Finding the Evidence: 
Searching ABI/Inform Global and PsycINFO
MIR 850 Organizational Theory and Design

library.queensu.ca

Reference works:

See also the database Sage Research Methods Online for handbooks and guides to research methodologies.

Databases:
You can access article indexes and databases from the Research by Subject links – subject guides include Business, Industrial Relations and Psychology. or if you know the database name, use the Databases tab on the library homepage.

Key databases for finding relevant social science research in organizational behavior are ABI/Inform (business) and PsycINFO (psychology). Info about the quality of academic journals is found in Journal Citation Reports (JCR), part of the Social Sciences Citation Index/Web of Science.

General Search Tips:
Use the ‘Advanced Search’ boxes.
Search words or phrases that describe your concepts
Use the truncation symbol * to stem words
Link synonyms with ‘OR’. Narrow your search using ‘AND’.
Use the limiting features in each database to refine your results.
Keep an eye on the ‘Cited by,’ ‘Cited’ and ‘References’ links to look at similar and related research studies and to gauge the impact/quality of the article.
PsycINFO
Tips:
Select Methodology from the drop down box or ‘narrow results by’ after running your initial search.
Limit to Peer-Reviewed Journals on initial screen.
Look at your results:
Scan the Abstract for relevance.
Check the Index Terms to see if you’re using the recognized words or phrases in your search.
Use Term Finder –(thesaurus) for terminology help and ideas
Edit search and specify your search terms as index terms not ‘all fields’

ABI/INFORM Global
Tips:
Limit to Peer reviewed
Add the search words ‘studies’ or ‘analysis’ and specify as subject headings – to limit to scholarly quantitative and qualitative research articles
Scan the abstract and look at the Indexing (details) for other subject terms or phrases
Use the Preview icon
Modify search and try the different words and phrases

Search word examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PsycINFO</th>
<th>ABI/INFORM Global</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>group dynamics and monetary rewards</td>
<td>teams and compensation</td>
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<tr>
<td>organizational learning</td>
<td>organizational learning</td>
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<tr>
<td>job satisfaction</td>
<td>motivation and employees</td>
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<td>personality traits and job performance</td>
<td>workplace and behavior</td>
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<td>person environment and theor*</td>
<td>P-E fit and Empirical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>employee motivation</td>
<td>group dynamics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>family work relationship</td>
<td>work life balance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Journal Citation Reports – known as JCR, provides critical evaluation of Social Sciences journals based on citation data. JCR is part of the Web of Knowledge/Social Science Citation Index databases.

By sorting by Impact Factor you can determine which journals in a discipline are making the greatest contribution to the publishing history of an idea by measuring citation frequencies.
Citing Sources:

Citation and Style Guides
http://library.queensu.ca/help/cite-sources

Citation Management http://guides.library.queensu.ca/citation-management

All citation managers perform the same basic functions. However, some programs offer extended options such as opportunities to share information, the possibility of creating a personal profile, or collaboration tools that let you work with peers.

Consult the Library’s guide to Citation Managers for helpful information on managing your citations.

Getting Help

Research Help

I am available by appointment, email and phone:
Constance Adamson, Industrial Relations liaison librarian, adamsonc@queensu.ca
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