



Searching for Primary Research in Social Work

Kate Blinn, Social Sciences and Data Librarian

Goals for Today

- Output goal: Literature Review
- Select and access search tools within the digital library system
- Use a database thesaurus to identify subject search terms
- Frame a research topic for a literature search
- Execute an initial search in a literature database
- Know how to get help

Tutorials

You have access in Moodle to two tutorials ([Part 1](#), [Part 2](#)).

- Brainstorm keywords and connect them using Boolean (AND, OR, NOT)
- Difference between full-text searching, field searching, and subject searching
- Truncation and wildcard searching (e.g. adolescen*)
- Limiting your search

Two Important Places to Search

A search engine can be a good place to start.

Google
Scholar

PsycINFO

Subject databases allow for more targeted searching.

SOWK 503: Research-Informed Practice I (BMC)

SOWK 503: Research-Informed Practice I Spring 2022

Literature Searching

Getting Started

Recommended Literature
Databases & Search Engines

Other Social Work Related
Databases

Tips for Effective Searching

Getting Started

Consult these sources to explore topics, gather background information, and find keywords to use when you search in journal databases.

• Annual Reviews

A searchable collection of critical review articles capturing the current understanding of a topic, including what is well supported, what is controversial, and where further research is needed.

• Encyclopedia of Social Work

A searchable resource containing overview articles on key topics from international issues to ethical standards and their applications on key figures, and references and links to related social work resources.

Work and Social Care (2nd ed) by John Harris; Vicky White

- Google Scholar
- Search for scholarly literature, including disciplines. Linked to Tripod.



Kate Blinn

Have questions?
Need a research appointment?
[Schedule an Appointment](#)

• Social Work Abstracts

Find scholarly journal articles, dissertations, and books dealing with all aspects of the social work field, including theory and practice, areas of service and social issues and problems.

Use these databases and search engines for peer-reviewed journal articles and other sources as well.

• Google Scholar

Search for scholarly literature, including peer-reviewed papers, theses, books, preprints, abstracts and technical reports in all disciplines. Linked to Tripod.

• PsycINFO

Essential database of scholarly journal articles, book chapters, and dissertations in psychology and related behavioral sciences from 1887 - present.

[https://guides.](https://guides.tricolib.brynmawr.edu/sowk-503)

[tricolib.brynmawr](https://guides.tricolib.brynmawr.edu/sowk-503)

[.edu/sowk-503](https://guides.tricolib.brynmawr.edu/sowk-503)

Accessing Full-Text (PDFs)



The screenshot shows a Google Scholar search interface. The search bar contains the text 'trauma pet therapy'. Below the search bar, it indicates 'About 136,000 results (0.08 sec)'. To the right of the search bar are links for 'My profile' and 'My library'. The search results list an article titled 'Are **therapy** dogs like Xanax? Does animal-assisted **therapy** impact processes relevant to cognitive behavioral psychotherapy?' by MG Hunt and RR Chizkov, published in Anthrozoös in 2014 by Taylor & Francis. The abstract snippet mentions that participants in the 'trauma-dog' condition were more likely to report significant decreases in trauma-related symptoms. At the bottom of the article entry, there are links for 'Cited by 46', 'Related articles', 'All 3 versions', and 'Web of Science: 13'. A purple arrow points from a purple-bordered box containing the text 'Find it @ Bryn Mawr' to the article entry.

Google Scholar

trauma pet therapy

About 136,000 results (0.08 sec)

My profile

My library

Are **therapy** dogs like Xanax? Does animal-assisted **therapy** impact processes relevant to cognitive behavioral psychotherapy?

MG Hunt, RR Chizkov - Anthrozoös, 2014 - Taylor & Francis

... Moreover, participants in the **trauma**-dog condition were more likely to report significant decreases in ... Interestingly, these effects were not moderated by baseline levels of **pet** attachment ... (2005)

proposal that incorporating AAT into prolonged exposure (PE) **therapy** for PTSD ...

☆ 47 Cited by 46 Related articles All 3 versions Web of Science: 13

Find it @ Bryn Mawr

The only way to access the article is by going to Google Scholar or a database through the library system.



