

Record Structure for APA Databases

INTRODUCTION

This document provides background information on the record structure used for APA PsycInfo® and the full-text databases APA PsycArticles® and APA PsycBooks®.

Each field is presented in alphabetical order. Following the comprehensive description of the APA PsycInfo record structure, we provide links to sample records and other training and support materials. The names of fields in this guide are those used on APA PsycNet®. A chart for field names on EBSCOhost, Ovid, and ProQuest is linked at the end of this guide.

We indicate which fields are required (appearing in every APA PsycInfo record); repeating (may have multiple values in a single APA PsycInfo record); and searchable. "Searchable" means this field has its own label in a dropdown menu or filter on the Advanced Search Page. Additional fields may be included in an "Any Field" search, or discoverable through Browse menus or other tools.

Abstract

Field Properties: required, repeating, searchable

Records for virtually all books, chapters, and journal articles include summaries or abstracts. Author- or publisher-provided abstracts are preferred. In some cases, an abstract may need slight modification, and when one is not present, an abstract is created by APA staff.

As of 2016, records can have more than one abstract. Every record will continue to have an English scientific abstract. Some records will also have Impact Statements or summaries of the research prepared for a non-specialist. Impact Statement is available as a search limit. Abstracts in languages other than English are also included in the record when they are available from the publisher.

Historical Note: From 1995, dissertation records contain abstracts. Journal-provided abstracts have been used with little modification, whenever possible, since 2003. Older APA PsycInfo records have a higher percentage of staff-written and modified journal abstracts.



Helpful Hint: 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 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.

Affiliation

Field Properties: repeating, searchable

The author's affiliation indicates the institution or organization with which the author was affiliated when the research was conducted, or the manuscript was written.

Affiliation contains the name of the institution, business, or organization and its geographical location. Street addresses, building names, and so forth are not included in the affiliation.

Example:

Anderson, Peterz
Centre for Quality of Care Research, University Medical Centre Nijmegen, Nijmegen, Netherlands

If an author indicates that they are in private practice and gives a geographical location, "Private Practice" can be entered as the author's affiliation.

Example:

Kakoschke, Celia
Private Practice, Bendigo, VIC, Australia

Historical Note: Up to 2002, only the first author's affiliation was entered into the document. Since then, affiliations are entered and displayed for all authors when the information is available.



Helpful Hint: An author's membership in a professional association is not considered an affiliation.

Age Group

Field Properties: repeating, searchable

Age Group provides standardized terms for age ranges of human populations. The most specific age group terms are applied, and there is no limit on the number that can be applied to one record.

Childhood (birth–12 yrs)

Neonatal (birth–1 mo)
Infancy (2–23 mo)
Preschool Age (2–5 yrs)
School Age (6–12 yrs)

Adolescence (13–17 yrs)

Adulthood (18 yrs & older)

Young Adulthood (18–29 yrs)

Thirties (30–39 yrs)
Middle Age (40–64 yrs)
Aged (65 yrs & older)
Very Old (85 yrs & older)

Historical Note: The present list of Age Groups has existed from 1996 to the present. The three broad Age Groups (Childhood, Adolescence, and Adulthood) have been assigned by indexers since 1984 and are also applied to all records in which a narrower Age Group appears. Age Group values have been mapped back in the database to 1967; most of the records before 1967 do not have Age Groups.

APA PsycInfo® Classification

Field Properties: repeating, searchable

The APA PsycInfo Classification system consists of four-digit numerical codes representing broad psychological subject areas.

These are listed on the APA website at www.apa.org/pubs/databases/training/class-codes

APA PsycInfo Classification has 22 broad categories each of which, except for 3800 Military Psychology, includes at least one subcategory.

Historical Note: In 1992, APA PsycInfo Classification expanded from 17 to 22 categories; these were mapped back to all records.



