

# WorldCat Discovery search fundamentals

## Basic and Expert Searches

- By default, a basic search is a “keyword” search. Enter a term in the search box and press “enter” on your keyboard or use the search button to execute that search.
- An expert search may include index labels and Boolean operators. This search may be executed in any search box, such as the basic search box or the Advanced Search screen.
  - With index labels, it is important to use these with all the search terms; otherwise those terms without index labels will be treated as keyword (**kw:**) searches.
- Capitalize the Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT) when using them in a search. Search terms with Boolean operators are processed in left to right order.
- Author names are hot linked on search results, in the Item Detail and under Editions & Formats. Click the author’s name to execute an author phrase search (**au=**).

## Basic and Expert Search Examples

- Boolean operators and Wildcards:
  - AND example: **transportation AND highway#**
  - OR example: **photograph# OR painting#**
  - NOT example: **kingsolver NOT vegetable**
  - Wildcard and Truncation example: **art architectur? gre\***
- Author index: thubron AND title index: shadow silk road
  - **au:thubron AND ti:shadow silk road**
- Subject index: reading comprehension NOT subject index: literacy
  - **su:reading comprehension NOT su:literacy**
- Keyword index: archaeology AND Keyword index: north america\* OR Keyword index: united states
  - **kw:arch?ology AND kw:north america OR kw:united states**

## Approximate term queries

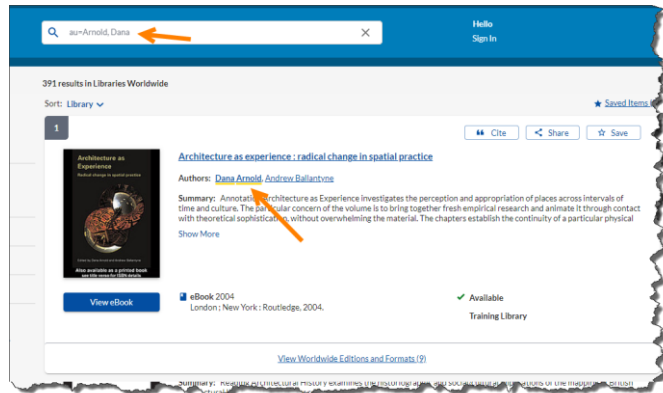
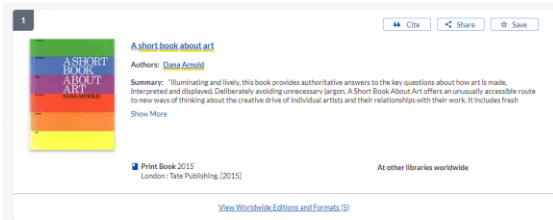
- Approximate term queries use these operators: asterisk, question mark and pound sign.
  - **Truncation:** Enter a minimum of the first three characters followed by an asterisk (\*).
  - **Wildcards:** Use the pound sign (#) to represent a single character.
    - Use the question mark (?) to represent zero to 9 characters within a term.
- Plurals (e.g. "giraffe+") are not available. They are replaced by stemming.
- *With Stemming*, each term in a query is treated as a logical OR of the various word forms of the term, so that all records that contain any form of the term are included in the result set. The search term, **ball**, would be treated like, **ball OR balls OR balled OR balling**.
- Consult *Searching WorldCat Indexes* for more information about [stemming](#).
- Proximity (aka Adjacency) operators ("with," "w," "near," and "n") are not available in WorldCat Discovery. The words "with" and "near" can be searched if surrounded by quotations or in an unbounded phrase search.

## Search Results & Sort Options

- Use filters to refine search results. Default filter labels are: Format, Libraries, Databases, Author, Content, Year, Language and Topics. These filter labels may be customized and re/ordered in the Service Configuration based on library preferences. Refer to [Search Filter Settings](#) for details.
- Once filters are selected, they can be reapplied to preserve the search context in a single session without having to manually select them again. To do this, check the box to "Retain filters" that appears with the selected filters at the top of the left navigation bar. Then, add terms to your initial search or begin a new search. The selected filters are applied to the next set of results that display.
- Search results are sorted by **Library** as the default. The sort order can be changed on individual results by choosing another option from the list presented. A new default sort can be set in [Search Settings](#) in the Service Configuration.
- **Library** considers individual library holdings first and then blends Title, Author, Date and Worldwide Holdings when determining order for search results.
- **Best Match** blends Title, Author, Date and Worldwide Holdings when determining search results. The emphasis is placed on title.
- **Recency** blends Date, Title, Author and Worldwide Holdings when determining search results. The emphasis is placed on date.

