

Research or Empirical Research Studies

Some professors may want students to use only refereed articles that are "research studies" or "empirical research" (these are examples of primary sources). The author conducts an original study, not just a "review of the literature." Research studies generally include sections such as "methodology," "results," and "discussion." Several of the library's online databases enable search capabilities for research studies. And a careful reading of an article's abstract usually tells you whether it is a research study or not.

Let's look for a research study on Internet usage. We will use EBSCO's Academic Search Premier for this specific example. In the text box (red rectangle) we have typed in this search strategy:

Internet AND (use OR usage) AND research AND findings

This search strategy reads as:

find articles that include the words "Internet", "research" and "findings." We also want articles concerning use and usage, so we have included both with the Boolean search operator "OR."

Also, we have checked the box for "Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals" to limit our search to articles in scholarly journals only (red arrow).

The screenshot shows the EBSCO Research Databases search interface. At the top, there are navigation buttons for "Basic Search", "Advanced Search", "Visual Search", and "Choose Databases". Below these is a search bar with the query "Internet AND (use or usage) AND research AND findings" and a "Search" button. The search results are displayed under the "Refine Search" tab, with a "Limit your results:" section. This section contains three options: "Full Text" (unchecked), "References Available" (unchecked), and "Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals" (checked). A red arrow points to the checked box for "Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals".

EBSCO Research Databases

Basic Search | Advanced Search | Visual Search | Choose Databases

New Search | Keyword | Publications | Subject Terms | Cited Re

Find: Internet AND (use or usage) AND research AND findings Search

(Searching: Academic Search Premier)

Refine Search | Results

Limit your results:

Full Text	<input type="checkbox"/>
References Available	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Results of Executing the Search

The search has been executed, and this is a portion of the citations retrieved. Citation #212 "Internet use and stigmatized illness" looks interesting. To determine if it meets our needs for a research study, let's look at the abstract for this article by clicking on the title of the article (red arrow).

Results for: (Internet AND (use OR usage) AND research AN... [Add search to folder](#) [Display link to search](#) [Create alert for this search](#)

Find:

(Searching: Academic Search Premier)

[Limiters set](#) To store items added to the folder for a future session, [Sign In to My EBSCOhost](#).

[Refine Search](#) [Results](#)

All Results: 211-220 of 469 Page: [Previous](#) [21](#) [22](#) [23](#) [24](#) [25](#) [Next](#) Sort by:

See: All Results [Academic Journals](#)

Narrow Results by Subject INTERNET INTERNET in education RESEARCH INTERNET searching ONLINE information services WEB sites COMPUTER-assisted instruction	211. DEFINING THE SOUTH AFRICAN <i>INTERNET</i> 'ADDICT': PREVALENCE AND BIOGRAPHICAL PROFILING OF PROBLEMATIC <i>INTERNET</i> USERS IN SOUTH AFRICA . By: Thatcher, Andrew; Goolam, Shamira. South African Journal of Psychology, Nov2005, Vol. 35 Issue 4, p766-792, 27p; (AN 20786607) Cited References (37) PDF Full Text (3501K) Check Full-Text Search Engine Check Library Catalog
	212. Internet use and stigmatized illness . By: Berger, Magdalena; Wagner, Todd H.; Baker, Laurence C.. Social Science & Medicine, Oct2005, Vol. 61 Issue 8, p1821-1827, 7p; DOI: 10.1016/j.socscimed.2005.03.025; (AN 18157316) Cited References (33) Times Cited in this Database(2) Check Full-Text Search Engine Check Library Catalog

Reviewing the Abstract

This is the abstract for the article. The red underlined words in the abstract would lead the reader to conclude that this is, indeed, an original research study.

Abstract: Abstract: People with stigmatized illnesses often avoid seeking health care and education. The *internet* may be a useful health education and outreach tool for this group. This study examined patterns of *internet use* for health information among those with and without stigmatized illnesses. A national survey of *internet* users in the USA was conducted. Respondents who self-reported a stigmatized condition—defined as anxiety, depression, herpes, or urinary incontinence—were compared to respondents who reported having at least one other chronic illness, such as cancer, heart problems, diabetes, and back pain. The analytical sample consisted of 7014 respondents. Cross-sectional associations between stigmatized illness and frequency of *internet use* for information about health care, *use* of the *internet* for communication about health, changes in health care utilization after *internet use*, and satisfaction with the *internet* were determined. After controlling for a number of potential confounders, those with stigmatized illnesses were significantly more likely to have used the *internet* for health information, to have communicated with clinicians about their condition using the *internet*, and to have increased utilization of health care based on information found on the *internet*, than those with non-stigmatized conditions. Length of time spent online, frequency of *internet use*, satisfaction with health information found on the *internet*, and discussion of *internet findings* with health care providers did not significantly differ between the two groups. Results from this survey suggest that the *internet* may be a valuable health communication and education tool for populations who are affected by stigmatized illnesses. [Copyright 2005 Elsevier]