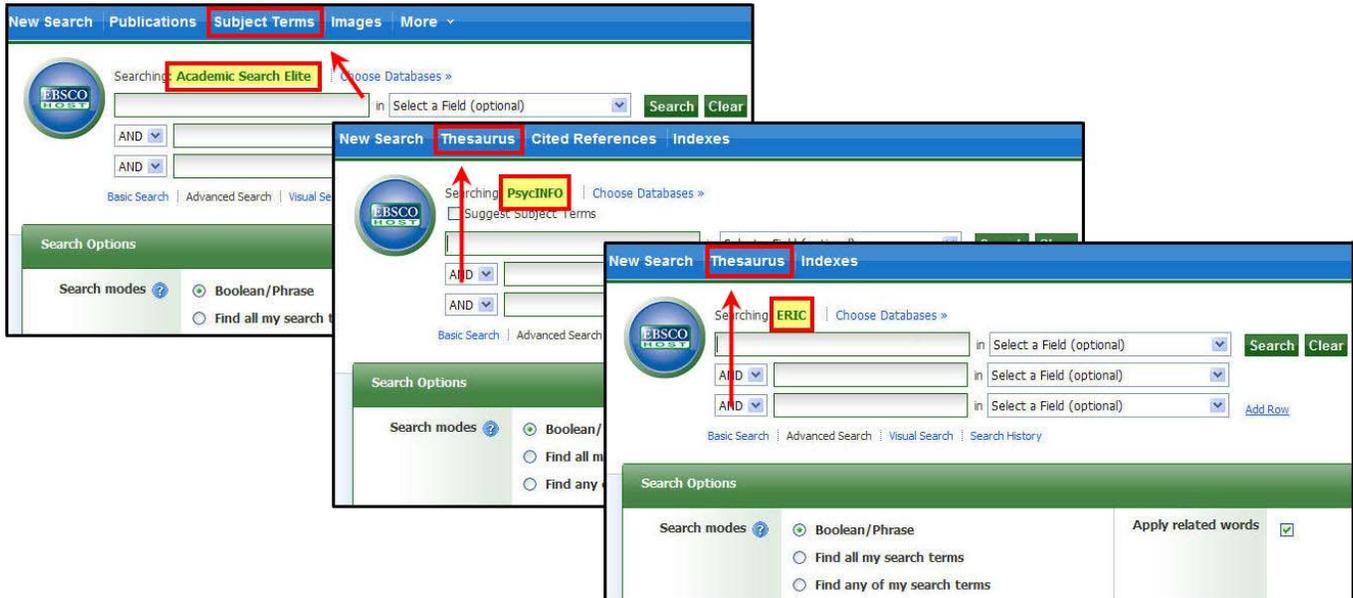


# Searching for a Thesaurus/Subject Word

(Last Updated: January 14, 2011 at 1:19 p.m.)

