Searching WorldCat in FirstSearch
Learning objectives

• Overview of FirstSearch
• Understand search options and search features
• Use limits and filters to refine searches and results
• Use related subjects and related authors to broaden search
• Work with results (save, share, print, export)
What does FirstSearch offer?

- **Search WorldCat database**: Precise, full-featured way to search
- **Trusted tool** used by library staff, researchers, and other experts
- **Screen out** unwanted materials to locate the exact item being sought
- **View library holdings**: your holdings or libraries worldwide
- **Use for** reference questions, collection development decisions, and meeting interlibrary loan demands
# Search options to meet your needs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Search screens</th>
<th>Search features</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Basic</strong>-obtain quick results using a simple search index, such as ISBN, Author, or Title</td>
<td><strong>Browse</strong>-identify correct search terms and indexes, verify spelling and/or format of search terms, confirm the number of records that contain search terms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Advanced</strong>-complex search using multiple indexes and/or limits</td>
<td><strong>Limits</strong>-allow you to refine your search</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expert</strong>-enter logical search strings using indexes and index labels</td>
<td><strong>Broaden</strong>-use options, such as related subjects and/or related authors</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How is Relevance determined?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Search terms in the record</td>
<td>How many times your search term(s) are found in the record</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proximity of the terms</td>
<td>Distance between the search terms in the record</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uniqueness of the terms</td>
<td>How many times the search term is found in the record relevant to in the database as whole</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This relevance is specific to FirstSearch; relevance ranking in WorldCat Discovery is specific to that service.
Use Searching WorldCat Indexes

- Find search indexes used to retrieve records
- Shows MARC fields and subfields used for index
- Provides information about using each index
- Outlines searching index information for multiple OCLC interfaces
- Help site: Librarian Toolbox > Cross-Product guides
# Wildcards and truncation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Example search</th>
<th>Searches for</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plurals</td>
<td>Plus sign +</td>
<td>Mammal+</td>
<td>Mammal, mammals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Wax, waxes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wildcard</strong> (single character)</td>
<td>Pound sign #</td>
<td>Colo#r.</td>
<td>Color, colour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wildcard</strong> (up to 9 characters within single term)</td>
<td>Question mark ?</td>
<td>Encyclop?dia</td>
<td>encyclopaedia, encyclopedia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Truncation</strong> (after at least 3 characters)</td>
<td>Asterisk *</td>
<td>Techn*</td>
<td>technical, technology, technological, and others</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Search Open Access Content database

- Contains open-access items from well-known content providers
- Staff manage access in FirstSearch Administrative module
- Documentation found at: Discovery and Reference > FirstSearch > FirstSearch databases > Open Access Content
- Change database > search > click title to open detailed record > select Access link under “Get this item” or “DOI link”

![Search in database](image)

**Get This Item**

Access: [https://doaj.org/article/89e514a8776c41d6b662ea3e7ef8d70b](https://doaj.org/article/89e514a8776c41d6b662ea3e7ef8d70b)

DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.3390/en16020969](http://dx.doi.org/10.3390/en16020969)
The Browse feature enables you to…

a) Verify the spelling of a search term

b) Check the number of records that contain a search term

c) Identify the best index to use with a search term

d) Verify the format of a personal name, corporate name or title phrase

e) All of the above
The Browse feature enables you to…

a) Verify the spelling of a search term

b) Check the number of records that contain a search term

c) Identify the best index to use with a search term

d) Verify the format of a personal name, corporate name or title phrase

e) All of the above
Which search screen would you use?

If you need quick results using a simple search statement such as an ISBN, author, or title?

a) Basic search screen

b) Advanced search screen

c) Expert search screen
What search screen would you use?

If you need quick results using a simple search statement such as an ISBN, author, or title?

a) Basic search screen
b) Advanced search screen
c) Expert search screen
Which search screen would you use?

If you need guidance constructing a complex search using BOOLEAN operators, specific indexes and limits?

a) Basic search screen

b) Advanced search screen

c) Expert search screen
What search screen would you use?

3. If you need guidance constructing a complex search using BOOLEAN operators, specific indexes and limits?

   a) Basic search screen
   
   b) Advanced search screen

   c) Expert search screen
True or False

Use *Related Subjects* to create a new and broader search based on subjects in a current result set.

a) True

b) False
True or False

6. Use *Related Subjects* to create a new and broader search based on subjects in a current result set.

a) True

b) False
Questions?

https://help.oclc.org

Welcome to OCLC Support

How can we help you?

Contact OCLC Support in your region

OCLC support regions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asia Pacific</td>
<td>OCLC Asia Pacific</td>
<td>216-999-0000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank You!

Please remember to fill out the evaluation for this class

- Instructor: Crystal Rodriguez
- Category: Reference and Discovery
- Class name: Searching WorldCat in FirstSearch (FirstSearch Overview)

Training questions? Contact OCLC Training training@oclc.org/