Helpful Hint: The APA PsycTests® database has its own separate list of APA PsycTests Classification www.apa.org/pubs/databases/training/psyc-tests-class-codes

You can use them to search in much the same way as the APA PsycInfo Classification, but we recommend that you search APA PsycInfo and APA PsycTests separately for best results.



Helpful Hint: Using APA PsycInfo Classification in searching can help limit retrieval to a specific setting. If you are looking for concepts for which the terminology is the same across multiple disciplines, limiting to Classification is a useful strategy.

Audience

Field Properties: searchable

Only used in Book and Chapter records.

There are two possible values for Audience:

General Public Use

Professional & Research Use

Author

Field Properties: required, repeating, searchable

Individual Authors

All authors provided on the source document are entered into the database. The format for entry and display of authors' names is:

<last name>, <first name or initial> <middle name or initial>, <suffix>

Example:

Glenn, S. Lynn
Jacobs, David R., Jr.
Landolt, R. F.
Ricaud-Moreau, Michelle
Li, Xia

Prefixes such as von, van, de, and du are treated as part of the surname:

Example:

Bin Khader, Abdul Majeed
De la Torre, M. A. Alonso
Vanden Heuvel, Audrey
Zur Oeveste, H.

Professional titles and academic degrees are generally omitted. Authors are entered in the order provided in the source document.

For translated articles, the name of the original author(s) is entered first, followed by the name of the translator.

For errata/corrections, author names for the original article are entered.

For reviews, the name of the reviewer is entered as the author, rather than the author(s) of the item being reviewed.

Historical Note: From 1996 – present, all author names are included in the record. Earlier records have variability, especially in works with more than four authors.

Institutional Authors

Institutional authors can include institutions such as the World Health Organization, study or working groups, or a combination of institutions, study groups, and individual authors.

Example:

Kamara, T. S., Whyte, E. M., Mulsant, B. H., Peasley-Miklus, C., Rothschild, A. J., Flint, A. J., Heo, M., Papademetriou, E., Mathis, E. R., & Meyers, B. S.; STOP-PD Study Group (2009). Does major depressive disorder with somatic delusions constitute a distinct subtype of major depressive disorder with psychotic features? *Journal of Affective Disorders*, 112, 250-255.

American Psychological Association. (2008). *Graduate Study in Psychology*, 2008.



Helpful Hint: Vendors differ in whether they place individual and institutional authors in the same fields. Be sure to check the field labels and descriptions for whatever vendor you use to access APA databases.

Author Identifier

Field Properties: repeating

Added in 2012, the Author Identifier provides an author profile, derived from an authoritative source such as ORCID, and standardized author information.

Book Series Title

Field Properties: searchable

Only used in Book and Chapter records.

Book Series Title captures the ISSN for the book series, and volume and issue information when provided.

Book Type

Field Properties: repeating, searchable

Only used in Book and Chapter records.

Possible values of Book Type are:

Classic Book

Conference Proceedings (If the conference proceedings were put into book format. There is a separate Conference field for individual conference presentations.)

Handbook/Manual

Reference Book

Textbook/Study Guide

Cited References

Field Properties: repeating

Since 2001, the records in APA PsycInfo® have included lists of references published with the source document. References appear in some records for earlier years, as APA continues to add retrospective coverage.



Helpful Hint: If you are using the APA PsycNet® or EBSCOhost platform, there is a Cited References tool in the top menu that allows you to search for records that have cited a particular publication.

Conference

Field Properties: searchable

This field contains information about where and when a document was presented at a conference or symposium, and whether it was presented in its entirety or only portions.

Example:

Annual Meeting of the American Psychological Association, 1990. Portions of this work were presented at the conference.

Annual conference of the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies, Nov 2007, Baltimore, MD, US. Portions of this paper were presented as a poster at the conference.

Correction Date

Field Properties: searchable

Correction Date is the date that a corrected version of the record entered the database in YYYYMMDD format.

As of 2009, if the APA PsycInfo® record is part of another database, this record will contain two correction dates – one for APA PsycInfo and one for either APA PsycArticles® or APA PsycBooks®.