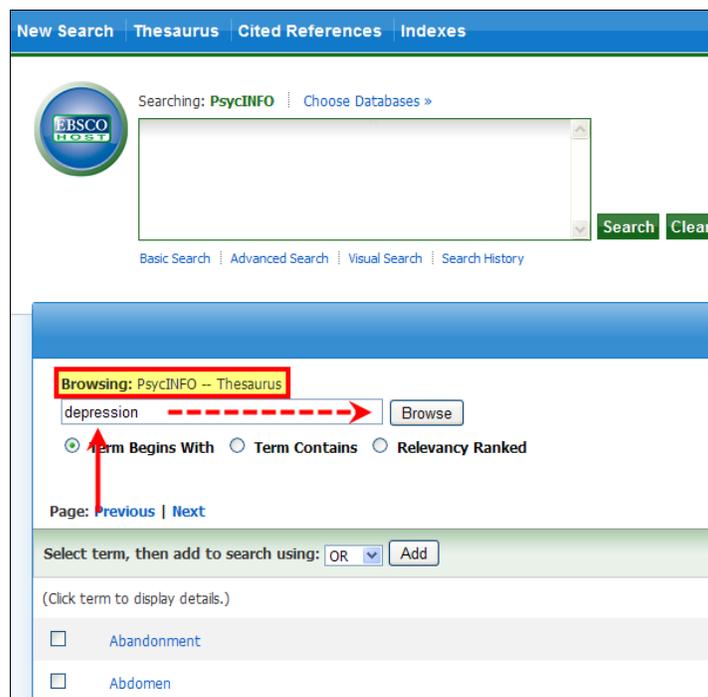
## Step 1

1. A thesaurus and subject search allows you to look for the formal terminology that the database uses to describe your topic(s) and can help narrow or broaden your search.
2. In most databases you will be able to search for thesaurus or subject terms. The thesaurus or subject terms tab will be located at the top of the screen in a tool bar.
3. Locate the thesaurus or subject tab and select it.



## Step 2

1. In this example, if you are searching for the causes of severe depression you may want to find out how depression is defined. In the **Browsing** search box, enter your keyword or phrase (in this case Depression) and select **Browse**.



### Step 3

1. Depression **WAS NOT** found as a thesaurus/subject term. Instead, the database uses **Depression (Emotion)**.
2. To view how the databases defines this term, select (or click on) the term (in blue).

The screenshot shows the PsycINFO Thesaurus search interface. At the top, it says "Browsing: PsycINFO -- Thesaurus" with a search box containing "depression" and a "Browse" button. Below the search box are three radio buttons: "Term Begins With" (selected), "Term Contains", and "Relevancy Ranked". There are "Page: Previous | Next" links. A section titled "Select term, then add to search using:" has a dropdown menu set to "OR" and an "Add" button. Below this is a red-bordered box containing the text "(Click term to display details.)" and "The term depression would appear here had there been an exact match". A list of terms follows, each with a checkbox: "Depression (Emotion)" (highlighted in blue and pointed to by a red arrow), "Depressive Reaction (Neurotic) Use Major Depression", "Deprivation", "Depth Perception", and "Depth Psychology".

### Step 4

1. The definition (or Scope Note) for **Depression (Emotion)** is not appropriate for this search since it relates only to mild depression.
2. If your focus is on severe depression, the recommended thesaurus/subject term would be **Major Depression**.

The screenshot shows the details for the term "Depression (Emotion)". It includes a "Back to List" link and "Previous Next" navigation. The "Select term, then add to search using:" section is visible. The term "Depression (Emotion)" is selected with a checkbox. Below it, the "Year Term Introduced" is 1967. The "Scope Note" is highlighted in yellow and reads: "Mild depression that is not considered clinical depression. For clinical depression, use MAJOR DEPRESSION." The "History Note" is also highlighted in yellow and reads: "Prior to 1988, also used for major depression in clinical populations." A red-bordered box highlights the "Broader Terms" and "Related Terms" sections. The "Broader Terms" section includes "Emotional States" (checkbox). The "Related Terms" section includes "Major Depression +" (checkbox), "Sadness" (checkbox), and "Separation Reactions +" (checkbox).

## Step 5

1. To search for the term **Major Depression**, select **Back to List**.

Browsing: PsycINFO -- Thesaurus

depression

Term Begins With  Term Contains  Relevancy Ranked

Select term, then add to search using:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Depression (Emotion)	1967
	Year Term Introduced	
	Scope Note	Mild depression that is not considered clinical depression. For clinical depression, use MAJOR DEPRESSION. Prior to 1988, also used for major depression in clinical populations.
	History Note	
	Broader Terms	<input type="checkbox"/> Emotional States
	Related Terms	<input type="checkbox"/> Major Depression +
		<input type="checkbox"/> Sadness
		<input type="checkbox"/> Separation Reactions +

## Step 6

1. Select (or click on) **Major Depression**.

Select term, then add to search using:

(Click term to display details.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Depression (Emotion)	1967
	Year Term Introduced	
	Scope Note	Mild depression that is not considered clinical depression. For clinical depression, use MAJOR DEPRESSION. Prior to 1988, also used for major depression in clinical populations.
	History Note	
	Broader Terms	<input type="checkbox"/> Emotional States
	Related Terms	<input type="checkbox"/> Major Depression +
		<input type="checkbox"/> Sadness
		<input type="checkbox"/> Separation Reactions +

## Step 7

1. Major Depression now appears as a formal thesaurus/subject heading. Select (or click on) the heading to view its scope note.

