

Advanced Keyword Search – UA Library Catalog

Results display (default sorting)

Keyword search results are sorted by the publication **date** of the book or other item retrieved (most recent first). Look on the search page next to “Search and Sort” to change this to either **relevance** or **title**.

Wildcards & Truncation

*	* (asterisk) matches up to five non-space characters, starting at the specified position in the word. The '*' wildcard may only appear after at least two characters.	inter* finds "interval" and "interstate", but not "international" behavi*r finds both “behavior” and “behaviour” *national does not find anything at all
**	Use a double asterisk (**) to search for an unlimited number of characters at the end or middle of a word. This can also be used instead of a keyword to find <i>all</i> items limited to a particular format, language, location, etc. (See p. 4: Limiting Searches)	intern** finds “internal“, "internet", "international", etc.
?	? replaces a single character within a word. The question mark must be preceded by at least three characters.	wom?n finds woman or women

Phrase searching

In the Keyword search, multiple words together are automatically searched as an exact phrase. If any records containing that phrase are present they will be retrieved, **but not** records that contain all of the words in a different order.

For example, searching the phrase “Tucson Arizona map” retrieves only one record where these three words appear together as a phrase:

The University of Arizona, **Tucson, Arizona map** & visitor's guide, 1990-1991 / Student Publications, University of Arizona.

However, searching “Tucson Arizona AND map” retrieves over 130 records, or searching “Tucson AND arizona AND map” retrieves over 300 records.

If a phrase entered **is not present at all**, the system will automatically supply “and” between each word. For example, searching the phrase “Tucson city map” retrieved no records as a phrase, so the search was automatically changed to “Tucson and city and map” where it retrieved over 80 records. If the search has been changed by the system, there will be an indication of this above the search results:

*Your search query has been changed... Tried: ((tucson city map)) no results found... Tried: ((tucson and city and map))
81 results found. sorted by date.*

Phrases containing Boolean or proximity operators (AND, OR, AND NOT, NEAR, AFTER, BEFORE, WITHIN)

If you want to include the words **AND, OR, AND NOT, NEAR, AFTER, BEFORE** or **WITHIN** as part of your search, you must enclose these words (or the entire phrase) in quotation marks to force the system to search them as normal words, and not to function as operators between words. For example, a search on:

Sex and the city – retrieves over 140 records; in most cases, the words do not appear together because the “and” functions as an operator and causes the system to search for any records containing “sex” and “the city” but not necessarily together. One of results contains a contents note where these words appear as “Indoor life : **sex**, symposia, and sandals -- **The city** at work –“

However,

Sex “and” the city (or “*sex and the city*”) – retrieves 24 records, only those where this exact phrase occurs.

Agony and the ecstasy - retrieves 19 records, including the following title in a contents note: **the ecstasy** of **the** flight, **the agony** of **the** fall

However,

agony “and” the ecstasy (or “*agony and the ecstasy*”) – retrieves only 9 records, where this exact phrase occurs.

near east – retrieves no records.

However,

“near” east (or “*near east*”) – retrieves almost 1000 records.

Multiple word (non-phrase) searching

Available Boolean operators are: AND, OR, AND NOT

Available proximity operators are: AFTER, BEFORE, NEAR, WITHIN # (number of words)

Boolean operators	<p>Words can be connected to either narrow or broaden a search by using <i>and</i>, <i>and not</i> or <i>or</i>. Word order does not matter when using "<i>and</i>" or "<i>or</i>".</p> <p>If using both <i>and</i> and <i>or</i>, put each group of related terms on their own line of the form, writing "and" or "or" between each word.</p>	
AND	<i>And</i> narrows a search by requiring that both words be found. Word order does not matter.	guggenheim and bilbao will find both "Museo Guggenheim Bilbao" and "Guggenheim Museum Bilbao".
AND NOT	<i>And not</i> excludes words from search results.	cell and not phone will find records with the word "cell" only if they do not include the word "phone".
OR	<i>Or</i> broadens a search by looking for any of the words entered. Word order does not matter.	penguins or puffins (k-6 or primary) and teaching will find records with either "k-6" and "teaching" or "primary" and "teaching".
Proximity Operators	Some words allow you to specify how far apart words can occur and the order of the words. Words that determine proximity include <i>after</i> , <i>before</i> , <i>near</i> and <i>within</i> .	
NEAR	<i>Near</i> retrieves records that contain the specified words within ten (10) of each other. Word order does not matter.	tohoku near mathematics finds records where "tohoku" and "mathematics" are within 10 words of each other.
WITHIN #	Use <i>within #</i> to specify the maximum number of words that may appear between the specified words. The value of # has no limit. Word order does not matter. (WITHIN 10 and NEAR are equivalent.)	oil within 5 middle east finds records where "oil" and "middle east" are within 5 words of each other; for example, "Middle East oil and gas" and "Iran oil: the new Middle East challenge to America".
AFTER	<i>After</i> retrieves records where the second word entered must appear after the first word entered.	
BEFORE	<i>Before</i> retrieves records where the first word entered must appear before the second word entered.	

Searching Specific Fields

<p>Search fields</p> <p>Using field limits searches for words only in specific parts of the citation. Use the drop down menus to select the field on the catalog homepage.</p> <p>From a single search box on a results screen (with Keyword selected), type in the field name or abbreviation shown in parentheses below, followed by a colon(":").</p> <p>The following field limits are supported:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"> Author (a or au) Title (t or ti) Subject (s or su) Note (n or no) </p>	<p>author:copland</p> <p>title:appalachian spring</p> <p>author:spielberg and note:williams finds items with "spielberg" as an author and "williams" in a note.</p> <p>t:tucson and s:maps finds items with "Tucson" in the title and "maps" in a subject heading.</p>
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Limiting Searches

<p>You may search a sub-collection: Electronic resources, All Journals, Law Library, Arizona Health Sciences Library, AHSL+Science-Eng. Library, Fine Arts+CCP Libraries. (The last four location-based sub-collections also include electronic resources.)</p> <p>You may also limit by language, location, format, publisher or year of publication by using the boxes below "Limit to:".</p> <p>To find <i>all materials</i> that match a limit criteria, use a double asterisk (**) by itself in the first search box, then choose one or more limit options.</p>	<p>jazz, with Location set to Fine Arts Library, Format set to "VIDEO/FILM" and "2001" in the Year After field, finds videos published after 2001 that have the word "jazz" in the record and are located in the Fine Arts Library.</p> <p>** searched with "View Law Library" and "SPOKEN RECORD" in the Format menu finds all spoken recordings in the Law Library.</p> <p>** searched with "Spanish" in the Language menu and "VIDEO/FILM" in the Format finds all Spanish-language films and videos</p>
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Non-Alpha-numeric Character Searching

The following are searchable characters. Also, **&** is interchangeable with **"and"** in a search.

@	"at" sign	\$	Dollar sign	%	Percent sign	#	Pound sign	&	Ampersand (= "and")
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The system converts the following punctuation characters to a SPACE in the search expression:

:	Colon	.	Period	_	Underscore	\	Backslash	=	Equals sign
/	Forward slash	;	Semicolon	,	Comma	^	Caret	`	Backtick

Thanks to [University of Oregon Library](#), from which I borrowed material.