

Comprehensive database of drug discrimination and self- administration research

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Major Aim

- To establish a bibliographic database of drug self-administration and drug discrimination research
- Initially a drug discrimination database was created
- Subsequently the topic of drug self-administration was added

Drug Discrimination Database

- The previously established database of drug discrimination research has been updated regularly to include all citations for up to the year 2009, with some from 2010.
- This database includes over 4,150 publications, beginning in 1951.
- A large proportion of the studies in the drug discrimination area are directly relevant to drug abuse, and the remainder are indirectly relevant because of methodological similarities.
- All of these publications are fully indexed with our specially developed keywords.

Drug Self-administration Database

- This new database has been established with the inclusion of over 6,000 publications from 1940 onwards. It is complete up to the year 2009.
- The previous (incomplete) database maintained by Dr Meisch has been merged with the database generated from PubMed by Dr Tsibulsky using his unique search algorithm, and the resulting product has been incorporated in the website.
- The system of keywords has been expanded to include a large number of new terms relevant to drug self-administration but not applicable to the drug discrimination area; other terms used in the drug discrimination database have been adjusted so as to harmonize with those appropriate for self-administration.

Key Words in Drug Self-Administration

- The task of adding our special keywords to the self-administration references has not yet been completed because it has taken more time than anticipated.
- However the database has been updated regularly by addition of new publications and keywords.
- All publications in the database are relevant to problems of drug abuse.

Data Entered

- The data entered into the files include not only the standard bibliographic details but also an unusually large number of key-words enabling particularly selective and comprehensive searches to be implemented easily.
- All citations are, therefore, read and studied in detail.
- This work has entailed the manual searching of key journals and books, searches of the PubMed and PsychInfo databases, and enquiries to laboratories currently active in the field.

Website

- The new website for the combined databases for drug discrimination and drug self-administration, is located at www.drugrefs.org, was launched in July 2009.
- Users of the site have the option to search either for publications on drug self-administration, or for publications on drug discrimination, or for publications using either technique.