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PSYCHOLOGY 101:
Psychology as a Natural Science

Getting Started and Finding General Information

Background information or a general overview can be very useful. The print and online reference titles listed below have good articles on many aspects of psychology. The print items are located in call number order in the reference section of Kelly Library, and the online reference databases can be accessed from the **A – Z list** or by the links built into this guide, if you are viewing it online via **Moodle** or the **Guides** link on the **library page**. Of course, if at any point you need assistance locating or using any of the resources mentioned in this guide, please speak with a librarian!

Oxford Dictionary of Psychology REF BF 31 .C65 2009
Encyclopedia of Psychology   REF BF 31 .E52 2000
Encyclopedia of Emotion   REF BF 531 .R445 2010 available in Gale Virtual Reference Library
Encyclopedia of Applied Psychology REF BF 636 .E52 2004 available in Credo Reference
Salem Health: Psychology & Mental Health REF BF 636 .P86 2010 available in Salem Online Reference
Encyclopedia of Deception REF BF 637 .D42 E53 2014
Handbook of Child Psychology and Developmental Science REF BF 721 .H242 2015
Encyclopedia of Multicultural Psychology REF GN 5023 .E63 2006 available in GVRL
Encyclopedia of Group Process & Intergroup Relations REF HM 716 .E53 2010
Encyclopedia of Social Deviance REF HM 811 .E53 2014
Encyclopedia of Social Psychology REF HM 1007 .E53 2007
Encyclopedia of Educational Psychology REF LB 1050.9 .E53 2008 available in GVRL
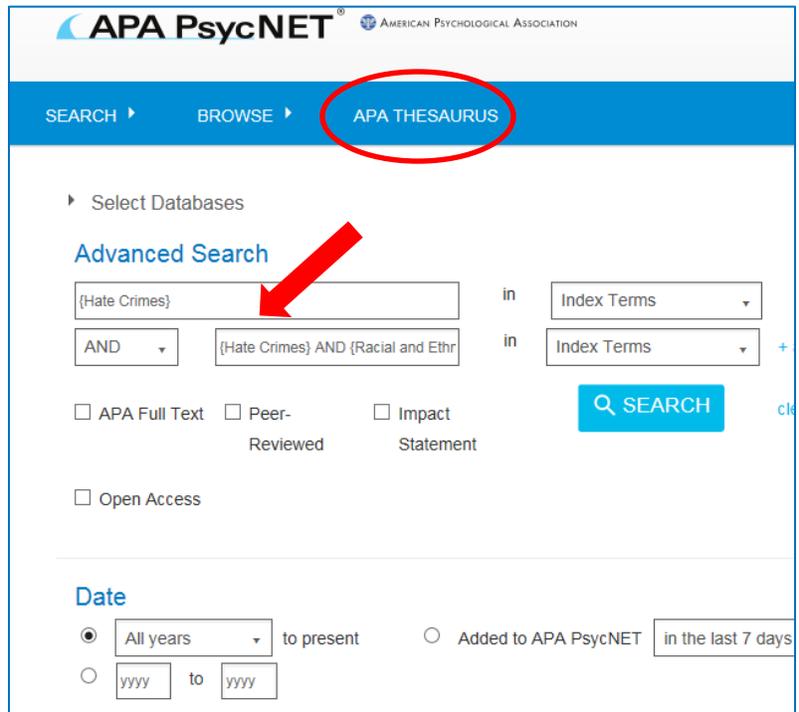*Salem Health: Addictions & Substance Abuse* REF RC 564.65 .A33 2013 available in Salem Online
Credo Reference
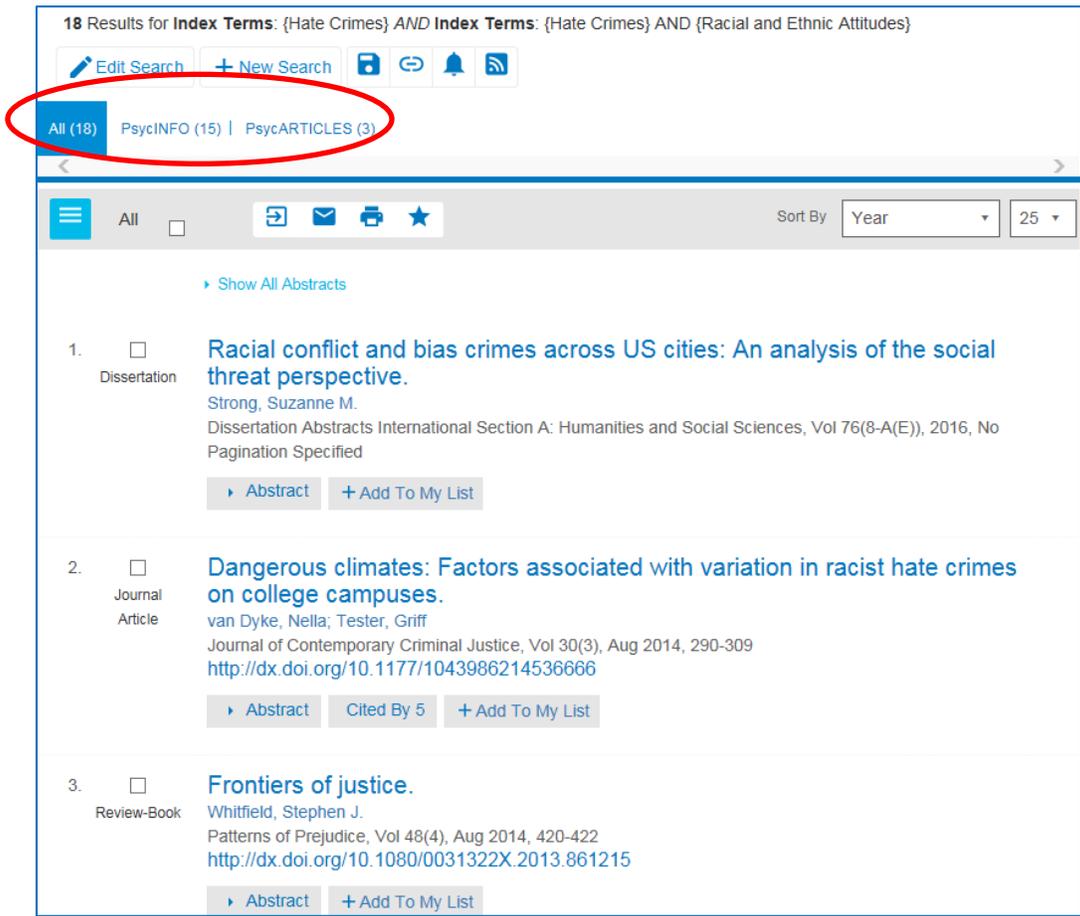*Gale Virtual Reference Library*
Salem Online Reference Books

