Search Strategies to Find Articles

PSYC 172 Research Guide

https://ucsd.libguides.com/psyc172

with
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Before we get started...

- Check out the PSYC 172 Course Guide for remote access and Wi-Fi information
- ★ Need VPN help? Contact ITS Service Desk

Visit
AP&M 1313, First floor
Weekdays
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m

-01-
Empirical articles

understanding what type of article you need

Is it empirical research?

Empirical articles

- Authors did the research themselves rather than reviewing someone's study.
  - includes their own data and methods.
- Can include quantitative or qualitative research methods.
- Meta-analysis: combines study data from several selected studies to develop a single conclusion that has greater statistical power.

Secondary/Review articles

- Review or offer summary, commentary or analysis on research of others.
- Types: review articles; literature reviews; systematic reviews.

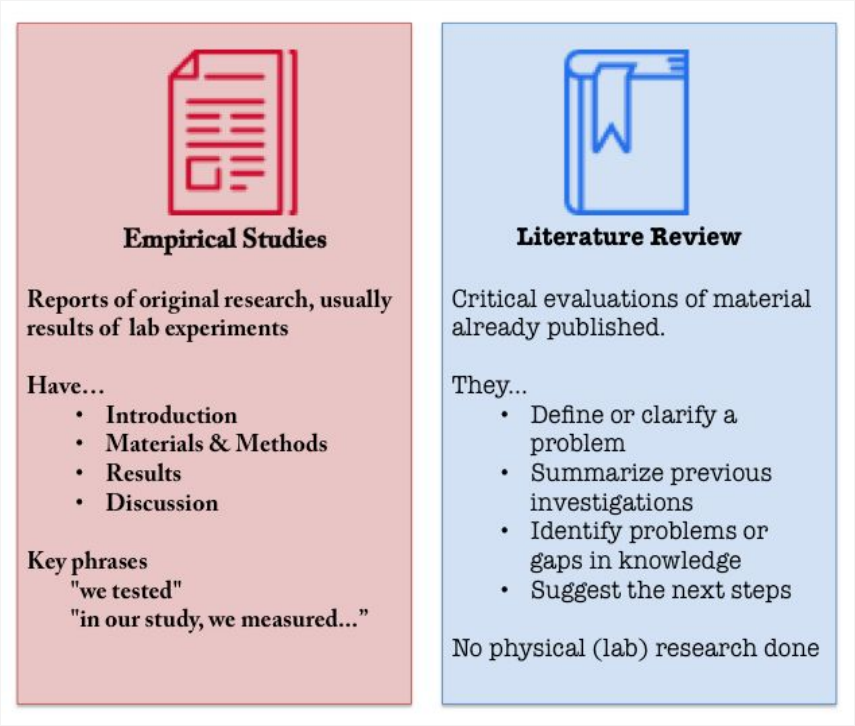


Image source: "Empirical vs. Review Articles" by William H. Hannon Library - Loyola Marymount University is in the Public Domain, CC0

Structure of an Empirical Article

Structure of an article:

- **Title and abstract**
  - Skim while searching to see if the article is a possibility
    - If it doesn't mention a study or data, it may not be empirical research
- **Introduction**
  - Identifies the research question of study and study purpose
  - **Background** information provides context
- **Methodology**
  - How the study was conducted
- **Results & Discussion**
  - Context for **argument** or identifies gaps in the research
- **Figures**
  - **Data**
- **Conclusion**

Does it answer my research inquiry?

What type of information do you need? What does your source provide?

DATA	• Provides information about observable variables • Methods & Results section of an article. • Hard data can be found in figures, graphs, charts.
Argument	• Provides evidence as to how variables relate to each other and their outcomes. • Results & Discussion section of an article.
Background	• Provides reasoning as to why the study is needed. Answers the question of purpose. • Introduction section of an article.

-01-
search terms

translating your myth

Identifying search terms

1. Identify the main search terms or variables
    - Take out unnecessary words (or, on, the) in your myth.
    - Don't use works like "effects" or "relationship".
    - Spell out acronyms.

