# The use of virtual reality in studying prejudice and its reduction: a systematic review – Database search strategy

Controlled vocabulary terms have been used for database searches. We selected the search terms through the *PsycINFO Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms*.
The terms selection process initially resulted in 14 controlled vocabulary terms, of which 7 are related to virtual reality, and the remaining 7 to intergroup attitudes.

The searches were re-run with updated terms on 10.01.2022 following reviewers' comments. We removed duplicates between the old and new search using the method proposed by Bramer & Bain (2017) https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5490709/ which resulted in 1873 additional hits from the 2021 search to the 2022 search.

Below are listed the database-specific strings used and the dates of entry.

## **Web of Science**

*search string 1 (searched 07/01/2021):*
((TS = ((Vr OR virtual reality OR immersive virtual environment OR simulation-based assessment OR virtual reality exposure therapy OR virtual OR augmented reality)  AND  (intergroup relations OR ingroup outgroup OR prejudice OR discriminat* OR bias OR stereotyp* OR stigma*)  )))

6356 citations retrieved.

*search string 2 searched (10/01/2022):*

((TS = ((Vr OR virtual reality OR immersive virtual environment OR simulation-based assessment OR virtual reality exposure therapy OR virtual OR augmented reality)

AND

(intergroup relations OR ingroup outgroup OR prejudice OR discriminat* OR bias OR stereotyp* OR stigma* OR intergroup attitude* OR outgroup attitude*)

)))

7380 citations retrieved.

## **Scopus**

*search string 1 (searched 07/01/2021):*
TITLE-ABS-KEY ( ( *vr* OR *"virtual reality"* OR *"immersive virtual environment"* OR *"simulation-based assessment"* OR *"virtual reality exposure therapy"* OR *virtual* OR *"augmented reality"* ) AND ( *"intergroup relations"* OR *"ingroup outgroup"* OR *prejudice* OR *discriminat** OR *bias* OR *stereotyp** OR *stigma** ) ) AND ( LIMIT-TO ( LANGUAGE , *"English"* ) OR  LIMIT-TO ( LANGUAGE , *"German"* ) OR  LIMIT-TO ( LANGUAGE , *"Italian"* ) )

7070 citations retrieved.

*search string 2 searched (10/01/2022):*
TITLE-ABS-KEY ( ( vr  OR  "virtual reality"  OR  "immersive virtual environment"  OR  "simulation-based assessment"  OR  "virtual reality exposure therapy"  OR  virtual  OR  "augmented reality" )  AND  ( "intergroup relations"  OR  "ingroup outgroup"  OR  prejudice  OR  discriminat*  OR  bias  OR  stereotyp*  OR  stigma*  OR  "intergroup attitude*"  OR  "outgroup attitude*" ) )  AND  ( LIMIT-TO ( LANGUAGE ,  "English" )  OR  LIMIT-TO ( LANGUAGE ,  "German" )  OR  LIMIT-TO ( LANGUAGE ,  "Italian" ) )

8027 citations retrieved.


## Psycinfo

*search string 1 (searched 07/01/2021):*
((Vr or "virtual reality" or "immersive virtual environment" or "simulation-based assessment" or "virtual reality exposure therapy" or virtual or "augmented reality") and ("intergroup relations" or "ingroup outgroup" or prejudice or discriminat* or bias or stereotyp* or stigm*)).mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading word, table of contents, key concepts, original title, tests & measures, mesh]

1376 citations retrieved.

*search string 2 searched (10/01/2022):*
((Vr or "virtual reality" or "immersive virtual environment" or "simulation-based assessment" or "virtual reality exposure therapy" or virtual or "augmented reality") and ("intergroup relations" or "ingroup outgroup" or prejudice or discriminat* or bias or stereotyp* or stigm* or "intergroup attitude*" or "outgroup attitude*")).mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading word, table of contents, key concepts, original title, tests & measures, mesh word]

1559 citations retrieved.