Chapter 2

Getting Started
Chapter 2: Section headers

- Selecting a problem
- Reviewing the literature
- Library research
  - Journals
  - PsycINFO
- Reading a journal article
- Ethical standards
  - In research with humans
  - In research with children
  - In research with animals
Lab 1

Goal: To provide you with the opportunity to create a new questionnaire and evaluate the instrument’s psychometric properties.

- Impulsivity
- Perfectionism
- Submissiveness
- Social Anxiety
- Optimism
- Self-efficacy
- Empathy
- Forgiveness
- Narcissism
- Locus of control
- Subjective well-being
- Neuroticism
- Negative/positive affect
- Need for Achievement
- Conscientiousness
- Extraversion
- Agreeableness
- Life Satisfaction
- Loneliness
- Depression
- Self-Esteem
- Social support
Homework

• Search PsycINFO for an article corresponding to your construct
  • Read abstracts (skim articles) about your construct
  • Choose 1 article to read
    • Ideally it examines the validity & reliability of a survey or questionnaire
    • Article should be empirical (i.e. have an intro, methods, results, discussion)

• Read the article

• Hand-in next week in lab:
  • Brief summary of 1 article (1/2 page written in formal scientific language)
  • Write your own operational definition of the construct (cite papers that were useful to create this definition)
  • Type list of search terms and limiters (how limited search)
  • Reference in APA format
  • And attach…
  • PsycINFO page (just 1st page) that lists your article
  • First page of article (make sure to print the PDF of article)
PsycINFO

- Library website > Find materials > Research databases > Psychology > PsycINFO
- Basic search
  - Type in term, vocabulary word, author’s name, journal, etc.
  - How to limit your search
    - Publication type
    - Age group
    - Methodology
    - Language
- Advanced search
  - Term and field that it would be found in
    - TI = title
    - AU = author
    - KW = keywords
- “Linked full text”
  - May or MAY NOT give you all the articles we have access to
  - Search Library catalog for journal name
  - Look for article (use author’s names/title of paper) in Google scholar
PsycINFO: search terms

- Use textbook to find appropriate vocabulary
- Search google for ideas and find terms
- Choose top-tier journal for area and search through the table of contents for potential terms
- Select “apply related words” if not sure of term
- Select “find all my search terms”

- Note: use quotes around compound words (e.g. “working memory”)
- Use multiple terms together to limit search
Sections of an empirical research article

- **Abstract**
  - Brief summary – usually not more than 120 words
  - Read to find out if you want to read the article
- **Introduction**
  - Review of relevant prior research (citations); context for study
  - Purpose and rational for the study
  - Hypotheses
- **Method**
  - Participants
  - Materials / Apparatus
  - Procedure – how they did the study so can be replicated
- **Results**
  - Summarizes data – results of statistical tests
  - Tables and figures
- **Discussion**
  - Restatement of purpose of study and hypotheses
  - Evaluation and interpretation of results
  - Relationship between results and previous research
  - Criticisms of the study and future research ideas
How to read a research article

- Choose an article by reading the abstract...
- Do not read like a book!
- Skim Introduction – get an idea of the topic
- Read the last paragraph of the Introduction – read hypotheses
- Skim the Discussion – get an idea of what they found
- Read the Methods section - and re-read until you know exactly what they did and you could repeat it
- Read the Results section – use the Discussion section to understand what the results mean – write down what analyses you don’t understand (you’ll have to trust them on their interpretation)
- Read the Discussion section
- Read Introduction section closely – and then re-read methods, results and discussion to understand paper as a whole
How to read a research article

- How to skim?
  - Read first and last paragraph of a section
  - Read 1\textsuperscript{st} sentence of each paragraph
  - Read last sentence of each paragraph

- How to deal with jargon?
  - Do not just pass over term you don’t understand!
  - Look-up vocabulary in textbooks or on-line

- Examine tables and figures
  - Read the titles, axis labels and legends

- Read the article multiple times
  - Write your own “abstract” of the paper – what are the central points/evidence that you want to remember?

- Skim Introduction - write 1-2 sentence summary
- Skim Discussion - write 1-2 sentence summary
- Read Methods - write 1-2 sentence summary
- Read Results - write 1-2 sentence summary
- Read Abstract – does it agree with what you wrote?

- If reading paper then you would…
- Read Discussion
- Re-read entire paper
How to read a research article

- *Answer the following questions when reading an article:*
  - What is the main research question?
  - What are the secondary research questions?
  - What method was used to test their question?
  - What are the key variables?
  - What is the main finding of the article?

- See handout “Critically reading journal articles” on my website for specific questions for each section
  - Did they review the appropriate literature
  - Did they use appropriate methods; use good controls
  - Did they have appropriate interpretation of results? Are there other interpretations?
References

- In text
  - If use names in sentence, list last names with year in parentheses
    - “Bopp and Verhaeghen (2005) found that on average…”
  - If reference after sentence, list last names and the year
    - “A larger age difference exists for RS compared to DS (Bopp & Verhaeghen, 2005)
  - List all last names first time reference is cited (unless 6+)
  - If work has 3-5 authors, after first time then can use “et al.”
    - “…. (Mitchell et al., 2003).”

- Reference section
  - List of all references cited in paper
  - References in alphabetical order by first author’s last name
Reference in APA format


- Author last name, first initial (year). Title of article. *Name of Journal, volume*, page numbers.

- Use the references at the end of your article or at the end of your textbook as examples of APA style references.
Library research

- Use our reference librarians!
  - Come prepared with exactly what you are searching for & why
  - They can help you find the correct search terms & find article/book

- Publication process:
  - Write paper, submit to journal, peer-reviewed by experts, re-write paper, re-submit, accepted/rejected

- Journals
  - Table 2.1 (p32): list of journals by area
  - Journal impact score

- Types of papers
  - Journal article, book chapter, comment/reply, review, dissertation
  - Types of methodologies: case study, empirical, literature review, meta-analysis, clinical trial, longitudinal study