



ADVISOR REVIEWS—STANDARD REVIEW

# Psychology & Behavioral Sciences Collection

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Composite Score: ★★★ 1/2

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## Abstract

Psychology & Behavioral Sciences Collection is a primarily full-text journal database published by EBSCO Publishing Inc. for use by mental health practitioners, behavioral science researchers, and students at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Holdings include nearly 600 titles of which the vast majority are peer-reviewed and/or full-text. This database is touted for offering 290 full-text journals which are indexed in APA PsycInfo and which have the capability of being linked to results in PsycInfo for subscribing institutions. The EBSCOhost platform is intuitive and user-friendly with a variety of authentication methods and compatible browsers. In comparison to such competitive products as APA PsycArticles and ProQuest Psychology Database, Psychology & Behavioral Sciences Collection offers sufficient unique content and number of full-text journals indexed in PsycInfo to justify its purchase either in addition to these products or as a standalone database. All three products are cross-searchable with PsycInfo with a subscription. Those institutions seeking more extensive historical content, greater depth of coverage of a range of subjects in the behavioral sciences, access to APA published journals or the specialized Thesaurus of Psychologist Index Terms, or who prefer the ProQuest or APA PsycNet platform may consider PsycArticles and/or Psychology Database as alternative subscription options.

## Pricing Options

Psychology & Behavioral Sciences Collection is a subscription resource. Pricing for academic institutions is based on a variety of factors including FTE, existing subscriptions to EBSCO databases, and consortium agreements and/or buying groups. Those interested in the product are encouraged to contact EBSCO for a personalized quote.<sup>1</sup>

## Product Overview/Description

Psychology & Behavioral Sciences Collection is published by EBSCO Publishing, Inc. and is described as “an essential full-text database for psychologists, counselors, researchers and students.”<sup>2</sup> This database is particularly strong in its coverage of child and adolescent psychology as well as counseling. There is a breadth of subjects covered with an emphasis on such subjects as psychology, anthropology, emotional and behavioral characteristics, cognitive processes, psychiatry, and observational and experimental research methods.

First introduced in 2001 with 400 titles, the collection has grown to its current holdings of 597 indexed and abstracted titles. The majority of the titles in the collection are peer-reviewed (573 titles) or full-text (472 titles). Overall, there are 449 full-text peer-reviewed journals in the database. The product website notes that there are 290 full-text journals that are indexed in APA PsycInfo which is a widely utilized abstracting and indexing database in psychology.

In reviewing the most recent title list from the Psychology & Behavioral Sciences Collection website, the vast majority of titles are academic journals with just 23 magazines including the reader-friendly periodical, *Psychology Today*. Coverage dates back to 1930. Nearly half of the titles are embargoed from 6 to 60 months. There is some diversity with publishers from 14 countries, but the overwhelming majority of titles are published either in the United Kingdom at 61% of the collection or the United States at 29%.

Psychology & Behavioral Sciences Collection can be searched as a standalone product using the EBSCOhost platform. For users with a subscription, there is also the capability to link to full-text from citations in APA PsycInfo making Psychology & Behavioral Sciences Collection a desirable companion to this product's robust indexing capabilities. MARC records are available and are compliant with MARC 21 standards. Reports and statistics for the product are available which include usage reports, link activity reports, COUNTER reports, and more. The EBSCOhost accessibility statement indicates that their products are partially conformant with WCAG 2.1 level AA and are compatible with such assistive technologies as Chrome with JAWS on Windows, IE 11 with JAWS on Windows (limited support), Firefox with NVDA on Windows, Safari with VoiceOver on MacOS, Safari with VoiceOver on iOS, and Chrome with Talkback on Android.<sup>3</sup> Product support is available 24/7 by e-mail or telephone.

## User Interface/Navigation/Searching

Psychology and Behavioral Sciences collection is available on the user-friendly and easily navigable EBSCOhost platform which has the capability of being cross-searched with other EBSCO products. The product is accessible with any internet-enabled device. Compatible browsers include Firefox, Safari, Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge, and Internet Explorer. Android and iOS mobile devices may be used by downloading the EBSCO app.

Upon entering the database, users will find a Basic Search option with a search bar for keyword searching. Users can select Advanced Search for more options including additional search bars with Boolean operators and dropdown boxes to select fields such as author, title, subject terms, or journal name. Limiters are available to further refine the search by full text, peer reviewed, publication, date, document type, etc (see Figure 1). Users may also select Image Quick View or select an Image Quick View type to enable thumbnails of particular image types present in a document from the results list.

