Web Searches

Due at the Start of Lab: Lab Assignment 1

Rationale for Today's Lab Session

This tutorial is designed to ensure that you have basic skills in searching for researchers, grants, and articles in the field of psychology. The tutorial is generic, so attempt to customize the searches using terms of your own personal interest or of interest to your research lab.

Objectives

- Learn to use NIH Reporter
- Learn to use PsycInfo
- Learn to use Google Scholar

Instructions

NIH Reporter

- NIH Reporter lets you search through listings of grants federally funded by the National Institutes of Health. It is a useful strategy for identifying cutting-edge areas of research, searching for mentors and collaborators at Tulane and elsewhere, and potentially finding avenues for employment and/or graduate school. Many prior students in the course have actually used this to find employment. The downside of NIH Reporter is that it is often very slow, particularly for complex searches that yield extensive results.

- Access NIH Reporter
  - Google "nih reporter"
  - Or access http://projectreporter.nih.gov/reporter.cfm

- Review the search features. The Query page is organized into several main blocks: (1) Researcher and Organization, (2) Text Search, (3) Project Details, and (4) Additional Filters. Click on some of the LOOKUP and SELECT buttons to see what they do. You can click on CLEAR QUERY at the bottom of the page to restore everything to the default search settings.

- Researcher and Organization Search
  - Conduct several searches using the PI Last Name feature. How many funded grant applications are there for the name Roberts? How about Drury? What about your last name?
  - Conduct a search for Jill Daniel. How many grants appear? What university has the grant? Click on the Project Title for the first one. What is the grant about? What is the 1st "specific aim" of the grant? What type of psychology student

might be interested in working with Dr. Taylor? Who in the community might want to participate in the study?

- o On the Query page, conduct an Organization search for Tulane. Beware that these searches are sometimes slow. How many grants does Tulane have? How does this compare with "Loyola University in New Orleans"? "Louisiana State Univ"? Search for some other universities (e.g., where you're applying to graduate school, favorite college sports team, etc.). Who can find which U.S. university has the most grants?

- Text Search
  - o Conduct a text search for "personality" – how many grants appear? Conduct additional searches for the following topics: "prostate cancer," "sex therapy," "ethnicity," "dopamine," "basketball," and "social psychology" – which topics yield the most grants? Search for some of your favorite topics in psychology. What seems to generate the most hits? The fewest?
  - o Combine the Text Search with the Researcher / Organization Search. How many grants are being conducted in New Jersey on the topic of depression? What about Tulane studies on behavior? Review the abstracts for each of these grants by clicking on their titles – which one is of most interest to you?

PsycINFO

- PsycINFO is the long-standing search engine for psychology research. Google Scholar is an excellent, and perhaps superior, general search engine, but PsycINFO is useful if Google Scholar yields search results with too much non-psychology research, or if you wish to restrict the search to a very specific category of publications (e.g., peer-reviewed journal articles on clinical psychological testing, for school age children). PsycINFO is also really useful when you want to make definitive claims about existing research studies (e.g., there are only X number of studies using the MMPI in diabetic samples). If ever needed in the future, Raquel Horlick is an excellent resource for assistance with literature reviews.

- Access PsycINFO by going to this web site, clicking "P," and selecting PsycINFO
  - o http://library.tulane.edu/resources/databases

- Conduct a search for "IQ testing" – how many results appear? What article is first?

- Now conduct a search for "IQ testing," but restrict the search to articles with the Classification Code "2224 Clinical Psychological Testing," Publication Type "Peer Reviewed Journal," and Age Groups "School Age" and "Adolescence" (using the control-click). How many articles appear? What article is first?

- For that publication, click "PDF Full Text" (or "Linked Full Text" or "TU Link") to view access options to obtain the article.

Google Scholar

- Google Scholar is great for doing quick searches and searches that extend beyond the traditional boundaries of psychology. It has several simple features for restricting publications to a particular year, journal, etc. It also has features that ease referencing in APA style. Moreover, it allows you to see which articles have cited any publication that comes up in your search results, which is incredibly useful when trying to find more recent articles on a particular topic.

- Access Google Scholar
    - Google "google scholar" or access http://scholar.google.com
- Basic Search
    - Search for the following phrase: adolescent depression
    - On the first page of the search results, what is the most highly cited article?
    - Now restrict the search to "Since 2014" – what's the most cited article?
    - Now restrict the search to "Since 2017" – what's the most cited article?
    - In your opinion, what is the best (recent and highly cited) article on aggression? What about suicide? ADHD? Stereotype threat? Make sure to ignore books, patents, and other non-articles that infiltrate the results.

- Advanced Search
    - Click on the three lines to the left of the Google Scholar logo. A pop-up will appear. Select "Advanced Search" and another pop-up will appear. Conduct a search for all articles published in the journal "Personality and Individual Differences" since 2015. What's the most cited article? (Hint: Better scroll through the search results).
    - Now search for articles published in the "Journal of Personality and Social Psychology" since 2011. What is the first article listed? What's the most cited article on the first page? Now, restrict the search to only include articles on the topic of ESP. What controversial article rises to the top?

- Improving the Recency of Literature Reviews
    - A serious challenge for new researchers is that they often experience difficulty finding recent, relevant articles on a topic. Google Scholar tends to give disproportionate weight to the number of times an article has been cited, so search results tend to produce very old articles, unless restricting by year. One way around this is to begin by finding a relevant-but-older article. Do a basic search for "personality change" (in quotes). Of the first 4-5 sources, some are pretty old (you may recognize the name Carl Rogers from intro or abnormal psychology), and even the newer ones (2006-08) are older than what we would like for a proper literature review. For the 2006 paper by notable psychologist Brent Roberts, click on the "Cited by 2176" link (the number may have grown). This narrows to mainly recent articles. Now click on "Since 2017". This will narrow down to publications that are relatively recent and cite a major 2006 review. What is the first article (non-book) in the search results?

- o Now do a search for "ego depletion" (in quotes). For the first search result, click the "Cited by" link, then "Since 2014". What is the first article (non-book) listed? How many times has it been cited?

- Profile Search
  - o Some researchers have professional profiles, which help to organize all of their published articles. Do a basic search for Sian Beilock. A link to her profile appears at the top of the search results. Click on it. Sort her publications by year. What was her most cited first-authored article since 2015 (an indicator of her current interests)? Conduct similar searches for some of the researchers you know to see if they have profiles available.

- Downloading and Citing Articles
  - o If on campus, you can access articles directly through Google Scholar, rather than going through the Tulane library web site (it's also possible to access off-campus but takes some setting up; if interested, at home sometime go here: https://library.tulane.edu/services/research-instruction/tutorials/google-scholar)
  - o Conduct a basic search for "Stigma as a barrier to recovery from mental illness," and click on "Get full-text" to the right of the search results to access the article. Does it load properly? Use this same technique to load a recent article of your choosing on "martial satisfaction."
  - o Conduct a basic search for "Construct validity in psychological tests," and click on the Cite link, which may say the word "Cite" or may just look like huge quotation marks (力). If you don't see it, click "More" and it will appear. The APA-style citations Google provides are often 90% accurate, but there is one formatting error and one piece of missing information. How would you manually fix the citation?

Quiz Game

- Lab Instructor will provide instructions

Dismissal

- Following completion of the quiz game, students should use the remaining time to finish any incomplete CITI training, but otherwise may be dismissed early