Searching the literature

A short guide to computer searching
Searching the Literature

• Science does not occur in a vacuum
  – Current research reflects the contributions of previous studies
  – “I can see so far only because I stand on the shoulders of giants” (Newton)

• Published results have been reviewed by peers and judged to make significant contributions
Searching the Literature

• Read current articles in reputable journals
• Search for articles based upon keywords in their abstracts (PsychInfo)
• Search for articles based upon the previous work they cite (Social Science Citation Index as found in Web of Science or following cited by in PsychInfo)
Multiple sources are available

I. Searching books
   A. limited current but of historical interest
   B. Many references are irrelevant

II. Searching journal articles
Journals

• Not all journals are equal
  – Quality of peer review
  – Breadth of distribution

• General APA, APS journals
  – Psychological Review
  – Psychological Bulletin
  – Psychological Science

• Field specific
  – Journal of Personality and Social Psychology
  – Journal of Experimental Psychology
Personality Journals

• General
  – Annual Review of Psychology
  – Psychological Review
  – Psychological Bulletin
  – Psychological Science

• Personality Specific
  – Journal of Personality and Social Psychology
  – Journal of Personality
  – Journal of Research in Personality
  – Personality and Individual Differences
  – European Journal of Personality
Key Resources

- **PsycINFO**
  Index to the professional and academic literature in psychology and related disciplines. Covers 1880-present.

- **Annual Review of Psychology**
  Annual edited volume of articles demonstrating the current trends in research and inquiry in the field of psychology. Online version covers 1995-present.

- **Web of Science**
  Provides access to the Science Citation Index, Social Sciences Citation Index, and Arts & Humanities Citation Index. Covers 1945-present. Also includes the Conference Proceedings Citation Index-Science (1990-present).

- **Social Science Abstracts (Wilson)**
  Index to international English-language periodicals in the social sciences, including sociology, anthropology, geography, economics, political science, and law. Some records include full-text links. Covers 1963-present.

- **PsycEXTRA**
  Companion to the PsycINFO database. PsycEXTRA covers technical, annual and government reports, conference papers, newsletters, magazines, newspapers, consumer brochures, and more not found in other databases. Covers mostly back to the 1940s, with some earlier material.

Related Resources

- **PsycARTICLES**
  Definitive source of full text, peer-reviewed scholarly and scientific articles in psychology published by the APA and allied organizations. Think of this as a full-text subset of what you'd find in PsycINFO. Covers 1894-present.
Boolean Search

I. George Boole (1815-1864) and symbolic logic

A. Intersections and Unions
B. AND (intersection) (+)
C. NOT (-)
D. OR (union)
too many - narrow the search
Show the search history

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Search ID#</th>
<th>Search Terms</th>
<th>Search Options</th>
<th>Actions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| S4        | personality and arousal | Narrow by SubjectMajor: Personality  
Narrow by SubjectMajor: Individual Differences  
Search modes: Boolean/Phrase | View Results (15)  
Revise Search  
View Details |
| S3        | personality and arousal | Narrow by SubjectMajor: Individual Differences  
Search modes: Boolean/Phrase | View Results (117)  
Revise Search  
View Details |
| S2        | personality and arousal | Search modes: Boolean/Phrase | View Results (3208)  
Revise Search  
View Details |
| S1        | personality and arousal | Search modes: Boolean/Phrase | View Results (3208)  
Revise Search  
View Details |
# Example of Psych Info

Find references to personality, arousal, and cognitive performance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Search Term</th>
<th>Number of Hits</th>
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<td>12928</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Personality</td>
<td>131460</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1 and 2</td>
<td>1261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Cognition</td>
<td>4807</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Memory</td>
<td>22443</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>1 and 8</td>
<td>288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>9 and 2</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Literature searching by articles

A&R, 1996

YD
Scroll through titles

   Database: PsycINFO
   - Add to folder
   - Cited References: (2)

   Database: PsycINFO
   - Add to folder
   - Cited References: (2)
   - HTML Full Text

    Database: PsycINFO
    - Add to folder
    - Times Cited in this Database: (178)
    - PDF Full Text

    Database: PsycINFO
    - Add to folder
    - Times Cited in this Database: (24)
    - Find it NU
Literature searching by citations

A&R, 1996
Citation links bring us back to current papers

What is the abstract? whom do they cite?
The abstract

Title: Differential preferences for happiness: Extraversion and trait-consistent emotion regulation.

Authors: Tamir, Maya, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA, US, tamirm@bc.edu

Address: Tamir, Maya, Department of Psychology, Boston College, 140 Commonwealth Ave., Chestnut Hill, MA, US, 02467, tamirm@bc.edu


Publisher: United Kingdom: Wiley-Blackwell Publishing Ltd.