Results default to sorting by relevance, but can be changed to sort by date, source, or author. Result items can be shared by adding results to a folder, creating an e-mail or RSS feed alert, or by permalink. Users can set up a personal account to save searches and results to a folder.

**FIGURE 1** Psychology & Behavioral Sciences Collection Search Filter Options

The screenshot shows a search filter interface with the following sections:

- Limit your results:**
  - Full Text:
  - Publication:
  - Document Type: A dropdown menu with options: All, Abstract, Article, Bibliography.
  - Image Quick View:
  - PDF Full Text:
- Peer Reviewed:**
- Published Date:** Start month: [Month] Start year: [ ] — End month: [Month] End year: [ ]
- Number Of Pages:** All [ ]
- Cover Story:**
- Image Quick View Types:**
  - Black and White Photograph
  - Color Photograph
  - Graph
  - Map
  - Chart
  - Diagram
  - Illustration

**FIGURE 2** Psychology & Behavioral Sciences Collection Utility Toolbar and Search

The screenshot shows the EBSCOhost search utility toolbar and search interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: New Search, Subjects, Publications, Images, Indexes. The EBSCOhost logo is centered. Below the logo, it says "Searching: Psychology and Behavioral Sciences Collection | Choose Databases". There is a search input field with the placeholder text "Enter any words to find books, journals and more" and a "Search" button. Below the search field, there are links for Search Options, Basic Search, Advanced Search, and Search History.

The utility toolbar provides a number of options. Users can select New Search to begin a new inquiry. The Subjects tab provides a directory of subject terms for the database. The option of Publications displays a list of publications in alphabetical order with the alternative to display by subject and description or matching any words. Users may select Images to search the Image Quick View Collection. Finally, users may select Indexes to browse various indexes such as Author, Document Type, or Language (see Figure 2).

## Critical Evaluation

Psychology & Behavioral Sciences Collection is a database specializing in providing access to full-text, peer-reviewed journals in psychology, counseling, and ancillary subject areas. The product provides especially strong coverage of counseling and of child and adolescent psychology. Published by EBSCO, users will appreciate the user-friendly EBSCOhost interface. The database is compatible with a variety of browsers, and authentication can be achieved through a number of different methods. Contract provisions are standard to the product and allow for interlibrary loan. Pricing is available based on such factors as FTE, existing subscriptions, and consortia agreements making purchase a possibility for institutions of varying sizes. This subject database is quite comprehensive with a total of 597 titles of which 449 are full-text, peer-reviewed journals. Psychology & Behavioral Sciences Collection's particular value lies in providing access to 290 full-text journals that are indexed in the widely used indexing and abstracting database, APA PsycInfo, making it an excellent companion product in content and its capability of linking to full-text within PsycInfo for those with dual subscriptions.

While Psychology & Behavioral Sciences Collection offers substantial holdings of peer-reviewed, full-text journals which can serve as either a standalone product or companion product to PsycInfo, there are some factors to consider that may limit its selection for purchase. Although referred to as a "full-text database" on the product website, a large number (80% of the collection), but not all of the titles

indexed, are full-text. Those considering purchasing this database should also be aware that the journals cover a wide range of subjects in the behavioral sciences with varying levels in the depth of coverage across subjects. For instance, there are only four journals for the subject of abnormal psychology as well as four journals covering forensic psychiatry and forensic psychology respectively. In comparison, nearly 20% of the database journals relate to the subject of children in some way (i.e., child and adolescent psychiatry, child and adolescent psychology, child development, and child welfare). Historical content is limited with the earliest holdings dating to 1930 in comparison to such products as Psychology Database and PsycArticles which date back to the sixteenth to nineteenth centuries. Diversity of international coverage is also somewhat limited, with the majority of titles originating from the United Kingdom and the United States. Finally, this database is indexed using EBSCOhost subject headings rather than the more specialized Thesaurus of Psychologist Index Terms proprietary to APA published databases. When considering Psychology & Behavioral Sciences Collection in terms of its capability to provide access to journals indexed by PsycInfo in comparison to such competitive products as PsycArticles and Psychology Database, the product is able to offer access to unique titles in sufficiently large numbers to justify its selection either in addition to or independent of its competitors.

