Feedback for PsycINFO on other platforms

From ACRL Evidence Synthesis SIG

Spring 2023

* We have PsycINFO on Proquest.  The challenge with complex searches on Proquest is that the truncation symbol doesn't work well so you have to write out all variations.  Less complex searches are fine using the truncation symbol.  The bulk export requires saving your search then doing the export, at least the way it is set up for us.  I find Ebscohost much easier as you have results emailed to you.

-- Heather MacDonald, Health and Biosciences Librarian, Carleton University Library

* We have PsycInfo in OVID.  I have used it for a couple SRs and like that has ADJ.  I haven't used this in another platform.

– Angela Spencer, Health Sciences Reference Librarian, St. Louis University

* I saw your post and wanted to share our experience. We used to only have PsycINFO on the ProQuest platform and hated it. We always ran into trouble trying to download large sets of results, although we did eventually get that settled. I’m also not a fan of the searching interface and functionality.

We eventually ran into so many problems that we bought a second subscription to PsycINFO through Ovid. Our main library wanted to keep PsycINFO through ProQuest, because they get a bunch of other databases from that vendor and it worked for them. We were fortunate enough to have the money in our budget for the Ovid version, which we got because we use Ovid for MEDLINE and Embase.

I’d really suggest, if it’s at all possible, to get a trial of PsycINFO through ProQuest and do some real searches on it to see if it works for you. It might, but as I say, we were not fans. I can see why you’d want to switch from EBSCO, however.

– Gary Atwood, Systematic Review Librarian, Dana Medical Library, University of Vermont

* We have both the Proquest and Ebsco platforms. I don't use it as often as I do some other databases, but I prefer the Ebsco, since the syntax is so similar to CINAHL, which I use all the time.  I think most of the problems with exporting big sets of results from Ebsco have been fixed.  The email you send yourself now arrives in a timely manner and I think we filled out a from with IT to make sure that they never get flagged as spam. I do find browsing and searching the subject terms to be a little bit of a challenge, but it's the same with Proquest.

--John Reynolds, Reference and Education Librarian, University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine, Calder Memorial Library

* Hi! I want to caution against choosing Proquest. My experience with exporting citations has been pretty horrific-- export limits, getting timed out, client-side deduplication that isn't communicated with the user so the total # of results doesn't = the # in the RIS file. Although, I will say that things have gotten a bit better recently. See: support.proquest.com/s/article/...

Even with improvements, I much prefer 1. Ovid and 2. EBSCO as platforms.

The Ovid platform allows for things to be condensed in a search. Examples below

Ovid

("street harassment" OR catcall\*).ti,ab,id

Ebsco

TI ("street harassment" OR catcall\*) OR AB ("street harassment" OR catcall\*) OR KW ("street harassment" OR catcall\*)

Proquest

TI("street harassment" OR catcall\*) OR AB("street harassment" OR catcall\*) OR KW("street harassment" OR catcall\*)

Also, Proquest can't handle many proximity operators whereas I've never hit a limit (yet) in Ovid and Ebsco.

Another consideration is the thesaurus layout. I find exploding subject headings to be a little more clean in Ovid.

When combining multiple lines with AND and OR in the search history panel, Proquest does weird things with the #ing scheme when you delete a line. It's hard to explain w/o a visual, but Ovid makes this editing process really easy which saves time when you're designing a search strategy.

Ovid is my favorite for exporting. You're able to download directly to your device instead of waiting for an email (Ebsco). The total #s that can be exported is a large #. I only remember having to split files a few times. Also, I think the total # permitted for export is negotiable at an e-resource management admin level w/ the rest of the settings options.

--Amy Riegelman, Social Sciences & Evidence Synthesis Librarian, University of Minnesota

* I also prefer exporting from the EBSCOhost platform than from ProQuest. PQ has made it very difficult to export large numbers of records...they want your institution to purchase their Text and Data Mining product for this.\* Meanwhile, exporting a large number of records from EBSCOhost is a snap (except that they took away the ability to add a subject line to the email that delivers your download link).

Jane @ Purdue

\*If for some reason you want to export every field in a ProQuest record, you can ONLY do it with a .txt export <grumblegrumble> Fortunately this is not so relevant to exporting records for a systematic review, because we usually just want citations & abstracts.

* I agree with the other responses. Overall, both EBSCO and OVID are easy to use and have reasonable exporting options. EBSCO actually has the largest export limit and I haven't had any issues with exporting from it recently.
  + Personally, I find the OVID interface the best to use and the most flexible in terms of functions and operators (frequency and limited truncation operators, not requiring quotation marks to prevent auto-lemmatization, etc.) and is the interface I learned search on and am most familiar with as well.
  + The EBSCO interface has its advantages (larger export limit, ability to search multiple databases and access multiple thesauri when doing so) and most of us use the EBSCO platform for other databases so there is familiarity there too.
  + The ProQuest interface seems to be the most finicky. I haven't used PsycInfo on ProQuest but I do search other databases on it, so I assume it isn't any different. The new bulk export feature from the My research page (which is only available for some databases on PQ) is better than the previous options, but there are other issues (length searches time out - or they used to, etc.).

I wouldn't switch from EBSCO to Proquest anytime soon.

* Zahra Premji, Health Research Librarian, University of Victoria Libraries
* Just a heads-up that the EBSCO interface feature for exporting citations for an entire results list has to be turned on in the admin portal, otherwise the only option is to add results to a folder in small batches (I think 50 at a time might be the limit?) and then export from the folder.  At least that was the case a few years ago when CSU discovered and turned on the feature, which was a life-changer for those doing evidence synthesis work! -- Jocelyn Boice Associate Professor / Collection and Data Analysis Librarian Collection Strategies Unit, Colorado State University Libraries