides.grcc.edu/OTA

1. From the library site, select [Subject Guides], then [Occupational Therapy Assistant Subject Guide]. Select [PsycINFO] from the box of [OTA Databases]. If you’re off-campus or using a wireless connection, logon with your last name and Raider # without the W.

2. [PsycINFO] is built upon a strict controlled vocabulary called the Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms. PsycINFO also uses professional-style search options on its [Advanced Search] screen.

3. Click into [Thesaurus]. Type in the most important idea of your subject or topic. For example, if you’re interested in how adults of different ages perceive their ability to drive safely, your most important ideas would be “driving” AND “safety.” (Hold off on searching for your age group!) Type ONE of those terms into the [Browsing: PsycINFO -- Thesaurus] search box, and press [Browse]. Select the best term(s) to fit the most important part of your chosen topic. You may be directed to use a more specific / scientific / medical term /synonym / alternate spelling.

4. My primary Psych Heading is:

____________________________________________

Add the Psychological Index term to your search by checking the box in front of it, then click [ADD]. The DE Descriptor (thesaurus) term appears in the top search box.

5. My second Psych Heading is:

____________________________________________

Using the Boolean logic terms AND, OR, NOT, combine the second ERIC term to your search by checking the box in front of it, choosing the Boolean term, then click [ADD]. Note how the search now appears in the top search box with DE codes.

6. Click the green [Search] button.
7. Click [Advanced Search] and refine results by selecting:
   a. Publication Year
   b. English Language
   c. Age Group
   d. Methodology (see methodologies handout)
   e. Click [Search].

8. Once you’ve seen how many results you do have, on the results screen, continue to [Refine your Results] - see left tile - Limit to [Linked Full-Text]. **

9. If GRCC does not have full-text of a periodical built into this database, then check [RaidersSearch Catalog] for the title of the periodical (not the article title) to see if it is available in a different database, or in our print periodicals collection. If unavailable at GRCC, fill out a free [RaidersLoan] request.

10. Regardless of which database you use, select (hopefully) full-text articles ** or at least full citations and abstracts (that you’ll order through RaiderLoan) and email them to yourself - with an APA citation. Open your email to see how those articles present within whatever email package you choose.