Example:

20081201 (APA PsycInfo)
20090106 (APA PsycInfo); 200903011 (APA PsycBooks)

Correspondence Address

Field Properties: searchable

This field presents the address provided in the source document to be used for correspondence or to obtain reprints. The correspondence address can be a mailing address or email address, or both.

Example:

Peter Anderson: Centre for Quality of Care Research
University Medical Centre Nijmegen, 229 WOK
PO Box 910
Nijmegen, Netherlands, 6500 HB
PDAnderson@aol.com

Dissertation Details

Field Properties: none

Only used in Dissertation records.

UMI and **Open URL** provide information about how to access the full-text of the dissertation.

Advisor(s), **Degree**, **Institution**, and **Department** provide information about the academic context in which the dissertation was written.

Example:

Dissertation Details

UMI Order Number:	AAI3619621
Open URL:	gateway.proquest.com/openurl?...3619621
Advisor(s):	Andrew Salinas, Jr.; Lindsay Dilo
Degree:	MPT, 2014
Institution:	Florida Gulf Coast
Department:	Dept. of Human Performance

Document Type

Field Properties: repeating, searchable

This field identifies the specific kind of document, or what a document is as opposed to what it is about.

A Document Type is the segmentation of a Publication Type, which is the top-level identification of a document, for example, a journal, book, or dissertation.

Abstract Collection
Bibliography
Chapter
Clarification
Column/Opinion
Comment/Reply
Dissertation
Editorial
Encyclopedia Entry (This value is applied only when the publication type is Encyclopedia.)
Erratum/Correction
Interview
Journal Article
Letter
Obituary
Poetry
Publication Information
Reprint
Retraction
Review—Book
Review—Media (For video reviews.)
Review—Software & Other (For reviews of software, websites, and other content that is not books or videos.)
Test



Helpful Hint: 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.

Historical Note: In 2009, the value “Dissertation” was added to the Document Type list. This change enables users to quickly either search for only dissertations or to quickly exclude them from a search strategy. In 2012, the value “Poetry” was added to the Document Type list for source documents that are poems rather than about poetry, and “Review—Other” was changed to “Review—Software & Other”.

Historical Note: In 2016, the values “Clarification” and “Retraction” were added and back mapped to older records, to distinguish these types of editorial follow-ups from the “Erratum/Correction” Document Type. “Interview” was also added in 2016, for records going forward.

DOI Number

Field Properties: searchable

The Digital Object Identifier (DOI) provides an actionable, persistent link to the document to which it has been assigned. Users can click on the link and be taken immediately either to the document (if the user is authorized to see it) or to a landing page that will tell the user how to get the document.

Scholarly publishers register metadata and a DOI name (an alphanumeric string) with CrossRef, and the system will maintain a persistent link. If the document moves from one publisher to another, the location is changed in the DOI system so that users get a persistent link.

Example:

doi.org/10.1016/j.ijhcs.2004.11.002

Email

Field Properties: repeating

Email addresses provided by all authors are entered in this field. If an author provides more than one email address, only the first one listed in the source document is captured.

Example:

Anderson, Peter. PDAnderson@aol.com



Helpful Hint: The email address may also be found in the Correspondence Address field.

Historical Note: From 2001 to present, author email became a standard field for all authors and all author emails in the source document are entered.

Geographic Location

Field Properties: repeating, searchable

This field provides either the geographic location where a study was conducted or the country or countries that are the focus of the document.

Grant/Sponsorship

Field Properties: repeating, searchable

This field was added in 2006 to capture grant and sponsorship information for research studies.

In 2012, searchable subfields were added to Grant/Sponsorship, including **Recipient, Grant Number, Funding Amount,** and **Other Details.**

Example:

Sponsor: State of Connecticut, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, US
Recipient: No recipient indicated
Grant Number: MH088971
Other Details: NIH grant

Sponsor: Patrick and Catherine Weldon Donaghue Medical Research Foundation
Recipient: Srihari, Vinod H.

