Steps for searching Psycinfo for a Primary Source Articles

1. Identify key words in your research questions to use as search terms.
2. Enter search terms in the discovery bar using the Boolean connectors ‘and’, ‘or’, ‘not’.
   • For example, in researching the question “Does taking anti-depressants lead to suicide?” I would start by searching “anti-depressants and suicide.” For the question “Do online friendships hurt adolescent development?” I would search the synonymous phrase “social networking and adolescent development”. If you want to exclude something from your search results you would add that term after not. For instance if I am not interested the impact of online friendships on sexual development I would change my search to “social networking and adolescent development not sexual”.
3. Limit your search to available articles by checking the “Full Text” box.
4. Limit your search by dates of publication by changing the beginning date in the “publication dates” box to 2004. This will limit your results to articles published between the years 2004 and 2014.
5. Limit your results by source type by checking the box for “Peer Reviewed” to find only those articles published in peer-reviewed journals.
6. Limit your results by clicking on “methodology” and checking the box next to “empirical study” which will give you results only for articles about research studies.
7. If you still have too many results you may choose to limit your results by subject. Click on “limit by subject” and then click the “show more” link at the bottom right of the box. This will divide the results according to more specific subject areas and choose those most relevant to your research.

If you need further assistance with your research contact Lauren Consolatore for an appointment: consolatore_l@mitchell.edu