Finding articles in Linguistics and Language Behavior Abstracts

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1. Think about your topic

- Create a mind-map or a visual representation of your topic.
- Try to add as much detail as possible.
- Ask yourself questions about your topic, e.g. are you searching for sources about a particular country or do you have a particular age-group in mind?
- Think about how the different parts of your mind-map relate to each other.
What is a good search term?

- The database can’t read your mind.
- It’s important to think of different ways of describing your topic as researchers may be using different terms when they write about an area.

Something the database recognises!
Creating search terms

- Distinguish between broad and narrow terms, for example, ‘language change’ is a broad term but ‘phonetic change’ refers to one aspect of language change.
- Try to think of similar terms, e.g. ‘language change’ and ‘language variation’ are similar.
- Are there regional variations in vocabulary or ways of describing concepts that you need to think about?
Don’t try to search for all the parts of your topic at the same time, e.g. if your topic is: *The ways in which learning standards affect teaching of languages other than English in Victorian schools*, you may find useful information in sources which discuss any of these topics:

- Language teaching in Australian schools
- French language classes in a Melbourne school
- General discussions of the relationship between policy and education in Victoria
- Transition to AusVELS
- Assessment of levels of attainment
You can find a list of all the Linguistics databases on the Linguistics library guide:

http://guides.lib.monash.edu/linguistics

Linguistics: Databases

This guide will introduce you to the systematic study of language in general.

Linguistics and language behavior abstracts is the most important database for Linguistics research.

Below are other databases that might be useful. Hover over each database title to receive more information about it.

- APA-FT - Australian Public Affairs - full text
- APAIS : Australian public affairs information service.
- BERITA : Malaysia/Singapore/Brunei/ASEAN database.
- British humanities index : BHI.
- Dissertations online
If you know the name of the database you can type it into the search box in my.monash

or on the Library home page
Click on the View it tab and then click on the link inside the tab.
Click on Advanced search
Linguistics and Language Behavior Abstracts

Advanced Search features:
- Use one concept in each box.
- AND/OR combination for search.
- Option to limit to peer-reviewed articles.
- Publication date filter:
  - All dates
  - Specific date range

Search tips:
- Anywhere except full text searches the full bibliographic record, e.g., title, abstract, subject terms, key words.

Additional search options:
- Source type:
  - Select all
  - Books
  - Conference Papers & Proceedings
  - Dissertations & Theses
  - Scholarly Journals

- Document type:
  - Select all
  - Back Matter
  - Book
  - Book Chapter
  - Book Review
  - Commentary
  - Conference
  - Conference Paper

- Language:
  - Select all
    - Afrikaans
    - Albanian
    - Arabic
    - Aragonese
    - Asturian
    - Austronesian languages
    - Azerbaijani
If you use “quotation marks” to indicate a phrase, your search will be more precise.