Sponsor: Mayo Foundation
Recipient: Lee, Kendall H.,
Date: 2008 to 2010
Other Details: Early-Career Development Award for Clinician-Scientists

 **Helpful Hint:** 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

Field Properties: repeating, searchable

APA PsycInfo® records are indexed with standardized vocabulary to encompass synonyms that different authors may use to express the same concepts. These index terms, also called subjects, are published in APA’s *Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms*.

The platform you use to access APA Databases includes a searchable Thesaurus tool to find the best index terms to use in your search. The index terms are applied to reflect the key concepts and provide another point of access for the searcher.

Example:

*Emotionality (Personality); *Human-Computer Interaction; Computer Anxiety

 **Helpful Hint:** When an asterisk * precedes the term, it is a **Major Term**, which represents the primary focus of the research. If no asterisk exists it is a **Minor Term** or a secondary focus of the research.

 **Helpful Hint:** Keywords, or key concepts, are taken from the source document and represent the natural language used by the author(s). Keywords are “uncontrolled” and are a different searchable field than index terms.

ISSN/ISBN

Field Properties: repeating, searchable

The ISSN is a unique eight-digit standard number assigned by the International Serials Data System (ISDS) to identify a specific serial title. The ISBN is a unique number assigned to identify a book or other monographic publication issued by a given publisher.

As of 2012, book series ISSNs and book set ISBNs are included.



Helpful Hint: 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

Field Properties: required, repeating, searchable

Keywords are the natural language words or phrases used to reflect the major concepts in a source document. Keywords are pulled from the title or abstracts and reflect the author's language. Important concepts for which there are no corresponding index terms in the Thesaurus are always represented in this field.

Sometimes a journal editor or author provides keywords for their publication. These are considered for inclusion in the APA PsycInfo® record but may be altered to reflect the source document's major points and psychological relevance. The keywords provided by authors of articles included in APA PsycArticles® are always used.

Example:

prenatal attachment; postnatal infant sleep; pregnant mothers

Historical Note: For records processed from 1967-1995, the keywords field for experimental records contains the independent variable, the dependent variable, and the population. These are generally presented in this order in a structured phrase format.

Example:

craniospinal irradiation for medulloblastoma, temporal lobe calcification & development of learning disabilities, patients treated under 10 yrs. old



Helpful Hint: When searching, use truncation to broaden your retrieval from the keywords.

Language

Field Properties: repeating, searchable

This field represents the language that the document is written in.

MeSH

Field Properties: repeating, searchable

Introduced in 2016, this field provides Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) as assigned by PubMed. APA PsycInfo® records include MeSH terms if the article or publication described is also covered in PubMed's database; approximately 33% of APA PsycInfo records are cross-listed in PubMed.

All major and minor terms at all levels of the MeSH hierarchy will display in APA PsycInfo records. There is no term-to-term mapping or preservation of MeSH's hierarchy.

Methodology

Field Properties: repeating, searchable

This field identifies the specific kind of methodology used in the research. As many values as are appropriate are applied.

Visit www.apa.org/pubs/databases/training/method-values to view the definitions of the methodology values.

- Brain Imaging
- Clinical Case Study
- Clinical Trial
- Empirical Study
 - Experimental Replication
 - Follow-up Study
 - Longitudinal Study
 - Prospective Study
 - Retrospective Study
- Field Study
- Interview
 - Focus Group
- Literature Review
 - Systematic Review
- Mathematical Model
- Meta-Analysis
- Meta-synthesis
- Nonclinical Case Study
- Qualitative Study
- Quantitative Study
- Scientific Simulation
- Treatment Outcome
- Twin Study

Example:

Empirical Study; Quantitative Study

Historical Note: In 2016, the Methodology “Treatment Outcome/Randomized Clinical Trial” was separated into two Methodology values: “Treatment Outcome” and “Clinical Trial,” which were back mapped to older records. Meta-synthesis was also added in 2016, for records going forward.



