Step-by-Step Searching in PsycINFO

This help sheet will walk you through a sample search in the database **PsycINFO**. For more detailed information on the **PsycINFO** database, please consult the **PsycINFO** help sheet or contact Mulford Reference Assistance at *MulfordReference@utoledo.edu* or 419-383-4218.

Our topic:

We are looking for research articles on how those who have been involved in major car accidents cope with anxiety.

1. From the library's homepage (*http://hsc.utoledo.edu/lib/index.html*), go to the **Databases by Subject** link under the **Finding Articles** heading: (*http://hsc.utoledo.edu/lib/dblisting.html*).

2. Under the **Anthropology, Sociology, Psychology** heading, click on the **PsycINFO** link

3. On the **PsycINFO** search page, type in **Anxiety**, making sure **Thesaurus** is checked

4. Click on **Submit Search**

5. Under the first blue **Anxiety** link, click **View Thesaurus** (the thesaurus provides broader, narrower, and related terms structured in a "tree" view. This format often aids in a search formulation, as in broadening or narrowing topics)

6. Under **Anxiety**, click on **Focus** (**Focus** will look for our term only; if we chose **Expand/Focus**, PsycINFO would look for **Anxiety** plus all the narrower terms for **Anxiety.** Being that the narrower terms are not related to our topic, we only want to focus on **Anxiety**)

7. To look for our next term, in the **Search for** box at the top of the screen, type in **car accident**, making sure that **Search in Thesaurus** is checked

8. Click on **Submit Search**

9. Notice that there is not a subject heading for **Car Accident.** Choose the **Get Suggested terms from the Thesaurus** link (this will take us to a page of suggested subject headings which **PsycINFO** chooses that may be related to our topic. Please note that some of the suggested subject headings may not be relevant to our search)

10. Under the heading for **Motor Traffic Accidents**, click **View Thesaurus**, then click on search (which will retrieve records indexed with motor traffic accidents)

11. To bring our two searches together, click on **Search History**

12. To combine our two searches, click in the boxes to the right of the sets

13. Next to **Combine marked sets with**, choose **And** from the drop down menu

14. Click on the **Combine Sets** button

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