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The Effects of Visual Field Size on Search Performance

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Oral Presentation 1.3

**THE EFFECTS OF VISUAL FIELD SIZE
ON SEARCH PERFORMANCE**

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In the fields of both cognitive development and cognitive aging, similar patterns of performance on selective attention tasks have been found between children and older adults. Presently, there exist few studies of selective attention across the lifespan; a 1995 study by Shapiro, Shapiro, Cointin, and Forbes addressed this absence through investigating search performance in a cross-sectional, life-span study. In the Shapiro et al. study, a compelling pattern of performance was found: in conjunction conditions, which require serial searches, older adults' performance differed significantly from the younger adults' performance across increasing display size only in target absent trials. The present study attempted to determine whether such differences arise from perseverative behavior, an indicator of cognitive aging, or merely from physiological slowing. Participants responded to the presence or absence of targets within conjunction arrays of varying field and display sizes. The results of this research will be presented at the conference.