

ToP-DB[©]

V2.5

A Teaching of Psychology Database

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INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your interest in the *TEACHING OF PSYCHOLOGY Database (ToP-DB* Version 2.5). I developed this database to provide a tool for **conveniently** locating articles in *Teaching of Psychology (ToP)*. This version contains files in dBASE format. Many database/spreadsheet applications read from and write to dBASE files (e.g., Excel, QuattroPro). There is also a modified text version of this database called ToP-INDEX that can be used in most popular word processing software.

Database Description

The original version of *ToP-DB* was described in a *ToP* article (Johnson, 1991). Changes were made in the database since the release of the original version. If you used the original version of *ToP-DB* you should read the section below that describes changes in the current version.

ToP-DB includes all articles published in the journal between the years of 1974 and 2001 with a few exceptions. The annotated bibliographies that traditionally accompany the December issue (e.g., Wise & Fulkerson, 1988), book reviews, and video reviews are not included.

Database Structure

Table 1 lists the 11 fields that comprise the structure of this database. The field labeled SECTION differentiates the section of the journal in which an article appeared: Topical, Methods & Techniques, Computers, Special Issue, or Faculty Forum. Prior to 1985, the headings "general articles", "short articles", and "articles" were used in the journal. To minimize the number of descriptors, these articles were given the label "Topical." The TYPE field organizes the articles into a small number of meaningful categories. As a result, each article was classified as one of 11 types: activity, bibliography, comment, course (description), demonstration, empirical (research other than survey), equipment (description), software, survey, symposium or article. The latter is a catch-all for the articles that did not fit into any of the other categories. (see Appendix A for **specific** descriptors used in these fields)

The SPECIALTY and SUB_SPEC (sub specialty) fields help the user to narrow the scope of the search. I chose a limit of two descriptors for each article to save file space; unfortunately, that limitation made the choice of accurate descriptors difficult. Identification of a general descriptor (e.g., abnormal, cognition, social) for the SPECIALTY field and a more specific descriptor (e.g., schizophrenia, mnemonics, aggression) for the SUB_SPEC field solved the problem to some extent. This strategy worked well for most of the citations, although it was not without problems. One potential difficulty was that the "SPECIALTY" descriptors would be too narrow in scope, yielding an unwieldy number of descriptors in that field. Another possibility was that descriptors would be too general and not useful in narrowing searches. I attempted to strike a balance between these two alternatives, and considerable editing was necessary to accomplish this.

The FIRST_AUTH and ET_AL fields contain the authors' last names and initials for each article. The FIRST_AUTH field contains the names of the first authors and the ET_AL field contains the names of all other authors.

The DATE and TITLE fields list the complete title and the month and year of the issue in which the articles appeared, respectively. All issues are listed as being published on the first day of the month. The journal began publication with issues 1-4 listed as February, April, October, and December. So, the date 02/01/90 refers to the February issue in 1990, or issue #1 for 1990. In 1997, the journal changed from publication in a specific month to issue numbers. Until I can determine a new strategy for combining these two methods, I will continue to use month and year in each record. Therefore 02/01/97 refers to issue 1997(1), 04/02/97 refers to 1997(2), and so on.

The COMPUTER field is a logical-type field that I included to indicate whether an article involved the use of computers. Articles in which computers were used were assigned the value true; those that did not involve computers were assigned a value of false. (NOTE: Some software packages translate this to YES/NO or 1/0.)

The PAGE and VOLUME fields contain page numbers and volume numbers associated with each article.

Indexes

Attached to this document you will find two indexes. The first contains the SUB_SPECIalties indexed by SPECIALTY for all articles. The second index is similar to the first, with the restriction that it contains only keywords for those articles categorized as activities or demonstrations. The numbers associated with the descriptors indicate the number of times descriptors were used. I attempted to keep the total number of descriptors to a minimum, but with such a wide variety of topics covered in ToP, that task was difficult.

When I began compiling the database, I did not anticipate the large number of entries in some of these categories. Some of the SUB_SPECIalties probably deserve to be classified as specialties. The limitation of two keywords/article made the selection of SUB_SPECIalties particularly difficult. At times I found it difficult to identify a good descriptor in the SUB_SPEC field, so I simply assigned the same keyword as is in the SPECIALTY field. I tried to keep that practice to minimum.