Other Journal Titles: Character & Personality; A Quarterly for Psychodiagnostic & Allied Studies

Other Publishers: United Kingdom: Blackwell Publishing

ISSN: 0022-3506 (Print) 1467-6494 (Electronic)

Language: English

Keywords: happiness; trait extraversion; emotion regulation

Abstract: The assumption that everyone wants to be happy is prevalent among psychologists and laypeople alike. The present investigation suggests that motives for happiness are not consistent across individuals or contexts. Three studies demonstrate that preferences for happiness vary as a function of trait extraversion and situational demands. When anticipating an effortful task that requires increased motivational engagement, individuals demonstrated trait-consistent emotional preferences. Extraverts were more likely to prefer happiness-inducing activities, whereas introverts were less likely to prefer such activities. These differential motives were specific to preferences for happiness compared to other emotions and independent of concurrent feelings. Overall, the present findings suggest that individuals low (vs. high) in extraversion may be less motivated to increase their happiness in effortful contexts. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2009 APA, all rights reserved) (from the journal abstract)

Subjects: *Emotional Regulation; *Extraversion; *Happiness
Save the abstract for your reference notes
Bibliographic management

I. Commercial bibliographic managers
   A. Endnote (free to NU students)

II. Open source bibliographic managers
   A. BibTeX (BibDesk is the Mac implementation)
Bibliographic management

I. For short papers/projects just copy the citation information

II. For longer term projects it is worth building up a data base using EndNote or BibTeX.
**Differential preferences for happiness: Extraversion and trait-consistent emotion regulation.**

**Author**
Tamir, Maya

**Journal**
Journal of Personality

**Year**
2009

**Volume**
77

**Number**
2

**Pages**
447 - 470

**Keywords**
happiness, trait extraversion, emotion regulation, Emotional Regulation, Extraversion, Happiness

**Abstract**
The assumption that everyone wants to be happy is prevalent among psychologists and laypeople alike. The present investigation suggests that motives for happiness are not consistent across individuals or contexts. Three studies demonstrate that preferences for happiness vary as a function of trait extraversion and situational demands. When anticipating an effortful task that requires increased motivational engagement, individuals demonstrated trait-consistent emotional preferences. Extravers were more likely to prefer happiness-inducing activities, whereas introverts were less likely to prefer such activities. These differential motives were specific to preferences for happiness compared to other emotions and independent of concurrent feelings. Overall, the present findings suggest that individuals low (vs. high) in extraversion may be less motivated to increase their happiness in effortful contexts. (PsychINFO Database Record (c) 2009 APA, all rights reserved) (from the journal abstract)
Paper 2

I. Before doing the experiment, read some of the literature

II. Develop a hypothesis (or two)

III. Think about a good design

IV. Do the study

V. Analyze the data
Additional comments

Stylistic considerations
  general style of writing
  specific requirements
  partially meant for the ease of editing
    margins and spacing
    levels of headings
  running heads
General style considerations

Overall
  Write for the intelligent but uninformed reader
  Remember what is important in each paragraph and each section.
  Topic sentences should be able to stand by themselves

Minor comments
  complete sentences
  no unnecessary words
  Proofread -- spelling and punctuation!
  remember: tense
  data are plural!
Guides to writing an APA paper

• APA manual of style - The official reference
• Leary (Chapter 15) detailed example
• Plonsky “cheat sheet” to the APA paper
  – http://www.uwsp.edu/psych/apa4b.htm

• Also possible to use sophisticated typesetting language: LaTex with the apa.cls style sheet
  – see http://personality-project.org/revelle/syllabi/205/apa.style.html
LaTeX: a brief overview- optional

- Author’s emphasis should be upon content not format
  - let the author write
  - let the computer do the formatting
- TeX originally developed by Donald Knuth, LaTeX by Leslie Lamport as add on to TeX
- Available as free software from latex-project.org
- For a brief tutorial on APA style and LaTeX see
  - http://personality-project.org/revelle/syllabi/205/apa.style.html (linked on the 371 syllabus)
LaTeX is a markup language

• LaTeX and HTML (for web) are markup languages and are not WISIWyG
• Initially harder to use than WISIWyG programs such as Word or OpenOffice
• Allow user great control over what the document will look like (if desired) or can do complex formatting without much thought.
LaTeX structure

• Commands are preceded by \ 
  – and sometimes followed by {} 
  – \section{This is a section heading} 
  – \% comments are preceded by \% and are ignored

• Structure of a document is 
  – Preamble (what packages to include, who you are, what type of output you desire) 
  – Content (perhaps broken into sections, perhaps including tables and figures) 
  – End materials
\documentclass[man]{apa}%can be jou (for journal), man (manuscript) or doc (document)
\usepackage{url} %this allows us to cite URLs in the text
\usepackage{graphicx} %allows for graphic to float when doing jou or doc style
\usepackage{amssymb} %use formatting tools for math symbols
\title{A basic apa style paper}
\author{Your Name}
\affiliation{Department of Psychology \ Northwesern University}
%\date{} %Activate to display a given date or no date
\abstract{Some 100 clever words, but in complete sentences.}
\begin{document}
\maketitle
%\section{}
An introduction should be interesting and could include a reference \cite{rev:ea07}
\section{Methods}
Allow someone to do the study again
\section{Results}
What did you find -- say it in words, numbers and then stats \ Table could go here
\section{Discussion}
What does it mean? Make it interesting. Perhaps point out how the literature supports this result \cite{killeen}
\bibliography{examplebib} %allows for bibliographic material to be automatically formatted
\end{document}
A basic apa style paper

Running head: A BASIC APA STYLE PAPER

A basic apa style paper

Your Name
Department of Psychology
Northwestern University
Abstract

Some 100 clever words, but in complete sentences.
A basic apa style paper

An introduction should be interesting and could include a reference (Revelle, 2007).

Methods

Allow someone to do the study again.

Results

What did you find – say it in words, numbers and then stats.
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Discussion

What does it mean? Make it interesting. Perhaps point out how the literature supports this result (Killeen, 2005).
References


A basic apa style paper

Your Name
Department of Psychology
Northwestern University

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References