Using Databases to Find Periodical Articles

There are several databases in Kelly Library that will be very helpful for locating articles for your Psychology 101 assignment: *PsycINFO*, *Psychology & Behavioral Sciences Collection*, and *MedLine*. Let's take a look at some screen shots of these databases. We'll look at PsycINFO first—a search on **hate crimes AND racial and ethnic attitudes**. First, click on the **APA Thesaurus** to determine the correct word or phrase that the PsycINFO indexers use, then pop that term into the search screen.

And here are the results from that search:

Toward the top of the screen, note that the results can be divided into *PsycINFO* and *PsycARTICLES*. *PsycARTICLES* is the **full-text component** of *PsycINFO*.

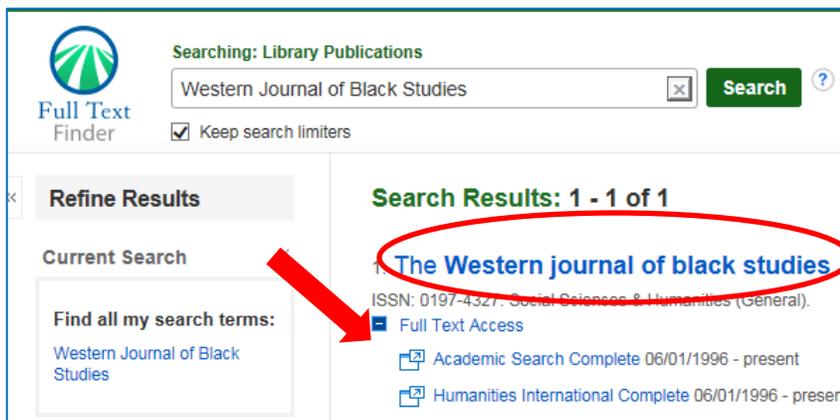The following screenshot is from Psychology & Behavioral Sciences Collection; it's a search on **depression AND college students**:

MedLine might be useful too. Its user interface is exactly like *Psychology & Behavioral Sciences Collection.*

What Do You Do If an Article Is Not Full-text in a Database?

If you're looking, for example, in *PsycINFO*, and you find an article that is not full-text, what do you do? Go to our **Journals by Title** list! An article citation that may not be full-text in one database may very well be full-text in another one of the library's dozens of databases. For example, #15 in the *PsycINFO* results list, there is an article, "Preventing Hate Crime and Profiling Hate Crime Offenders"" in the Fall 20002 issue of *The Western Journal of Black Studies*. Does Kelly Library have it? Yes, it's full-text in *Academic Search Complete* and *Humanities International Complete*. Click on either link to find the full-text article.

You will find articles that are not full-text in any of Kelly Library's databases. In that case, you may wiish to use the interlibrary loan service. Please speak with a librarian about this.

What Does "SCHOLARLY" Versus "POPULAR" Mean?

Throughout your college career, you will hear professors and librarians mention popular magazines and scholarly journals. Or, your professors may tell you to rely on scholarly, not popular sources. What does that mean? Generally, articles in popular magazines, such as *Time*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Glamour*, *Psychology Today*, etc. are geared toward a large, diverse audience. Scholarly journals, such as the *American Historical Review*, *American Journal of Psychology*, *Mind*, *International Journal of Ethics*, etc. are aimed at scholars and students in specialized fields. *People* is a magazine about celebrities and popular culture; the *Journal of Popular Culture* studies and analyzes it. Here is a **helpful chart** on the Skidmore College's Library website that will help you distinguish the differences between the two types of publications.

Documentation and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is serious academic misconduct. The **E&H Academic Code** clearly states that it is a student's responsibility to give credit to another person's exact words or unique ideas. The **Honor Code** reinforces this concept with the statement that one of its elements is "A commitment to abstain from all forms of cheating and plagiarism." Documenting sources correctly will help you avoid this mistake in your papers and presentations. In high school, you may have already had some experience with the Turabian style of documentation. Your professors will talk to you more in-depth about this issue. Three other common styles you may hear your professors mention are **MLA** (Modern Language Association), **APA** (American Psychological Association) and the *Chicago Manual of Style*. The library has guides for all of them. Use the style your professor recommends. Also, on the library's **Research Tips** page, there are links to several helpful sites. The **Long Island University** and the **OWL** (**O**nline **W**riting **L**ab at Purdue University) websites are especially helpful.

Your Best Resource

Your best resource in the library is the people who work here! **If you are having problems** locating or using any of these resources, **please ask a library staff member for assistance**. We're here to help you with your information needs. Kelly Library is open **90+ hours** a week during the regular semester, and reference librarians are available 8am – 7pm Monday – Thursday and 8am-5pm Friday.

Librarians: Jane Caldwell, **Jody** Hanshew, **Janet** Kirby, and **Ruth Castillo**
Circulation Staff: **Adam** Alley**, Cindy Goodson**, **Christine Mitten,** and **Melissa** Phelps.