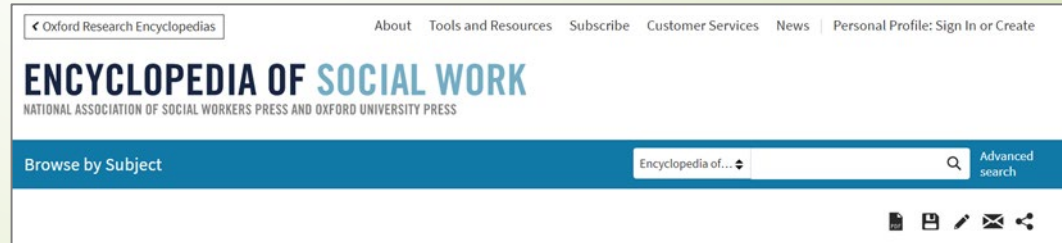
It's Your Turn

Access the
Research Guide for
SOWK 503: RIP 1

- Visit <https://bit.ly/rip1guide> (or locate the link in your RIP Moodle)
- Bookmark the Research Guide for later.
- Scan the list of databases – think about which ones you might use.
- Give a thumbs-up when you're done.

Topic Scoping

- Look for a recent (<5 years) literature review
- Read the study limitations and recommendations for future research in scholarly articles
- Consult reference resources (e.g. Encyclopedia of Social Work)



Framing the Research Topic using PICO

Does animal assisted therapy reduce depression in veterans with PTSD?

Problem or population	Veterans AND/OR posttraumatic stress
Intervention	pet therapy
Comparison	
Outcome	Decreased depression



Image source: <https://www.gradyhealth.org/news/grady-adds-animal-assisted-therapy-to-its-renowned-patient-care/>



It's Your Turn

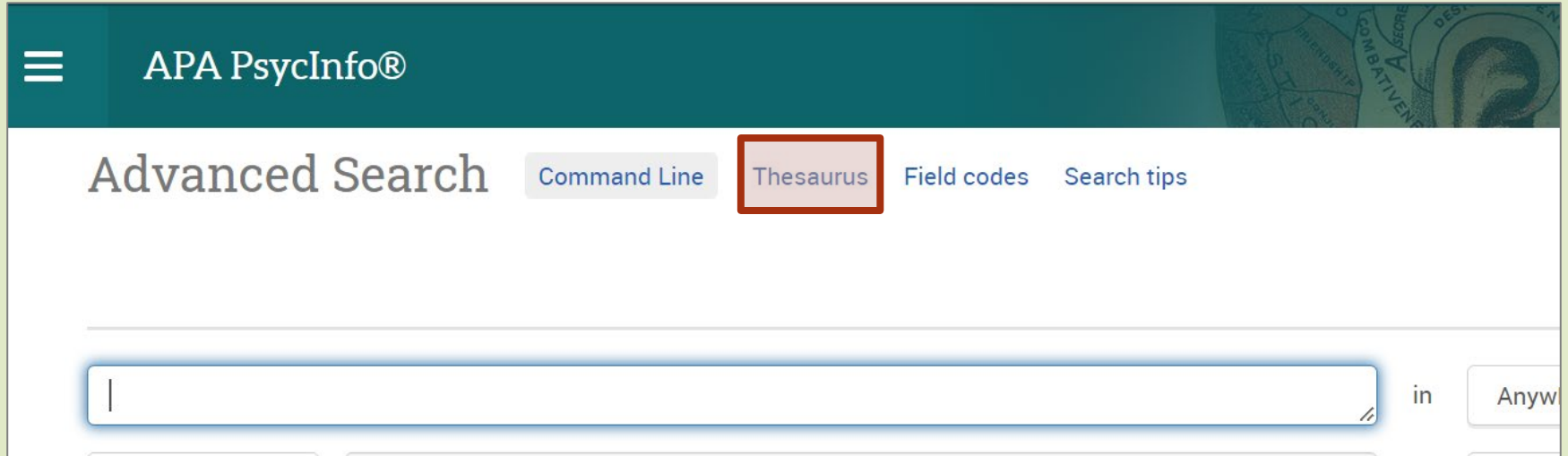
Formulate your
Research Question

- Fill in the PICO table on your worksheet OR just jot down your variables.
- Ask questions, help each other

Keyword Ambiguity



Search Language: Database Thesaurus



APA PsycInfo®

Advanced Search

Command Line

Thesaurus

Field codes

Search tips

|

in

Anyw

Search Language: Database Thesaurus

APA Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms - Winter 2022

Search terms:

Find Clear

- ☒ Contains word(s)
☐ Begins with (enter at least 2 characters)

Browse terms:

Root 0-9 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Click a term in the list below to see it in the context of the thesaurus hierarchy.

