

Searching Techniques

Boolean operators allow you to create a very broad or very narrow search.

- The **AND** operator combines search terms so that *each* result contains *all* of the terms. For example, type **electronic and resources** to find articles that contain both words.
- The **OR** operator combines terms so that *each* result contains *at least one* of the terms. For example, type **college or university** to find articles that contain either word.
- The **NOT** operator excludes search terms so that each result does *not* contain the terms that follow it. For example, type **computers not apple** to find articles that contain **computers**, but not **apple**.

The Result List Screen has three columns—Narrow your results, All Results, and Limit your results. You can hide or show the different areas by clicking the control arrows near the top of your results. Your library administrator decides whether the subject clusters (Narrow your results area) displays.

Narrow your results – You can narrow by source type, subject, journal, author, and more. This feature, also known as “clustering,” is helpful if you want to discover the major subject groups for your topic without having to browse multiple pages of results, or checking individual articles to see if they are relevant.

To narrow your results, click a hyperlinked term in the "Narrow your results" column. A new Result List, limited to the chosen term is displayed and a new list of terms appears in the left-hand column.

All Results – The **articles** that were found display in the center of the Result List Screen.

Results List

The screenshot shows the EBSCOhost search results interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Sign In to My EBSCOhost', 'Folder', 'New Features!', 'ASK A LIBRARIAN', and 'Help'. Below that, the search criteria are displayed: 'american history' with several dropdown menus for field selection. The main results area shows 'All Results: 1-10 of 27092' and a list of search results. The first result is 'Knowledge of Levathan' by Bouk, Dan; Burnett, D. Graham, from the 'Journal of the Early Republic'. The second result is 'EDITOR'S PAGE' from the same journal. On the left, there's a 'Narrow Results by' sidebar with categories like Source Types, Academic Journals, Magazines, Newspapers, Books/Monographs, and Subject. On the right, there's a 'Limit your results' sidebar with options for Full Text, References Available, and a date range filter from 1855 to 2008.

Would you like assistance while searching within EBSCOhost Research Databases?

Use the 'Ask-A-Librarian' feature located next to the 'Help' link at the top, right of the main search screen. This feature will send a direct email to a Wilmington University Librarian with any questions you may have.

This screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the EBSCOhost search page. The 'ASK A LIBRARIAN' link is circled in red, indicating its location relative to the 'Help' link.

More information on EBSCOhost 2.0 is available at <http://support.ebsco.com/ebscohost2/>

More helpful QuickGuides are available from the Library website
www.wilmu.edu/library

For further information, please call
1-800-451-5724



Robert C. & Dorothy M. Peoples Library

We Help You Learn

This screenshot shows the EBSCOhost search page with the 'ASK A LIBRARIAN' link highlighted in red, similar to the previous screenshot.

EBSCOhost Search Guide



www.wilmu.edu/library

1-800-451-5724

EBSCOhost Search Guide

What is EBSCOhost?

EBSCOhost is a suite of research databases accessible from anywhere on the web at any time of the day or night. From off campus, simply log in to *WebCampus* and select 'Library Databases' from the Research category on the main menu. Both multidisciplinary and subject-specific resources are available for your research.

Creating a Basic Search

1. On the basic search screen, enter your search terms in the search box.
2. Choose your **Search Options**:
 - Boolean/Phrase
 - Find all my search terms
 - Find any of my search terms
 - SmartText Searching

Limit Your Results:

- **Full Text** - limits search results to full text articles.
 - **References Available** - limits search results to articles that have references available.
 - **Scholarly Journals** - limits search results to articles that have been peer reviewed.
 - **Published Date** - limits search results to articles published between certain dates.
 - **Publication** - limits search results to articles from a specific journal/magazine title.
3. Click the **Search** button.

Creating an Advanced Search (default)

1. In the first **search** box, enter a keyword.
2. Choose the Select a Field from the drop-down list (e.g., search for only the **Title** or **Author**).
3. Repeat steps **1** and **2** for the second set of **search** boxes.
4. Select a Boolean operator (**AND, OR, NOT**) to combine the two **search box** entries.
5. You can enter another Boolean operator, keyword, and search field in the third set of boxes.
6. Choose any **Search Options or Limiters**, just as in #2 of the basic search.
7. Click the **Search** button.

The screenshot shows the EBSCOhost search interface. At the top, there are navigation links: Keyword, Publications, Subject Terms, Cited References, More, and Sign In to My EBSCOhost. The search bar contains the text 'american history'. Below the search bar, there are three search boxes with dropdown menus for selecting fields. The 'Search Options' section is expanded, showing search modes: Boolean/Phrase (selected), Find all my search terms, Find any of my search terms, and SmartText Searching. There are also checkboxes for 'Apply related words' and 'Also search within the full text of the articles'. The 'Limit your results' section includes checkboxes for Full Text, Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals, and Publication. There are also fields for 'References Available', 'Published Date from' (Month, Year, to Month, Year), and 'Publication Type' (All, Periodical, Newspaper, Book).

More detailed help with searching EBSCOhost research databases is available from the main search screen. The "Help" link is located in the far top, right-hand corner of the page. This will open a new screen with additional information on searching within EBSCOhost.



Creating a Visual Search

Visual Search is a new and innovative way to search EBSCOhost. Your results are sorted by topic in an interactive, visual map. You can switch between Result List styles at any time by selecting either Block style or Column style from the Display Style menu.

The screenshot shows the EBSCOhost search interface with the 'Visual Search' link circled in red. The search results are displayed in a columnar format. The results are organized into three columns: NONFICTION, HISTORY, and REVIEWS. Each column contains a list of search results, including titles like 'UNITED States -- History', 'CIVIL War, 1861-1865', 'REVOLUTION, 1775-1783', 'WEST Virginia', 'NATURAL history', and 'TECHNOLOGICAL innovations'. The 'Visual Search' link is circled in red, and an arrow points to it from the text above.

1. Click the **Visual Search** link, and then enter your search terms in the **Find** field.
2. If you want to use any of the optional Limiters or Expanders, click the **Search Options** link. You can use a specific **search mode**, such as "Find all of my search terms," or "SmartText Searching"; apply **Limiters** such as Full Text or Publication type; or use search options that expand your search, such as "Apply related words."
3. To close the **Search Options**, click the link again.
4. Click **Search**. Your search results are displayed in columns. To follow a path, click on the subject (or publication) name. Your results are narrowed even further.