

Cedarville University has two **Cambridge Scientific Abstracts (CSA)** databases:

***Physical Education Index***

***Criminal Justice Abstracts***

## Searching CSA



The default search, **Quick Search**, gives one search box to enter search terms, and a "Search" button to search all parts of the records.

You can limit by date range with the options at the bottom of the screen. The possible limits are the last year, the last five years, the last ten years, or all available years.

If you want more information about the database, such as how often the database is updated or an explanation of its codes, click on the "?" icon by "Now Selected."

You can also search using the **Advanced Search**, which provides three sets of search boxes. You can use the links in the upper right to add or remove rows.

The boxes on each row are joined with OR. Rows are joined by AND, but can be joined with Boolean operators AND, OR, or NOT. Enter your search terms, select your Boolean operators and click the "Search" button.

The bottom of the screen provides options such as limiting your search by year and display choices.





The **Results** page has two upper tabs – “Published Works” and “Web Sites” – and several lower tabs, which vary by the results, such as “All Publication Types,” “Journals,” “Peer-Reviewed Journals,” “Conferences,” and “Books.”

Click on either the citation title of an item or "View Record" for the full record. Click on the "Find It" icon to see if the article is available electronically or if the Centennial Library has the article in the Current, Bound, or MFM collection. From an item's record, you can click

on the descriptors to perform a new search.

The "Search Tools" tab has many advanced features:

- View your "Search History" and use it to combine searches.
- Set up an Alert and CSA will send an email as new research becomes available.
- Use the "Thesaurus" tab to identify terms the database uses as descriptors.
- Search by journal name using the "Journal Name Index."

## Searching Hints

- Search for one idea at a time by using multiple synonyms or phrases. Join the ideas later by going to "Search Tools" tab and using the Combined Searches feature.
- To combine searches, click on the “Combine Searches” page and enter the number sign and number of each search you wish to combine.  
Example: type in #1 AND 2.
- Use the wildcard “\*” in place of any number of letters. For example, searching for “comput\*” would find items on “computer,” “computers,” “computing,” “computation,” etc.
- On your results list, click the box you want to use, then click "Update Marked List" in the middle of the page to save your selections.
- Click on "Save, Print, or Email" to use your marked selections. From there, you can also create the citation for a bibliography or export them into RefWorks.
- If you have any questions about CSA, please contact a reference librarian at 766-7850 or refer@cedarville.edu, or see the CSA tutorial at [www.csa.com/tutorials/quicksearch.html](http://www.csa.com/tutorials/quicksearch.html)