Helpful Hint: If the “Follow-up Study” value is applied, the “Empirical Study” value will automatically be applied as well.

NLM Title Abbreviation

Field Properties: searchable

Only used in Journal Article records.

Example:

Source: European Journal of Psychological Assessment
NLM Title Abbreviation: Eur J Psychol Assess

Open Access

Field Properties: searchable

Only used in Journal Article records.

Introduced in 2016, an Open Access icon rather than a text field indicates which records are open access.



Helpful Hint: If you are using the APA PsycNet® or EBSCOhost platform, you can limit results to Open Access using a checkbox on the advanced search page.

Other Serial Titles

Field Properties: repeating

Only used in Journal Article records.

This field includes previous titles that a journal was published under. For example, the *Journal of Abnormal Psychology* was published under that title from 1906-1920; it was then published as the *Journal of Abnormal Psychology and Social Psychology* from 1921-1924, then it became *Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology* from 1925-1964 and since 1965 is once again the *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*.



Helpful Hint: For a list of historical titles and dates of publication for journals covered in APA PsycArticles®, visit www.apa.org/pubs/databases/psycarticles/title-history.pdf

PMID

Field Properties: searchable

The PubMed Identifier (PMID) has been added to records also indexed in PubMed.

Population Group

Field Properties: repeating, searchable

This field is assigned to indicate certain characteristics of the population that is the focus of the document. As many population groups as are applicable will be assigned to a record.

Human
Animal
Male
Female
Transgender
Inpatient
Outpatient

Publication Date

Field Properties: required, searchable

Publication Date includes, when available, day, month, season, and year of publication. This field accommodates a variety of formats.

Example:

June 30, 2009
June 2009
Summer 2009

Publication History

Field Properties: none

Only used in Journal Article records.

Introduced in 2009, Publication History captures multiple dates for the publishing cycle of an article.

Publication History will include full dates for four subfields: first submitted, revised, accepted, and first posting.

Example:

First Posting: Feb 10, 2009
Accepted: Nov 28, 2008
Revised: Nov 1, 2008; Sept 21, 2008
First Submitted: June 20, 2008



Helpful Hint: First Posting records (see **Publication Status**) will not have a Publication History field. Publication History will only appear in “fully published” articles.

Publication Status

Field Properties: none

Only used in Journal Article records.

This field was introduced in 2009 to capture the publication status of an article. First Posting refers to articles that are published ahead of print; these are also known as pre-publication articles. Many journals release these articles once they have been accepted but before they have been assigned volume, issue, or page numbers.

First Posting records differ from standard records and contain only the metadata supplied by the publisher. When the fully published article is available, a standard APA PsycInfo® record will be created and a correction to the first posting record will be provided. The two versions of the article will be matched on the DOI.

Publication Type

Field Properties: required, repeating

The Publication Type indicates whether an item is a journal, book, dissertation, electronic source, or encyclopedia. It is the top-level designation to describe what an item is rather than what it is about. Publication Types are further divided into Document Types.

Journal

- Peer-Reviewed Journal
- Non-Peer Reviewed Journal
- Peer-Reviewed Status-Unknown

Book

- Authored Book
- Edited Book

Dissertation Abstract

Electronic Collection

Encyclopedia

Publisher

Field Properties: searchable

This field contains information about the book or journal publisher.

Release Date

Field Properties: required, searchable

Release Date is the date that the record entered the database, in YYYYMMDD format. APA PsycInfo® and APA PsycArticles® are updated twice weekly, and APA PsycBooks® is updated monthly.

As of 2009, if the APA PsycInfo record is part of another database, this record will contain two release dates — one for APA PsycInfo and one for either APA PsycArticles or APA PsycBooks.

Example:

20081201 (APA PsycInfo)
20090106 (APA PsycInfo); 200903011 (APA PsycBooks)

Reviewed Item

Field Properties: repeating, searchable

Articles that review a book, video, or other item contain detailed information on the item being reviewed. This field includes the title of the reviewed item, authors or editors, copyright year, ISBN, publisher, and other information such as pagination, running time, and price.