Consider rewording your myth to clarify terms. What do we mean by "looking at them"?

Myth

You can tell someone is gay just by looking at them.

Main variables: gay; gaydar

Identifying search terms

2. Identify synonyms or related terms

- There are many words for the same concepts.
- Types:
  - Direct synonym
  - Related terms
    - broader
    - more specific
- Think about how scholars describe your topic.

Use can use Google to see what other synonyms or related terms pop up in the results

Myth Example

Myth

You can tell someone is gay just by looking at them (gaydar) .

Main variables: gay; gaydar

Synonyms or related terms:

gay:

- Homeosexual (direct)
- Sexual orientation (broad)

gaydar:

- Verbal or auditory cues (direct)
- Nonverbal cues (direct)
- Mannerism (direct)
- A person's affect (broad)
- Identity characteristics (broad)

Identify your search terms

Take this time to identify the main variables and synonyms or related terms for your main variables.

-02-
Searching for literature

about databases and searching

Search Strategy

Learn more about Gen AI

Databases

- Robust filter options for relevancy
- Abstracts
- No paywalls
- Citation creation

Google Scholar

- Limited filtering for relevancy
- No abstracts
- Some paywalls
- Sometimes citation creation

Use Get It At UC to get around paywalls

Generative AI Tools

- Not all Gen AI tools do the same thing
  - E.g., ChatGPT vs Perplexity
- Be aware of Biases and inaccuracies, or falsification of information

Searching for literature

suggested databases:

These are linked on the course guide and can also be accessed via the Library's website from the databases icon under the search box.

PubMed

- life sciences and biomedical

PsycINFO

- psychological, social, behavioral, and health sciences

Reframe your thinking

Reframe your search approach:

You are not searching for evidence.

You are searching the variables and asking the results to tell you how or in what way those variables are related to each other.

Search string examples

Myth: You can tell someone is gay just by looking at them (gaydar).

Variables: gay **AND** gaydar

- variable + variable = ?

Variables: gay **AND** mannerisms **OR** behavioral cues

- variable + (variable or variable) = ?

Variables: gay **OR** homosexual **AND** gaydar **NOT** bisexual

- (variable or variable) + variable - variable = ?

Let's try

Myth

You can tell someone is gay just by looking at them. Gaydar.

gay:

- homosexual (direct)
- sexual orientation (broad)

gaydar:

- Verbal or auditory cues (direct)
- Nonverbal cues (direct)
- Mannerism (direct)
- A person's affect (broad)

PubMed Serch
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=gay+AND+gaydar

Searching in PubMed

PubMed

- Saved searches (advanced search)
  - Shows breaks down of your search terms
- Read title and abstract
  - How close to or far from what you need are your results?
  - What can you changes in search terms get you closer?
- Search for MeSH terms
  - Medical subject headings - controlled and hierarchically-organized vocabulary used for indexing, cataloging and searching.
- Filter carefully
  - The filters use your variables as a starting point.

What are your search results telling you? Do you need to change your search terms, rework your variables?

When you like what you find

PubMed

More filters

- Similar articles
- Cited by
- References

Use these if your keywords are working for you. If not go back and look at your terms and subject headings.

Detection of sexual orientation ("gaydar") by homosexual and heterosexual women

Minna Lyons [1], Aoife Lynch, Gayle Brewer, Davide Bruno

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 23813041 DOI: 10.1007/s10508-013-0144-7