Select term, then add to search using:

(Click term to display details.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Major Depression	
	Major Tranquilizers	<input type="checkbox"/> Use Neuroleptic Drugs
	Maladjustment (Emotional)	<input type="checkbox"/> Use Emotional Adjustment
	Maladjustment (Social)	<input type="checkbox"/> Use Social Adjustment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Malaria	

## Step 8

1. Reading the scope note for **Major Depression** will allow you to see how the database defines the term. Each database may define a term differently.
2. If the term is still too broad, review and select from the **Narrower Terms** listed.

Select term, then add to search using:  OR

Major Depression

Year Term Introduced: 1988

Scope Note: Affective disorder marked by dysphoric mood, inactivity, lack of interest, insomnia, feelings of worthlessness, diminished ability to think, and thoughts of suicide. Use DEPRESSION (EMOTION) for nonclinical depression.

History Note: Consider DEPRESSION (EMOTION) to access references prior to 1988. In 1988, this term replaced the discontinued term PSYCHOTIC DEPRESSIVE REACTION, and in 2000 it replaced the term NEUROTIC DEPRESSIVE REACTION. In 2000, these terms were removed from all records containing them, and replaced with MAJOR DEPRESSION.

Broader Terms:  Affective Disorders

Narrower Terms:  Anacletic Depression  
 Dysthymic Disorder  
 Endogenous Depression  
 Postpartum Depression  
 Reactive Depression  
 Recurrent Depression  
 Treatment Resistant Depression

Related Terms:  Atypical Depression  
 Bipolar Disorder +  
 Depression (Emotion)  
 Neurosis +  
 Pseudodementia  
 Seasonal Affective Disorder

Used for: Agitated Depression  
Depressive Reaction (Neurotic)  
Dysphoria  
Melancholia  
Neurotic Depressive Reaction  
Psychotic Depressive Reaction  
Unipolar Depression

## Step 9

1. To use **Major Depression** as a thesaurus/subject word, select the box next to the term (a check mark will appear).
2. Select **Add**. The term will automatically be added to the top search box. Terms added to this box will allow you to search for the subject terms within the database.
3. Select (or click on) **Search**.

New Search | Thesaurus | Cited References | Indexes

Searching: PsycINFO | Choose Databases >

DE "Major Depression"

Basic Search | Advanced Search | Visual Search | Search History

Browsing: PsycINFO -- Thesaurus

depression

Term Begins With  Term Contains  Relevancy Ranked

< Back to List

< Previous Next >

Select term, then add to search using:  OR

Major Depression

Year Term Introduced: 1988

Scope Note: Affective disorder marked by dysphoric mood, if

## Step 10

1. After you select **Search**, the results that include any thesaurus/subject terms will appear.
2. To narrow your results, you can add in additional keywords, select scholarly/peer reviewed, and change the time frame.

The screenshot shows the EBSCOhost search interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'New Search', 'Thesaurus', 'Cited References', and 'Indexes'. The search bar contains 'DE "Major Depression"'. Below the search bar, there are three rows for adding more search terms, each with an 'AND' operator and a dropdown menu for selecting a field. The search results section shows '66423 Results for...' in a red box. On the left, there are filters for 'Refine your results' including 'Linked Full Text', 'References Available', and 'Peer Reviewed'. A date range filter is set from 1632 to 2011. The main results area displays a list of articles, with the first one titled 'fMRI BOLD responses to negative stimuli in the prefrontal cortex are life stress in major depressive disorder.'

## Step 11

1. Below is an example of a search that has been narrowed through the use of keywords, selecting scholarly/peer reviewed, and changing the time frame.

The screenshot shows the EBSCOhost search interface with a more refined search. The search bar contains 'DE "Major Depression"'. Below it, two additional search terms are added: 'child\* and school\*' and '(latin\* or hispanic\*)'. The search results section shows '71 Results for...' in a red box. On the left, the 'Refine your results' section is expanded to show 'Peer Reviewed' selected and a date range filter set from 2000 to 2010. The main results area displays a list of articles, with the first one titled 'Self-concept, early childhood depression and school retention as predictors of urban Hispanic adolescents.'