Example:

Reviewed Item

Author(s): O'Donnell, Angela M. (Ed); D'Amico, Miranda (Ed); Schmid, Richard F. (Ed); Reeve, John Marshall (Ed); Smith, Jefferey K. (Ed)

Title: Educational psychology: Reflection for action (Canadian edition).

Year: 2008

ISBN13: 978-0-470-84032-0 (paperback)

Other Info: John Wiley & Sons Canada, 584 pages.

Source

Field Properties: searchable

This field provides basic information that identifies the publication. It contains several elements, including the Name, Publication Date, Publisher, Volume/Issue, and/or Pagination, depending on the publication type.

Historical Note: Beginning in 2000, publisher name and country were added and back mapped for all records on the current coverage list.

Source Title Translation

Field Properties: searchable

Introduced in 2016, this field provides the English translation of a non-English journal title.

Example:

Source:	Revista de Psicopatología y Psicología Clínica
Source Title Translation:	Spanish Journal of Clinical Psychology

Supplemental Materials

Field Properties: repeating, searchable

Possible values for Supplemental Material are:

- 3-D Modeling Images
- Appendixes
- Audio
- Computer Software
- Data Sets
- DVD/CD
- Experimental Material
- Tables and Figures
- Tests – Internet
- Text
- Video
- Web Sites
- Workbook/Study Guide
- Other

Historical Note: In 2012 the value “Auxiliary Materials” was renamed “Supplemental Materials”.

Historical Note: In 2005, the optional attribute of Appended or Internet Available was added to this field, but only one of these labels could be assigned to each record. In 2009, it became possible for both to apply if the material was appended to the document and also available on the Internet.

Tests and Measures

Field Properties: repeating, searchable

This field is used to capture the tests and measures used in a research study, including any non- standardized or unpublished measures. If a test is appended or included in the body of the source document, this is indicated with an Appended label. DOI links are provided for tests that have records in the APA PsycTests® database.

Example:

Beck Depression Inventory doi.org/10.1037/t00741-000
Motivation Questionnaire (Appended)
Parkinson’s Disease Questionnaire



Helpful Hint: 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

Field Properties: required, searchable

This field displays the title of the specific content described in the record, often a journal article or a book chapter. (Titles of the journal or the book are found in the Source field.) Since 2007, this field standardizes document titles for journal articles by capitalizing only the first word of the title and the subtitle, if any, and any proper nouns.

Example:

Adjustable gastric banding and conventional therapy for type 2 diabetes: A randomized controlled trial.
For most records, if the title is written in Roman-alphabet languages other than English, both the original non-English title and the English translation are displayed.

Example:

O interventie psihoeducatională. / A psychoeducational intervention.

Historical Note: For non-Roman-alphabet titles, and many non-English records added to the database during the 1970s, the original title field is left blank and only the English translation is provided.

Unique Identifier

Field Properties: required, searchable

This field identifies each record in APA PsycInfo® by assigning a unique number.

The format is YYYY-NNNNN-LLL, where:

- YYYY = year the record was processed
- NNNNN = a unique sequential number for a journal issue or a book
- LLL = a sequential number for each article or chapter selected from a journal issue or an edited book; LLL for an authored book is always 000

Sample Record Links

[View a Journal Record](#)

[View a Book Record](#)

[View a Chapter Record](#)

[View a Dissertation Abstracts Record](#)

Training and Support Links

[APA Databases Search Help & Training Center](#)

[Search Guides for APA Databases](#)

[Video Tutorials on the APA Publishing YouTube Channel](#)

[APA Publishing Blog](#)

[Webinar Training Schedule](#)

[APA Presentation Archive \(SlideShare\)](#)

Field Guide by Platform

The fields described in this guide use the names found on the APA PsycNet® platform. The [linked chart](#) provides the field names used on EBSCOhost, ProQuest, and Ovid.