Thesaurus Searching using PsycINFO  
healthcarelibrarians@brookes.ac.uk

## Is this the guide you need?

If you aren’t sure what a thesaurus term is and why you might want to use one, have a look at the Thesaurus Searching guide

If you haven’t ever used PsycINFO before, you may find it helpful to start with the Searching using PsycINFO guide first.

If you’re ready to start using thesaurus terms on PsycINFO….

## Find Thesaurus

On PsycINFO, thesaurus terms are known as Thesaurus

Click the Thesaurus option on the toolbar

## Thesaurus search screen

Put the term you are looking for into the Browsing: PsycINFO – Thesaurus box

Click Browse

## Finding the exact term

If the database doesn’t have that term in its index list, it might suggest an alternative.

I asked for all articles indexed under Cancer.

PsycINFO said Neoplasms

Clicking Neoplasms gave me the following list

At the top is the main heading

but you also have Broader terms

Narrower Terms

Or Related terms

You also get information about

When the term was introduced

What subject areas it covers

## Choosing your best fit

Tick the box next to whichever term best matches your search topic. You can tick more than one if you’re interested in several areas.

The box to the right of any term means ‘find this term and any narrower term’ if it’s ticked. Called Explode on the database.

## Search the database

When you’re happy you’ve clicked the boxes next to the right terms for you

(and clicked Explode if necessary)

Click Add

You’ll see your choices appear in the box at the top of the screen.

Click Search

## Results Screen

Your results will appear on screen

Don’t forget that these are only results for one of your keywords. You’ll need to combine them with other keywords or other thesaurus terms to get the results you need.

## Combining Results

To find articles about body image and breast cancer

You could combine with keywords

Or with another thesaurus term

Just tick the box next to each row and click Search with AND

## Further help

For more help with what AND and OR mean and when to use them look at our When to use AND and OR guide

If want help with what search words to use, watch Constructing a Search Strategy

If you’re ready to try your thesaurus search on another database, have a look at the Thesaurus searching using… guide

If you have questions you’d like to ask a librarian…

## Any Questions?

healthcarelibrarians@brookes.ac.uk

Ask for help if you need it.