

Disclaimer: This is a machine generated PDF of selected content from our databases. This functionality is provided solely for your convenience and is in no way intended to replace original scanned PDF. Neither Cengage Learning nor its licensors make any representations or warranties with respect to the machine generated PDF. The PDF is automatically generated "AS IS" and "AS AVAILABLE" and are not retained in our systems. CENGAGE LEARNING AND ITS LICENSORS SPECIFICALLY DISCLAIM ANY AND ALL EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION, ANY WARRANTIES FOR AVAILABILITY, ACCURACY, TIMELINESS, COMPLETENESS, NON-INFRINGEMENT, MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. Your use of the machine generated PDF is subject to all use restrictions contained in The Cengage Learning Subscription and License Agreement and/or the Gale General OneFile Terms and Conditions and by using the machine generated PDF functionality you agree to forgo any and all claims against Cengage Learning or its licensors for your use of the machine generated PDF functionality and any output derived therefrom.

A brief review of How to Use PsycLIT on CD-ROM

Author: Karen Sendl

Date: Sept. 1992

From: CD-ROM Librarian(Vol. 7, Issue 8)

Publisher: INT Media Group, Inc.

Document Type: Product/service evaluation

Length: 471 words

Full Text:

Developed by the American Psychological Association and SilverPlatter Information, Inc., How to Use PsycLIT on CD-ROM offers a well-designed instructional tool. PsycLIT comprises a highly respected CD-ROM database of citations and abstracts of the international psychology and psychiatry journal literature from 1974 to the present. A new release of the database includes the contents of PsycBOOKS, which briefly summarizes books that the APA received for review consideration. Organized into four volumes by broad subject classification, this set indexes psychology books by author, subject, publisher, and book title.

This video production aims "to teach students to perform literature searches" on the database. An accompanying eight-page booklet follows the sequence and instructions presented in the video. It covers search basics, a description of the database structure and contents, thesaurus use, and search strategy.

The presentation uses an academic library setting (Wolfram Memorial Library). It features a single student who performs the PsycLIT searches. He begins by choosing his topic: "Does television affect reading skills of children?" and he proceeds with a subject search.

The narrator, a female of no obvious geographic background and with clear reading skills, introduces a PsycLIT record. She briefly explains field labels and record contents. She discusses subject searching and mentions the print thesaurus. However, the demonstration uses the online thesaurus instead. It shows how to use term details and how to select synonymous terms for searching. Keyboarding instructions are interspersed throughout the search demonstrations.

The video proceeds to discuss free-text searching, using the topic of "codependency." This word became a descriptor in 1991, as indicated in the thesaurus, and thus explains the need to perform a free-text search for relevant citations. The video suggests that natural language fields of TI (title), KP (key phrase), and AB (abstract) for this type of searching.

Finally, it presents author name searching. It spends very little time explaining this relatively uncomplicated type of search.

At the end of this eighteen-minute video, the narrator reviews the PsycLIT search steps, which are identified as

1. compose a narrative statement of the topic
2. identify separate concepts of the topic
3. look up the thesaurus terms to describe the concepts
4. combine the terms using operators

The screen shots tend to be too small for viewing by large groups. The producers, however, enlarge, in a separate window, the screen elements to illustrate a point. For this reason, the video is best used by individuals or small groups.

The video achieves its objective by presenting to the uninitiated clear instructions for searching the PsycLIT database. It presents all the basics -- how to plan a search, how to find a thesaurus term, how to search when no descriptor is found, how to combine terms, and how to perform an author search. I recommend purchase of this instructional video as a way to enhance traditional bibliographic methods.

Copyright: COPYRIGHT 1992 INT Media Group, Inc.

Source Citation (MLA 8th Edition)

Sendl, Karen. "A brief review of How to Use PsycLIT on CD-ROM." *CD-ROM Librarian*, Sept. 1992, p. 46+. *Gale General OneFile*,

