Finding the Evidence:
Searching PsycINFO and ABI/Inform Global
MIR 850 Organizational Theory and Design

library.queensu.ca

Reference works:
For definitions of terms look to Oxford Reference Online
the International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences
and the Blackwell encyclopedia of management. Organizational behavior

See also the database Sage Research Methods Online for handbooks and guides to research methodologies.

Databases:
You can access article databases from the Research by Subject link
– subject guides include Business, Industrial Relations and Psychology.
or, use the Databases link on the library homepage.

Key databases for finding relevant social science research in organizational behavior are PsycINFO
(psychology) and ABI/Inform Global (business).
Information about the quality of academic journals is found in Journal Citation Reports (JCR), part of
the Social Sciences Citation Index/Web of Science.

General Search Tips:
Use the ‘Advanced Search’ boxes.
Search words or phrases that describe your concepts
Use the truncation symbol * to stem words
Link synonyms with ‘OR’. Narrow your search using ‘AND’.
Use the limiting features in each database to refine your results.
Keep an eye on the ‘Cited by,’ ‘Cited’ and ‘References’ links to look at similar and related
research studies and to gauge the impact/quality of the article
**PsycINFO**

Tips:
- Use the ‘Only Show Content Where ...’ box to specify the methodology on the initial search screen or ‘narrow results by’ after running your search.
- Limit to Peer-Reviewed Journals on initial screen.

Look at your results:
- Scan the Abstract for relevance.
- Check the Index Terms to see if you’re using the recognized words or phrases in your search.
- Use Term Finder –(thesaurus) for terminology help and ideas
  - *Edit search* and specify your search terms as **index terms** not ‘all fields’

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**ABI/INFORM Global**

Tips:
- Limit to Peer reviewed

Add the search words ‘studies’ or ‘analysis’ and specify as **subject headings** – to limit to scholarly quantitative and qualitative research articles

Use the **Preview** link to scan the abstract and look at the Indexing (details) for other subject terms or phrases

  - *Modify search* and try different words and phrases

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**Search word/phrase examples:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>PsycINFO</strong></th>
<th><strong>ABI/INFORM Global</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>group dynamics and monetary rewards</td>
<td>teams and compensation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>organizational learning</td>
<td>organizational learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>job satisfaction</td>
<td>motivation and employees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>personality traits and job performance</td>
<td>workplace and behavior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>person environment and theor*</td>
<td>P-E fit and Empirical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>employee motivation</td>
<td>group dynamics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>family work relationship</td>
<td>work life balance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Journal Citation Reports** – known as JCR, provides critical evaluation of Social Sciences journals based on citation data. JCR is part of the Web of Knowledge/Social Science Citation Index databases.

- Select SSCI (Social Sciences) Edition
- Select subject Categories
- and Submit

By sorting by **Impact Factor** you can determine which journals in a discipline are making the greatest contribution to the publishing history of an idea by measuring citation frequencies.
Citation and Style Guides:

See ‘Citing Sources’ in ‘Help & Services’ or under ‘Learning’
http://library.queensu.ca/help-services/citing-sources

Detailed manuals, style guides and online help for citing different formats and materials.

eg:

APA Style (American Psychological Association)

Research Help

I am available by appointment, email and phone.

Constance Adamson, Industrial Relations liaison librarian
adamsonc@queensu.ca 613-533-6000 x74546

Updated, 2017, from original guide prepared by Mary Claire Vandenburg
In APA PsycNET/PsycINFO, Methodology captures the research method used in a study. 

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

See the APA site for a chart with definitions of each of these methodologies.

Search Exercises:

1) In JCR (Journal Citation Reports): select subject category psychology, applied
   Scan the list of journals, select a title and view the description

in PsycINFO:

2) Employee motivation
   Find meta analyses
   Do any examine the issue of age/older workers?

3) Teams and compensation
   Develop a more specific/relevant list of search words and phrases
   Are there any good ‘Index Terms’ for these concepts?

in ABI/Inform:

4) Teams and compensation
   look at the latest year or two of peer reviewed studies/articles to identify current issues
   and trends