

Field Guide for APA Database Records

The * symbol indicates a field or value that is display only (not searchable) in APA PsycNet®

The  symbol indicates a helpful search hint

	Field name	Content of field or possible values	Helpful hints
	Abstract	Summary of document's content	The abstract is not a high-relevance field for searching, because its greater length and narrative form increase the likelihood of unwanted retrieval compared to the more tightly-controlled descriptor and keyword fields. However, including the abstract in a search is especially useful when your topic is unusually specific, when your project requires a comprehensive search that will retrieve even marginally relevant material, and when there are no appropriate index terms for the concept(s) you want to research.
	Age Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Childhood (birth-12 years) Neonatal (birth-1 month) Infancy (2-23 months) Preschool Age (2-5 years) School Age (6-12 years) Adolescence (13-17 years) Adulthood (18 years & older) Young Adulthood (18-29 years) Thirties (30-39 years) Middle Age (40-64) years Aged (65 years & older) Very Old (85 years & older) 	
	Audience Type (book and chapter records only)	Written for the General Public Juvenile Written for Professionals (Psychology: Professional & Research)	
	Author	Name of Author(s)	
	Author ID	A unique code that identifies academic authors, such as ORCID	
	Author Email	Author's email address	
	Author Correspondence Address	Address for corresponding author	
	Affiliation	Institutional affiliation of author	An author's membership in a professional association is not considered an affiliation. You can search the affiliation field to find the top institutions where individuals are publishing research in a particular discipline or area of research.
	Book Type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classic Book Handbook/Manual Conference Proceedings Reference Book Textbook/Study Guide 	
	Cited References	Reference list published with article, book, chapter, or electronic collection	There is a Cited References tool in the top menu that allows you to search for records that have cited a particular publication.
	Classification Code	Broad content classification	The APA PsycTests® database has its own separate list of Classification Codes . We recommend that you search APA PsycInfo® and APA PsycTests separately for best results.
	Clinical Trial Number	Identifies a research study sponsored by an institute or agency registered with the World Health Organization	
	Copyright Data	Displays copyright information when an article or chapter record is first published. It may contain copyright statement, copyright holder, and year.	
	Correction Update Record*	The date a record was corrected if a record is corrected. If corrected, record will always have at least one correction date for APA PsycInfo. The format is YYYYMMDD and the name of the product in which it was corrected, e.g., 20090701 (APA PsycInfo).	
	Country of Publication*	Publisher's location	

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	Data Set	Includes description and access points for a data set	
	Dissertation	Describes the publication information of a dissertation, including Degree, Degree Date, Degree Granting Institution, and Advisor	
	Document Type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abstract Collection • Editorial • Poetry Bibliography • Encyclopedia Entry • Publication Information Chapter • Erratum/Correction • Reprint Clarification • Interview • Retracted Article • Column/Opinion • Journal Article • Review-Book • Comment/Reply • Letter • Review-Media Dissertation • Obituary • Review Software & Other • Expression of Concern • Notice of Retraction 	Documents generally receive only one Document Type value. The exception is a Reprint, which can be used in combination with any of the other Document Type values.
	DOI (Digital Object Identifier)	Publisher-supplied DOI for linking to full-text	
	Grant/Sponsorship	Identifies the source(s) of grants, sponsorship, and funding for the research or study. Subfields include Sponsor Organization, Grant/Contract/Award Number, Funding Amount, Country of Sponsor Organization, Funding Dates, Other Details, and Recipients.	This field is useful if you want to find out what research has been funded by a specific organization, government agency, or other institution. For a comprehensive search, look for both the full institution name and the acronym (e.g., National Institutes of Health or NIH).
	Index Terms (sometimes called Descriptors, Thesaurus Terms)	Controlled vocabulary from APA's <i>Thesaurus of Psychological Index® Terms</i>	When an asterisk * precedes the term it is a Major Term. This is a term applied to APA PsycInfo records that represents the primary focus of the reference. If no asterisk exists it is a Minor Term, or a secondary focus of the reference.
	ISSN/ISBN	ISSN (journals) or ISBN (books) Book Series ISSNs Book Set ISBNs	If a journal has an ISSN for both the print and electronic versions, both are listed in the record: ISSN 0254-4962 (Print); 1423-033X (Electronic).
	Keywords	Key concepts and/or brief phrases describing document's content	
	Language	Document language	
	Location	Country where study was done	If you want to retrieve records about a country, search in the title and keywords fields.
	MeSH	Provides the Medical Subject Headings as assigned by PubMed	
	Methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brain Imaging • Field Study • Nonclinical Case Study Clinical Case Study • Interview • Qualitative Study Clinical Trial • Focus Group • Quantitative Study Empirical Study • Literature Review • Scientific Simulation • Experimental Replication • Mathematical Model • Systematic Review • Follow-up Study • Meta Analysis • Treatment Outcome • Longitudinal Study • Metasynthesis • Twin Study • Prospective Study • Retrospective Study • Mega Analysis • Non-Empirical (Discussion) 	If the Follow-up Study value is applied, the Empirical Study value will automatically be applied as well.
	NLM Serial Title Abbreviation	Gives the PubMed abbreviation for a journal title	
	Open Access	Indicates a database record has been designated open access	