## Competitive Products

There are a number of psychology and behavioral sciences databases available for subscription. Two databases that are of potential interest as competitive products in comparison to Psychology & Behavioral Sciences Collection are APA PsycArticles and ProQuest Psychology Database. Published by APA, PsycArticles is also available from EBSCO, Hogrefe Publishing Group, Ovid Technologies, and ProQuest. As noted earlier, PsycInfo is a well-respected abstracting and indexing database of 2,275 journals which cover the behavioral and social sciences. PsycArticles and Psychology Database will be considered in comparison to Psychology & Behavioral Sciences Collection pri-



## Psychology & Behavioral Sciences Collection

### Review Scores Composite: ★★ ★ 1/2

*The maximum number of stars in each category is 5.*

#### Content: ★★ ★

A substantial collection of peer-reviewed, full-text journals including 290 that are indexed in and cross-searchable with PsycInfo. The database would benefit from greater depth of coverage in subject areas beyond child and adolescent psychology and counseling, more extensive historical content, and greater diversity in international publishers. The product lacks access to APA published journals.

#### User Interface/Searchability: ★★ ★ 1/2

The EBSCOhost interface is easy to navigate. The product seeks to comply with accessibility guidelines. There are a number of advanced search options. The product does not offer a specialized thesaurus for authoritative subject searching of psychological concepts.

#### Pricing: N/A

As a direct quote was not provided by EBSCO, it is difficult to assess this area. However, the product does offer a substantial title list of journals with pricing adjusted to FTE, existing subscriptions to EBSCO databases, and consortium agreements.

#### Purchase/Contract Options: ★★ ★ ★

Contract provisions are standard for the product. Terms do limit the amount of a work that can be printed, e-mailed, or shared via Interlibrary Loans.

marily in terms of their ability to serve as a companion resource to provide access to full-text journals indexed in PsycInfo.

PsycArticles contains full-text, peer-reviewed journal articles published by APA and affiliated publishers with coverage beginning in 1894. There are 119 journals in the collection including the well-known journal, *American Psychologist*. A value-added element to this and all databases published by APA is the availability of the Thesaurus of Psychologist Index Terms which provides a controlled vocabulary of terms for authoritative subject searching of psychological concepts. There is very little overlap in the journal title holdings of PsycArticles and Psychology & Behavioral Sciences Collection with just four titles overall and two full-text journal titles in common. PsycArticles contains approximately 107 full-text journals that are indexed by PsycInfo. These products are cross-searchable for those with subscriptions to both.

Psychology Database is a database covering the behavioral and social sciences. Its primary function is as an abstracting and indexing database, but there are many full-text publications available as well. Coverage is from 1597 to current with nearly 900 full-text journals. Value added features of this database are the inclusion of dissertations and training videos for students. Regarding overlap with Psychology & Behavioral Sciences Collection, the databases contain close to 300 of the same titles with 154 commonly held full-text titles but with both still offering a substantial number of unique titles. Psychology Database currently offers nearly 570 full-text titles that are indexed in PsycInfo making it the most substantial of the three databases in this aspect. As PsycInfo is available for subscription from ProQuest, these products can be cross-searched.

### Purchase & Contract Provisions

Purchase and contract provisions are outlined in the EBSCO License Agreement and are standard to the product. Remote access is permitted to patrons of institutions subscribing to the product for personal, non-commercial use with security procedures in place to prohibit access by non-subscribing entities. The full terms and conditions may be viewed at <<https://www.ebsco.com/license-agreement>>. Interlibrary loan (ILL) may be used as long as it does not violate the copyright stipulations for the content used and abides copyright law. EBSCO prefers ILL content to be faxed or provided via print rather than shared electronically.<sup>4</sup>

### Authentication

EBSCO supports many different methods of authentication including IP address, SAML Single Sign-On, personal user, referring URL, and user ID and password.<sup>5</sup>

### Contact Information

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Producer URL: <<https://www.ebsco.com/>>

Product URL: <<https://www.ebsco.com/products/research-databases/psychology-behavioral-sciences-collection>>

**Free Text Keywords:** Psychology & Behavioral Sciences Collection; APA PsycInfo; APA PsycArticles; ProQuest Psychology Database; EBSCO; Psychology; Counseling; Psychology; Behavioral Sciences

**Primary Category:** Sociology, Education, Anthropology, Psychology

Secondary Categories: Medicine, Nursing & Health

Type of product being reviewed: Aggregator database

Target Audience: Undergraduate (including community colleges); Graduate/Faculty/Researcher

Access: Subscription

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## About the Author

**Dawn Behrend** is an Instruction and Outreach Librarian at Lenoir-Rhyne University. Ms. Behrend holds a B.A. in Psychology, M.A. in Clinical Psychology, MBA, and MLS. She has over 20 years of experience as a master's level clinical psychologist and continues to work part-time in private practice. She is a second career librarian where she serves as Lenoir-Rhyne University library's liaison to the departments of business and economics, mathematics, computer science, psychology, and counseling. Ms. Behrend is active in the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) as the chair ACRL Chapters Council as well as with the North Carolina Library Association for which she is the Vice President/President-Elect. ■