## Search Author with link

In a search result entry, you can perform a search for additional works by an author by clicking that author's name. A search is performed in the author phrase index (au=) using last name, first name order. The search returns other items by this selected author.



## Advanced Search

Click Advanced Search below the search bar in your interface to open this screen. Here you can enter search terms in multiple search boxes, select other databases to search and choose indexes from lists presented and based on selected databases.

The process includes:

- Select database or database group to search,
- Select indexes from drop-down lists for guided searching,
- Enter search terms,
- Select Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT) between search terms,
- Use limits to expand or focus search before it is performed.

## Advanced search indexes and limits

Indexes related to all the databases being searched and the most used WorldCat indexes are available for guided searching from the drop/down lists. Phrase indexes are included and labeled as such.

Phrase indexes search for every word from left to right in order. For a title phrase, exclude the initial articles, A, AN, THE, and their equivalents in other languages. Include all other words or truncate the phrase with the asterisk (\*). With an author phrase search, enter the name in inverted order.

Filter limits for Year and Library (Libraries Worldwide, etc.) are always available.

Other filter limits vary based on the databases selected to search. The labels for these filters may be customized, and if they are, the customized labels appear here as well as with the search results.

The default filters include:

- Format = material / document type (as represented in WorldCat.org)
- Language = language of the resource
- Audience = Juvenile or not-juvenile
- Content = further refines material types, (fiction/non-fiction; thesis/dissertation; biography)

## Transition from basic to advanced search

Search terms entered in the basic search box can be transferred to the advanced search screen by clicking the Advanced Search link in the banner. These terms are carried over to the Search Term field on the Advanced Search screen with the default keyword index identified.

Search terms on basic search screen can be transitioned to...



the advanced search screen with search index identified.

## Advanced Search

Search Index	Search Term
Keyword	supply chain management

Additional search parameters, indexes and limits can then be added to this query.

## Advanced Search Examples

- Author phrase index: patchett, ann AND title phrase index: bel canto
  - **au=patchett, ann AND ti=bel canto**
- Subject index: social work NOT subject index: social services
  - **su:social work NOT su:social services**
- Keyword index: physical geography AND subject index: ocean\* OR subject index: sea levels
  - **kw:physical geography AND su:ocean\* OR su:sea levels**

The screenshot shows the advanced search interface with three search rows:

Operator	Search Index	Search Term
	Keyword	physical geography
AND	Subject	ocean*
OR	Subject	sea levels

Buttons: Add row, Clear, Search

**Databases** 3 Selected  
Save Changes Reset

**Searching Databases** 3 Selected

- Applied Science & Technology Abstracts  
Wide variety of applied science specialties -- acoustics to aeronautics, neural networks to nuclear engineering  
Requires authentication to view results.
- GPO Monthly Catalog  
U.S. government publications
- WorldCat.org  
OCLC catalog of books, articles, and other materials in libraries worldwide

## Select other databases to search

- The default database configured in WorldCat Discovery is **WorldCat.org**. This database includes the bibliographic information from WorldCat as well as citations from authoritative e-content collections. Configure other databases to search from the Advanced search screen in the Service Configuration under [Metasearch content](#).
- Open **All Databases** for a list of available databases. Click the arrow to expand the list:
  - Click “Select all in Group” to mark all presented databases,
  - Click again to remove all marks.
  - Select specific databases to search,
  - Click Save Changes to save the selected databases for the search session.