Major

[Pet Therapy](#)

Search Language: Database Thesaurus

APA Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms - Winter 2022

Search terms:

Find

Clear

☒ Contains word(s)

☐ Begins with (enter at least 2 characters)


Browse terms:

Root 0-9 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Hierarchical view

| Relational view

Major

 - notes

[-] Root of APA Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms - Winter 2022

[-] ☐ Treatment 

☐

[-] ☐ Psychotherapy 

☐

[-] ☐ Psychotherapeutic Techniques 

☐

☐ Animal Assisted Therapy 

☐

Use for: Pet Therapy

Search Language: Subject Headings

Integrating animals in psychotherapy: The dog as co-therapist in the hypnotherapeutic treatment of trauma—A case report

[Mende, Eva-Maria](#); [Mende, Matthias](#) *Contemporary Hypnosis & Integrative Therapy* Vol. 28, Iss. 1, (2011): 8-16.

[Click to search for more items by this author](#)

[Abstract/Details](#)

[References](#) **16**

[Show duplicate items from other databases](#)

Abstract [Translate](#) ▾

The article outlines the present status of animal-assisted therapy research and describes the special communication and contact skills that qualify dogs among all animals to serve as co-therapists. A distinction is drawn between the general benefits dogs may have in therapy and the special psychotherapeutic assignments dogs can assume in a hypnotherapeutic setting. Describing the case of a traumatically bereaved patient, it is shown how the therapy dog is used to create a stable therapeutic alliance. The dog becomes a positive transference object facilitating ego-strengthening and re-accessing lost resources. It is described how the dog assists in hypnotherapeutic interventions to lower chronically raised psycho-physiological arousal, dissolve dissociative symptoms of derealization, and provide enough stability to confront and integrate the traumatic experience. As a consequence, a good balance between the basic emotional needs to feel autonomous, related, competent, and oriented can be reached. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved) (Source: journal abstract)

Details

Subject

Animal Assisted Therapy (major);

Bereavement (major);

Emotional Trauma (major);

Hypnotherapy (major);

Psychotherapeutic Techniques (major);

Search Language:

Database Filters and Limits

- ❖ Publication date
 - ❖ Source type
 - ❖ Age group
 - ❖ Population
 - ❖ Methodology
- (PsycINFO)

dementia AND "animal assisted therapy"

☐ Peer reviewed ⓘ

64 results [Search within](#)

Relevance

Limit to

- [Full text](#)
- [Peer reviewed](#)

Source type ▼

Publication date ▼

Publication title ▼

Record type ▼

Subject ▼

Classification ▼

Age group ▼

☐ Select 1-20 0 Selected items

☐ 1 [Treating comorbidities in dementia](#)
Dotson, Vonetta M.; Szymkowicz, Sarah
Chapter xxxi, 669 Pages. Washington, D
...-assisted therapy. (PsycINFO Dat
...dementia, affecting at least half o
[Abstract/Details](#) [find it...](#)

☐ 2 [Animal-assisted therapy for dementia](#)
Filan, Susan L.; Llewellyn-Jones, Robert
...Animal-assisted therapy (AAT) is
...of benefit in ameliorating behavior
...dementia. Publications of controll
[Cited by \(88\)](#) [References \(42\)](#)
[Abstract/Details](#) [Full text - PDF](#)

☐ 3 [A day care program and evaluation](#)
Kanamori, Masao; Suzuki, Mizue; Yama
2001): 234-239.
...animal-assisted therapy (AAT) fo
[Cited by \(74\)](#) [References \(14\)](#)
[Abstract/Details](#) [find it...](#)

Search Language: Framing the Question

Does animal assisted therapy reduce depression in veterans with PTSD?

Problem or population	Veterans AND/OR posttraumatic stress OR trauma
Intervention	animal assisted therapy
Comparison	
Outcome	Decreased depressive symptoms

- Look for articles about:
 - Veterans and trauma
 - Animal assisted therapy and trauma
 - Animal assisted therapy and depression
 - Animal assisted therapy and veterans

Approach your search from different angles!



It's Your Turn

Explore your
research topic in a
database.

- Go to RIP 1 Research Guide
- Launch PsycInfo by clicking on the B icon
- Try a search – you can use your PICO terms
- Ask questions, help each other

Getting Help

- Make an appointment
 - Profile box on course research guide
 - brynmawr.edu/library/library-help
- Email help, including weekends
 - library@brynmawr.edu

Library Help

Email us: library@brynmawr.edu. We'll answer seven days a week. (Questions about your books or Tripod account? circulation@brynmawr.edu).

Meet with a Librarian

A [subject librarian](#) is available to assist you at any stage of the research process. Make an appointment to meet with librarians online:

[Make an Appointment](#)

Help Yourself

Consult our [Research Guides](#) and [tutorials](#) for recommended library resources, research tips, and more.

<https://www.brynmawr.edu/lits/library-help>