

OHSU Library - Catalog Searching Tips

| | | EXAMPLES |
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| AUTHOR SEARCHING | | |
| AUTHOR | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Type last name first. If you know the first name type that or the initial in as well. You may also type the name of an organization or governmental body. If you type the name in directly, such as "Peter Kohler" and nothing is found, you will be asked if you want to reverse the names and search again. Try searching variant forms for names beginning with De, De La, Von, etc. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sabiston kohler peter smith j Oregon Health & Science University |
| AUTHOR/TITLE SEARCHING | | |
| AUTHOR/TITLE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you know the author and at least part of the title, you can use this. You must have the author's last name, but you can use any word from the title. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> hellier <i>and</i> dentist retrieves the book <i>Disease, Drugs and the Dentist</i> by Hope and Hellier |
| TITLE SEARCHING | | |
| TITLE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The order of the title words must be exact. The first few words of the title is usually enough. Initial words (a, the) are ignored. Check alternative spellings, e.g. pediatrics, paediatrics. You can search for journal titles here but using the Journal Title search automatically limits your search to journals. Add a vertical bar () after a title to retrieve only that title. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> understanding cancer pediatrics paediatrics biochemistry |
| JOURNAL SEARCHING | | |
| JOURNAL | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you type in the entire title, you must type all the words, other than the initial words "a", "the", etc. You can type in the first few words of the title to get a list of journals. You can type in the NLM title | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> academic emergency medicine journal of the american |

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| | <p>abbreviation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the library also has the electronic version of the journal, you can often link directly to that journal. • Click on "Latest Received" to see the issues the have been recently received. • Using this feature automatically eliminates books from the results. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acad emerg med |
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See other side for more search tips

SUBJECT SEARCHING

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| SUBJECT | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The order of words matters. • MeSH headings cannot be "exploded" in the catalog the way they can be in MEDLINE, so make sure you are using the most specific MeSH term. • If you don't know the exact subject heading, do a keyword search with the term limited to the subject field, or click on the subject headings in a specific record to get other items with the heading. • Sometimes using keywords will retrieve more items when a subject search does not produce many items. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • neoplasms nerve tissue <i>not</i> nerve tissue neoplasms • acne <i>not</i> skin diseases • neoplasms <i>not</i> cancer |
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KEYWORD SEARCHING

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| ADJACENCY | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The order of words matters. • Multiple words are searched together as one phrase. • For different results, use and between each word or phrase. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hay fever • oregon and hospital • electronic journal and brain |
| TRUNCATION | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Words may be internally or right-hand truncated using an asterisk *. • Use double asterisks ** for more than 5 characters. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wom*n and physician* • immun** and acquired |
| BOOLEAN OPERATORS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use and or or to specify multiple words in any field, any order. • Use and not to exclude words. • Use parentheses to group words when using multiple operators. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cancer or neoplasm* • (oregon or washington) or (portland and not maine) |
| PROXIMITY | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use near to specify words close to each other, in any order. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • oregon near institute |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use <i>within #</i> to specify words within a set range of each other. Symbol # may stand for any number. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • multnomah within 5 hospital |
| <p>FIELDS</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specify fields to search, using field abbreviation. • Fields available for this database are <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a: (author) ○ t: (title) ○ s: (subject) ○ n: (note.) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a:fletcher and t:morals • a:astley and a:hellier • s:oregon and (t:moral* or s:ethics) |