## Search remote databases (if applicable)

- This feature is available to libraries using WorldShare Management Services (WMS), WorldCat Discovery (premium), and WorldCat Local subscriptions, and libraries that purchased the former remote database search option.
- Searching remote databases does not impact timing or completeness of search results.
- Remote database search results display under Additional databases on the bottom part of the screen. Click the arrow in upper left to collapse this display. A floating button displays on right which may be used to re/open this display at any time.
- Click the database name to navigate to that database's interface. Authentication is required.

The screenshot shows a search interface with a 'Databases' section on the left. Under 'Databases', there is a link to 'Advanced Search' and a note: 'Change default options list on Advanced Search. Selecting a database alters your filter options.' Below this are several checkboxes for database filters: 'WorldCat (6.8K)', 'ERIC (22)', 'ArticleFirst (12)', and 'GPO Monthly Catalog (3)'. There is also a 'Content Type' section. To the right, there is a 'View eBook' button and a search result for 'Urban economics' (eBook ©2008, Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Press, ©2008). Below this is a link to 'View Worldwide Editions and Formats'. A second search result is partially visible, titled 'New Urban Development' by Claude Gruen.

The screenshot shows the 'Additional Databases' section. It has a dropdown arrow and the text 'Additional Databases'. Below this, it says 'Relevant matches exist in other sites.' There is a link to 'Applied Science & Technology Abstracts' with 'About 10 matches'. A description follows: 'Wide variety of applied science specialties -- acoustics to'. A 'Show More' link is at the bottom.

The screenshot shows a search result page for a peer-reviewed article. The article title is 'Static Flow Control in Store-And-Forward Computer Networks'. The authors are 'L. Kleinrock, P. Kermani'. The summary states: 'In this paper we develop an analytic model for end-to-end communication protocols and study the window mechanism for flow control in store-and-forward (in particular message-switching) computerbased communication networks. We develop a static flow control model in which the parameters of the system are not dynamically adjusted to the stochastic fluctuation of the system load. Numerical results are presented and it is shown that the throughput-delay performance of a network can be improved by proper selection of the design parameters, such as the window size, the timeout period, etc.' The article is from 'IEEE Transactions on Communications v28 n2 (198002): 271-279' and is available 'At Training Library'. The page includes 'Cite', 'Share', and 'Save' buttons. A blue floating button with a grid icon is visible in the bottom right corner, with an orange arrow pointing to it.

## Differences between FirstSearch and WorldCat Discovery

This guide explains searching [differences between WorldCat Discovery and FirstSearch](#), such as different index labels and the format for searching dates and ranges.

Index	Change
Format/document type (dt:)	Use x0: and x4:
ISBN (number search)	Index label (bn:) is optional Hyphen required when using index label
ISSN (number search)	Index label (in: ) is optional Hyphen required when using index label
Music publisher number (keyword or phrase) (renamed from Publisher number)	Use mn: or mn= Use (*) truncation with phrase index (mn=)
OCLC number	Index label (no: ) is required
Years or range of years	Enter on Advanced Search screen Each year must contain 4 digits Use 2 dots (..) instead of hyphen between date range

## Documentation and other resources

### Search in WorldCat Discovery

Use advanced search strategies and filter results to optimize your search results.

[https://help.oclc.org/Discovery\\_and\\_Reference/WorldCat\\_Discovery/Search\\_in\\_WorldCat\\_Discovery](https://help.oclc.org/Discovery_and_Reference/WorldCat_Discovery/Search_in_WorldCat_Discovery)

### Searching WorldCat Indexes

This contains details about query syntax and index labels for searching many OCLC services.

[https://help.oclc.org/Librarian\\_Toolbox/Searching\\_WorldCat\\_Indexes](https://help.oclc.org/Librarian_Toolbox/Searching_WorldCat_Indexes)

### WorldCat Discovery general information and support:

[https://help.oclc.org/Discovery\\_and\\_Reference/WorldCat\\_Discovery](https://help.oclc.org/Discovery_and_Reference/WorldCat_Discovery)

**Locate OCLC Support in your region:** <https://oc.lc/support-regions>

Or, you may email to [support@oclc.org](mailto:support@oclc.org) or Phone: 800-848-5800 (NA)