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	Other Publishers	Notes variations of the publisher name. It may occur in any publication type, but is most common in journal records.	
	Other Serial Titles	Notes variations of serial title name. It may appear in records where the Publication Type is Journal, Dissertation Abstract, or Electronic Collection.	For a list of historical titles and their dates of publication for journal titles covered, visit APA PsycArticles® .
	Page Count*	Total number of pages for a journal article. Generally used when pagination is not available.	
	PMID	PubMed unique identifier	
	Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human • Male • Inpatient Animal • Female • Outpatient • Transgender • Nonbinary 	
	Publication Status*	This field is intended to capture the publication status of an article in journals. Currently, the value First Posting is being used.	
	Publication Date	Document's date of publication. Includes year of publication and may include day, month, or season.	
	Publication History*	Appears only in journal records and may show the dates of First Posting, Accepted Date, Revised Date, and First Submitted date for an article.	First Posting records (see Publication Status) will not have a Publication History field. Publication History will only appear in fully published articles.
	Publication Type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Journal Peer-Reviewed • Electronic Collection • Authored Book • Journal Non-Peer-Reviewed • Encyclopedia • Edited Book • Peer-Reviewed Status-Unknown 	
	Publisher	Publisher of the source material	
	Release Data (sometimes called update code)	The date a record was released into a database and the product name to which it was released. The format is YYYYMMDD followed by the product name, e.g., 20090511 (APA PsycInfo). Note: If the record was released into another database, e.g., APA PsycArticles, this record will contain two release dates: 20120305 (APA PsycArticles); 20120305 (APA PsycInfo).	
	Reviewed Item (Journal and Electronic Collection records only)	For book, software, etc. reviews, the full citation of the material being reviewed	Title of Reviewed Item, Author of Reviewed Item, and Year of Reviewed Item, are searchable fields.
	Source	Full citation for journals, book chapters, dissertations, and electronic collections. Publisher, year, and pagination only for books. Contains the sub-field, ARTICLE ID*, uniquely identifies an article-by-article published record.	The content, format, order, and searchability of these data elements vary among vendors. Consult the search guide for your vendor for field labels and search procedures.
	Source Title Translation	Gives the English translation of a non-English journal title	
	Special Section Title	A publisher's label for articles that make up a special section of a journal issue	
	Supplemental Material	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-D modeling images • Data Sets • Text Appendixes • DVD / CD • Video Audio • Experimental Materials • Web sites Computer Software • Tables and Figures • Workbook / Study Guide • Test-Internet • Other 	
	Table of Contents (book records only)*	Book table of contents	
	Test Digital Object Identifier	DOI deposited by APA for linking to test overview records in the APA PsycTests database	

	Field name	Content of field or possible values	Helpful hints
	Tests & Measures	Names of tests and measurements used in the study	Users can search and determine how often a test has been used in research. Another use for this field is to locate published or unpublished measures on a certain topic.
	Title	Title of material, including translated titles for non-English language material	Depending on the vendor, the original and translated versions may appear in the same field or in different fields.
	Unique Identifier	APA PsycInfo unique record identifier	