Changes in database since the original publication

I deleted the SUMMARY field from this version of ToP-DB. Many previous users indicated that they did not use it, and the fact that dBASE stores this field in a separate file format became problematic for persons using the database in other applications. I added the VOLUME field and the page number field (PAGE).

The original version of the database contained no upper-case characters due to the case sensitive nature of dBASE. I decided to change that in this version. Author's names and initials in the

FIRST_AUTH and ET_AL fields have been capitalized and arranged in the form specified by the APA Publication Manual (4th ed.). Words in titles have also been capitalized appropriately.

Disclaimer: I am not a professional indexer, so I make no claims that the keywords assigned to each article are the best for the purposes of the general user. I hope that I categorized the articles in a reasonably logical fashion, but I realize that with the limit of two descriptors you could argue that a particular article belongs elsewhere. Suggestions for changes in the database are welcomed, but **will not** necessarily be implemented. Compilation of this database is a "labor of love": No Society for the Teaching of Psychology/Divisional Two funds were used for its development.

I hope that you find TOP-DB as useful as I do for locating relevant articles in *Teaching of Psychology*. I plan to continue updating the database at the end of each publication year.

Again, I welcome any comments you may have about the database, but keep in mind its basic focus: to provide **quick, convenient** access to ToP articles.

Reference

Johnson, D. E. (1991). A Teaching of Psychology Database: 1974-1990. Teaching of Psychology, 18, 49-50.

INDEX for ALL ARTICLES in ToP-DB

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internal clock
nature-nurture
physiological
transitivity

COMPUTERS (4)

critical thinking
debugging
process analysis
study management

CONFERENCES

teaching conferences

CONSUMER BEHAVIOR (2)

consumer behavior (2)

CRITICAL THINKING (9)

computers
critical reading
critical thinking (3)
ethics
paranormal
problem solving
writing

CROSS CULTURAL (2)

afro american
autobiography

CURRICULUM (2)

evaluation (2)

DEATH & DYING

bereavement

DEBATES

debates

DEVELOPMENTAL (51)

active learning
aging (2)
attitudes
biography
case study
culture
debates
developmental
developmental tasks
discussion
embryology
exceptional child (3)
games
gender roles

interviewing

journal

laboratory

library research

life span (3)

literature

moral development

nature-nurture

observation

physical

piaget

piagetian tasks (3)

practicum (2)

puberty

research

role playing

stages

video (7)

writing (5)

DISCUSSION GROUPS (3)

graduate

industrial/organizational

panel discussions

EDUCATIONAL

research

EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY (2)

slides

transparencies

ENGINEERING

engineering

ETHICS (2)

business

case study

EXTRA CREDIT

extra credit

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT (2)

faculty development

faculty exchange

FACULTY EXCHANGE

united kingdom

FIELD EXPERIENCE (3)

practicum (2)

service learning

FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY

insanity defense

GENDER ROLES (5)

- cognition
- research methods
- science fiction
- sexism
- social
- GRADING
 - introductory
- GRADUATE (5)
 - assistants
 - clinical/counseling (2)
 - peer review
 - seminar
- GRADUATES
 - writing
- HIGH SCHOOL
 - high school
- HISTORY (19)
 - autobiography
 - critical thinking
 - departmental
 - history (6)
 - introductory
 - library research
 - philosophy
 - presentations
 - research
 - role playing (2)
 - theory orientation (2)
 - visual aids
- HUMAN FACTORS (2)
 - human factors (2)
- INDUSTRIAL/ORGANIZATIONAL (7)
 - consulting
 - industrial/organizational
 - interviewing
 - job analysis (2)
 - morale survey
 - motivation
- INTERNET
 - world wide web
- INTRODUCTORY (29)
 - abnormal
 - assertiveness
 - cognitive
 - history
 - intelligence