Abstract

Although there has been considerable research investigating the ability to identify sexual orientation from static images, or "gaydar," few studies have considered the role of female sexual orientation or sexual interest (for example, sociosexual orientation) in judgment accuracy. In two studies, we investigated the sexuality detection ability, and masculinity and femininity as cues used in judgment. In Study 1, we recruited heterosexual (N = 55) and homosexual (N = 71) women to rate the sexual orientation of homosexual and heterosexual male and female targets (N = 80: 20 heterosexual men, 20 homosexual men, 20 heterosexual women, and 20 homosexual women). We found that detection accuracy was better than chance levels for both male and female targets and that male targets were more likely to be falsely labeled as homosexual than female targets were. Overall, female faces were more accurately identified as heterosexual or homosexual than male faces and homosexual female raters were biased towards labeling targets as homosexual. Sociosexuality did not influence the accuracy with which targets were identified as heterosexual or homosexual. In Study 2, 100 heterosexual and 20 homosexual women rated the stimulus for masculinity and femininity. Heterosexual women were rated as more feminine and less masculine than homosexual women and homosexual men were rated as more feminine and less masculine than heterosexual men. Sexual orientation of the judges did not affect the ratings. The results were discussed with a reference to evolutionary and cultural influences affecting sexual orientation judgment accuracy.

Using PsycInfo

PsycInfo

- Uses quotation marks to group words together
- Similar functions
  - Saved searches under “Recent Searches”
- Filter by methodology
- Use thesaurus and subject headings

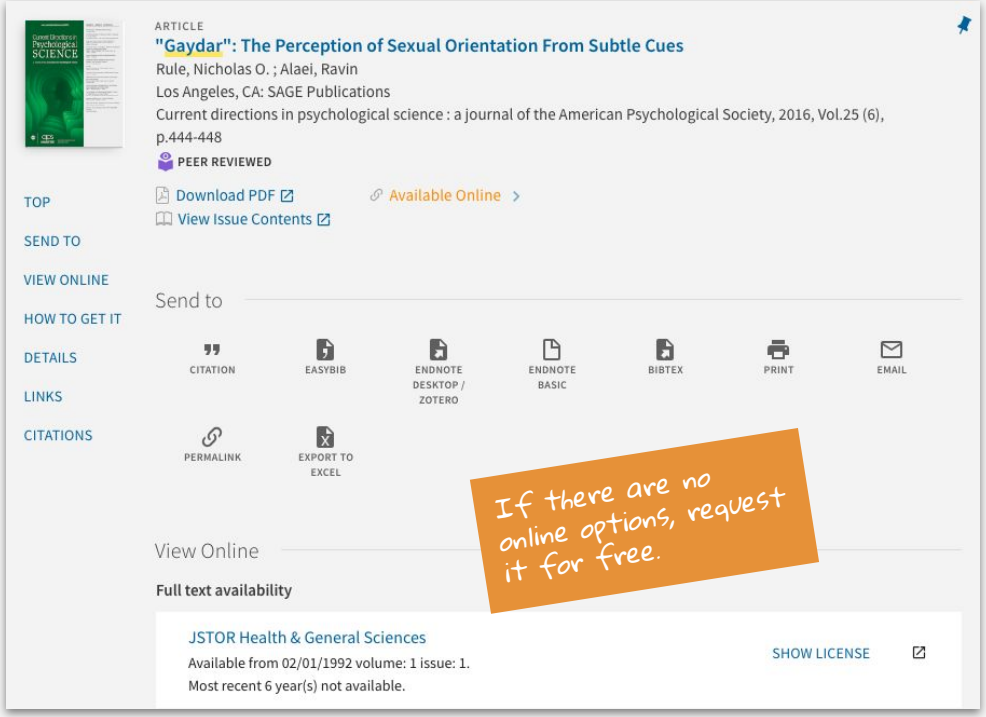
https://www.proquest.com/psycinfo/

Getting the full text

The full-text of an article is provided in multiple formats. Look for:

- An HTML link
- PDF link
- Link to Get it at UC

Get it at UC



*Bonus: Google Scholar

- Settings > Library links > UC San Diego

Try some searches

Pick a database and try some searches. Take note of how the variables are relating to each other and how it changes your search results.

Is a source relevant?

- Is it empirical?
- What variables are being observed?
- How do the observable behavior address your myth?

Questions?

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