

Psychology Research Guide

[Find Books](#)

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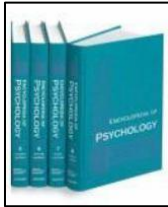
[Research Process Guide](#)

I. Find Books

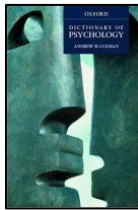
A) Reference Materials: Encyclopedias, Dictionaries, etc.

Reference materials offer background information and broad overviews of subjects. This information is often helpful in narrowing your topic and in selecting a specific area to explore further. Reference materials such as almanacs and yearbooks also provide quick access to statistical data.

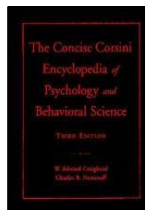
1) Suggested Titles:



[Encyclopedia of Psychology](#). Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association, 2000. (VER REF BF31 .E52 2000) Over 1,400 contributors wrote the 1,500 entries and nearly 400 biographies, which range in length from 500 to 7,000 words. It provides information in every area of psychology as well as in related fields such as sociology, social work, nursing, and allied health; researchers in the cognitive sciences and neurosciences; and clinicians, counselors, and other mental health and human service professionals.



[Dictionary of Psychology](#). Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001. (VER REF BF31 .C65 2001) This dictionary provides clear and concise definitions of a wide range of terms and concepts in psychology, psychiatry, and psychoanalysis.



[The concise Corsini encyclopedia of psychology and behavioral science](#). Hoboken, N.J.: John Wiley & Sons, 2004 (e-book). This e-book provides summaries of information that are short and to the point about the most important topics in psychology and neuroscience.



[Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders](#). Arlington, VA: American Psychiatric Association, 2013. (REF RC455.2 .C4 D53) Provides a consistent and uniform classification of psychological and psychiatric disorders. It is the standard and the most common classification system used for describing mental disorders, and describes the identifying symptoms of each.

B) [Library Catalog](#): Print and E-book Collections

The online catalog offers convenient access to titles housed at all VC library locations. At the catalog screen, select "Search the Catalog" to locate titles or subjects that match your terms such as "**cognition**".

E-books:

After entering your search terms such as **operant conditioning**, use the filters in the left menu bar to limit your results to those books available online.

E-books can be checked out and downloaded to a PC, iPad, or other device. See the **Accessing E-books** section in the [Library Tips](#) document.

C) [Browse the Collection](#)

Physically browse the psychology titles shelved by call number in the following Library of Congress Classification ranges:

BF1 – 900: Psychology

QP351 – 495: Neurophysiology and neuropsychology

RC321 – 571: Neurosciences, Psychiatry

II. Find Articles

A) Article Databases: Locate articles by searching these databases on campus or remotely from any Internet connection.

1. [Psychology and Behavioral Sciences Collection](#): This database provides nearly 575 full text publications covering topics such as emotional and behavioral characteristics, psychiatry & psychology, mental processes, anthropology, and observational and experimental methods. Enter your keyword/s to search all journals simultaneously for articles addressing your topic. For example, if looking for information on **depression** in **teenagers**, enter both terms connected with the Boolean operator "and". Titles from this database include the following:

- International Journal of Psychology
- Psychology Today
- Psychology & Health
- Psychology, Health, & Medicine
- Psychopharmacology
- Psychology & Psychotherapy: Theory, Research, & Practice
- Psychology of Women Quarterly
- Current Psychology
- Journal of Social & Clinical Psychology
- Psychology in the Schools

Helpful Features:

- a. **Citing the articles:** The database offers formatting rules with examples for citing the articles selected. For assistance in citing the articles, select the "Help" link in the upper right corner of the screen, scroll to view "Citation Styles" in the left menu bar, and then choose the documentation style of your choice.
 - b. **Search Options:** The database will retrieve articles customized to your specifications including number of pages, cover stories, and date of publication.
2. [Academic Search Complete](#): This database offers a range of full text coverage from specific psychology journals. Coverage includes the following titles:
 - Psychology Journal
 - Psychology Today
 - Psychology & Sexuality
 - Psychology in the Schools
 - Psychology, Evolution & Gender
 - Psychophysiology
 - Applied Psychology: An International Review
 - Professional Psychology: Research & Practice
 - Journal of Humanistic Psychology
 - Current Psychology

III. Suggested Websites

[Applied Sport Psychology](#) - Sport psychology addresses the mental skills needed to enhance athletic performance. Skills address goal setting, dealing with wins and losses, leadership, concentration, confidence, and composure under pressure. The website provides information specifically geared for athletes, coaches, and parents.

[Medline Plus: Mental Health & Behavior](#) - Medline Plus is a service of the U. S. National Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health. The website provides information on a variety of mental health conditions and behaviors. There are links to related information on diagnosis, treatment, news, research, and statistics.

[American Psychological Association](#) - The American Psychological Association's website includes information on numerous topics in psychology. Coverage includes research, news, and articles on the various topics. There is also a tutorial addressing the [basics of APA style](#) with formatting rules for the Reference List and in-text citations.

[Social Psychology Network](#) - The website provides links to a variety of topics on social psychology.

[American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry](#) - Information is provided on many mental, behavioral, and developmental disorders affecting children and adolescents. Information on each disorder includes a general overview, frequently asked questions, information for families, and links to related websites.

[Careers in Psychology](#) – This site provides information on the numerous opportunities in the psychology field.

[National Institute of Mental Health](#) – The NIMH website provides information on various topics including borderline personality disorders, ADHD, anxiety, and much more. Information on funding and finding treatment for mental illnesses is also provided.

The Research Process

- 1) Select a topic that you find interesting and appropriate for the assignment.
- 2) Review reference sources such as subject encyclopedias for background information to help focus or narrow the search.

For example, students interested in **memory** may consult the *Encyclopedia of Psychology* for ideas in narrowing the focus of the search to a particular area of interest such as the effects of **aging** on memory.

- 3) Restate the topic as a question. Inquiry is at the heart of the research process, a quest to locate information which answers questions and leads researchers to a greater understanding of the topic.

Restating the topic as a question will help in:

- Locating information that is useful and relevant to the primary focus or thesis of your research.
- Identifying the keywords or phrases to use in the search statement.

Example: Is **memory loss** related to **aging**?

- 4) Develop a search statement by combining keywords or concepts from the research question. For example, "**memory loss**" and "**aging**" were identified as keywords in the question above. By connecting both terms with the Boolean operator "**and**", the researcher will retrieve only those articles that discuss both concepts, thus improving the relevancy of the search.

Enter in search field: **memory loss and aging**

- 5) Develop alternate search statements to improve the search results. Authors may use various terms to describe the same concept.

For example, **memory loss** is often used in the same context as **forgetting**.

By identifying and connecting alternate terms, researchers may expand the search results. As indicated below, consider brainstorming and listing synonyms or word variations to

identify alternate keywords.

Concept 1		Concept 2
memory loss	AND	aging
forgetting	AND	older people
memory impairment	AND	elderly
memory disorders	AND	aged

Evaluate information for objectivity and reliability.

- 6) Cite the information borrowed from other authors or informational sources. Careful documentation will ensure that credit is given with no intention to plagiarize or claim ownership of information belonging to other researchers. For explanations and examples, visit the [Duke University Library's Citation page](#).

Questions?

Email: librarian@vernoncollege.edu

Chat: Select the chat icon on the library homepage.

Phone: 940-552-6291 ext: 2222