- laboratory (4)
- large classes
- learning
- literature
- readings (4)
- relevance
- research methods (6)
- shyness
- science fair
- stress
- study aid
- writing (2)
- LAW
 - video
- LEARNING (26)
 - attention
 - classical conditioning (6)
 - cognition
 - constraints
 - definition
 - encoding specificity
 - habituation
 - laboratory (2)
 - negative reinforcement
 - operant conditioning (8)
 - s-r
 - taste aversions (2)
- LIBRARY RESEARCH
 - bibliographic instruction
- LITERATURE (2)
 - critical reading
 - journal articles
- MEASUREMENT (7)
 - error
 - ethics
 - evaluation
 - projective techniques
 - rating scales
 - scale design
 - test development
- MISCONCEPTIONS
 - misconceptions
- PARANORMAL
 - astrology
- PERCEPTION (23)
 - audition (3)

color
color vision (2)
dichotic listen
gestalt
illusions (10)
laboratory
mirror drawing
olfaction
sensation
statistics
PERSONALITY (20)
assessment (2)
assignments (2)
clinical/counseling
critical thinking
debates
freud
freudian slip
implicit theory (2)
implicit personality
literature
movies
peak experience
personal constructs
personality
psychoanalysis
self (2)
PHYSIOLOGICAL (19)
cerebral laterality (2)
circadian rhythms
emotions
laboratory
neuroanatomy (3)
neurophysiology (6)
pharmacology (2)
skin conductance
testing
PSYCHOLOGY & THE ARTS (4)
agatha christie
drama (2)
sherlock holmes
PSYCHOLOGY OF WOMEN (3)
debates
gender stereotypes
psychology of women
RESEARCH (2)

debriefing
undergraduate
RESEARCH METHODS (73)
accuracy
animals
anxiety
apa style
assistants
community
computer
content analysis
critical thinking (5)
ethics (5)
experimental design
hypothesis testing
insturmentation
interaction
interviewing
jigsaw technique
journal (2)
laboratory (6)
laboratory animals
literature search (6)
observation (5)
observer bias
operational definition
personality
poster session (2)
probability
problem solving
psycholinguistics
qualitative methods
research design (4)
research methods (2)
research team (2)
simulations (3)
social
statistics (2)
study session
survey research
theory building
writing (3)
SEXUALITY (5)
diseases
journal
menstruation

sexuality
sexual orientation
SOCIAL (63)
aggression (4)
attitudes (2)
attribution (3)
cognitive dissonance
crowding
decision-making (2)
deindividuation
expectancy confirmation
gender bias
groups
hindsight bias
history
impression formation (2)
laboratory
lie detection (2)
literature
mate selection (2)
nonverbal communication
overjustification effect
ownership effect
perceptual bias
person perception (3)
personal space (2)
personality (2)
persuasion
prejudice
problem solving
research methods
self reference
self-serving bias (2)
social desirability bias
social impact
social influence (2)
stereotypes (7)
unique invulnerability (3)
world wide web
writing (2)
STATISTICS (41)
active learning (2)
anova (3)
anxiety
applied
central limit theorem (2)

computer (2)
correlation (2)
data generation (5)
descriptive (2)
errors
ethics
graphing
hypothesis testing
internet
introduction
jigsaw technique
meta analysis
multiple regression
perception
regression
regression to mean (2)
relevance
reliability (2)
research methods
sampling (3)
statistics
variability
STUDY GUIDE
student performance
TEACHER EFFECTIVENESS
faculty-student relations
TEACHER EVALUATION (3)
measurement (2)
video
TEACHER TRAINING
ethics
TEACHING ASSISTANTS (3)
graduate
teacher training
teaching assistants
TEACHING TECHNIQUES (9)
anecdotes
debates
diversity
case study
crossword puzzle
small groups (4)
TEAM TEACHING (2)
team teaching (2)
TESTING (13)
essay (2)

feedback (2)	discussion
item choice	high school
item development (2)	journal (7)
item selection	literature review
measurement	node-link mapping
quiz (3)	note taking (2)
student performance	poster session
TEXTBOOK	primary sources
textbook	reader's guide
WRITING (25)	student performance
apa style (2)	term papers
case study	tutor
critical thinking	writing (2)

Table 1

Structure of Teaching of Psychology Database

Field	Field Name
1	SECTION
2	TYPE
3	SPECIALTY
4	SUB_SPEC
5	FIRST_AUTH
6	ET_AL
7	DATE
8	TITLE
9	COMPUTER
10	PAGE

APPENDIX A

The following is a list of the actual descriptors used in the **SECTION** and the **TYPE** fields.

SECTION

computers
faculty forum
generalist (the new generalist section, 1997)
meth & tech (methods & techniques)
special issue
topical

TYPE

activity
article
biblio (bibliography)
comment
course
demo (demonstration)
empirical
equipment
interview
software
survey
symposium

