

# Finding Quantitative Research Articles

"Quantitative research is a systematic process used to gather and statistically analyze information that has been measured by an instrument. Instruments are used to convert information into numbers. It studies only quantifiable concepts (concepts that can be measured and turned into numbers)." It examines phenomenon through the numerical representation of observations and statistical analysis. Langford, R. (2000).

## Strategies for Finding Quantitative Research Articles

### General:

All research studies have a section called "Method" or "Methods". Try adding "Method\*" to your search. You should also limit to Research Articles and/or Peer-Reviewed Journals. At some point you will have to simply scan the abstracts to determine the study type, but the following strategies will make that process less labor-intensive.

### Strategy 1: Use thesaurus terms

Databases use controlled keywords (known as thesaurus terms or subject headings) to categorize each record stored. The thesaurus terms vary for each database according to their indexing system. The first keyword to try is, not surprisingly, "quantitative".

### Strategy 2: Use Text Words

This strategy uses Text Word terms that might specifically identify quantitative research and searches the titles, abstracts, and keywords of records held in the databases. Some Text Words (or keywords) include: Correlational design\*, Effect size, Empirical research, Experiment\*, Hypothesis, Quasi-experiment\*, Reliability, Sampl\*, Validity, Variables, Chi Square Test, Analysis of Variance, Confidence intervals, Statistic\*.

### Strategy 3: Limit publication types

Limit your results to publication types that are quantitative by definition. Look for things like Meta-analysis, Clinical Trial, Statistics, Tables/Charts, etc.