EBSCO Discovery Service (EDS)

Advanced Search Guide

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Main Advanced Search Page

**Advanced search** gives you the tools to conduct a more detailed search for resources. It allows you to pre-limit your search by using filters and to search for specific types of content while excluding material you do not want.

Use advanced search:

- When you are doing detailed research beyond the basic search capabilities.
- When you want to pick your filters before you search as opposed to after (pre-limiting).
- When you are looking for a specific type of content.
- When you want to exclude book reviews and newspapers articles.

Starting Your Advanced Search

If you wish to begin your search with an advanced search, click **Advanced Search** which appears below the find field and you will be taken to the main **Advanced Search** page.

![Figure 1. EDS – Advance Search Option.](image)

The **Advanced Search** page has a lot of options to choose from when beginning your search. You can do the following with the advanced search:

1. Search across multiple fields, including author, title, subject, etc.
2. Limit your search to Peer Reviewed resources only.
3. Search for a specific date of publication or search within a specific date range.
4. Search for resources available in the NCI Library's catalogue.
5. Search for a journal by the journal name.

![Figure 2. EDS – Image of the Main Advanced Search page.](image)
Step-By-Step Advanced Search

To begin your search follow the steps below.

1. Type your subject into the first find field and choose and options from the Select a Field drop-down list.

2. Repeat step one for the second and third Find fields. *Note: you can choose up to 12 find fields by using these buttons: + −

3. Next, combine your Find field entries by selecting your Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT). These are located to the left of the second and third fields:

   ![Boolean Operators](image)

   *Figure 3. EDS – image outlining the Boolean operators.*

   **Boolean operators** help you to broaden or narrow and exclude specific terms in your search by connecting your search terms.

   **AND** – You can narrow your search by using AND as you will be connecting your search terms to find more specific results.

   **OR** – You can broaden your search by using OR. In this case, results will be retrieved for each search term separately as well as together.

   **NOT** – Use to exclude any terms you wish to not be retrieved in your search.

4. Choose from the different Search Modes and Expanders and Limit your results to refine your search more.

   ![Search Options](image)

   *Figure 4. EDS – outlining the Search Options.*
i. Search Modes

The search modes offer four different ways to do a search. By default, **Find all my search terms** will always be chosen.

For more information about the **search mode** options click [here](#).

ii. Expanders

**Expanders** broaden your search by including words related to your search terms, including the content of articles to be searched, and applying relative subjects.

By default, the second two expanders are always chosen. You can choose to not apply these to your search.

For more information about **Expanders** click [here](#).

iii. Limiters

Limiters narrow your search by limiting the information retrieved in your results according to the limiters you have applied.

For more information about **Limiters** click [here](#).

5. Once you have applied all the expanders and limiters you need, click the **Search** button and the results page will be displayed.
Results Page

Below is an example search using three search terms/phrases and the Boolean operators **AND** and **OR**. In this case, we are searching for the phrase “information technology” as well as “management” or “human resources”.

*Note: you can search for a phrase by putting two or more search terms in quotations marks (“”).

As shown below, there is a large amount of results retrieved. These results can be refined by using the filters along the left side of the page.

*Figure 5. EDS – Results page.*
Refining Results with Filters

The results page contains filters which allow you to refine your search by including specific elements regarding the resources you wish to retrieve.

The following filters are located on the left side of the results page:

Current Search:

The **Current Search** box displays the current filters applied to your search. You can see the terms you have used, as well as the **Expanders** and the **Limiters** you have applied to your search.

You can remove any filters from your search by clicking the **X** icon beside it.

Limit To:

The **Limit To** filter allows you to search across the NCI Library’s databases and catalogue or you can limit to search the **Catalogue Only**. By default, the **Available @ NCI Library** limiter will always be on.

The **Peer Reviewed** limiter is often a good filter to apply to your search if you are looking specifically for journal articles. Peer reviewed means these works have gone through a peer reviewed process to ensure greater quality and validity of information.

*Note: you can see we have added the Peer Reviewed limiter to our search. This has cut our results from over 2 million results to under 1 million.

The **Limit To** filter also allows you to search for works within specific publication dates.
Source Types:

The **Source Types** filter allows you to search for a specific type of content such as academic journals, magazines, reviews, etc.

You can select the **Show More** link at the bottom of the list for even more source types to choose from.

Limit to Subject:

The **Limit to Subject** filter differs for each search you do depending upon what search terms you have chosen. This filter allows you to choose specific subjects related to the search terms are using.

Select the **Show More** link for a list of more subjects.

Limit to Publisher:

The **Limit to Publisher** filter allows you to refine your search by selecting specific publishers.

Select the **Show More** link for a list of more publishers.

Limit to Publication:

The **Limit to Publication** filter allows you to refine your search by selecting a publication such as a specific magazine.

Select the **Show More** link for a list of more publications.
Limit to Language:

- The **Limit to Language** filter allows you to refine your search to sources in a specific language. Select the **Show More** link for a list of more languages.

Limit to Geography:

- The **Limit to Geography** filter enables you to find research/information based in/on a specific country. You can choose more than one country. Select the **Show More** link for a list of more countries.

Library Location:

- The **Library Location** filter allows you to find resources in a specific section of the library on your topic. These will include all the resources available on your topic on the NCI Library’s catalogue. For example, you can find books in the Main Lending section of the library or in the Reference section, etc. Select the **Show More** link for a list of more library locations.

Limit to Databases:

- The **Limit to Databases** allows you to refine your search by only searching a specific database. Select the **Show More** link for a list of more databases.

*Figure 7-16. EDS – Images of filter options.*
Questions?

For any questions regarding EBSCO Discovery Service go to the EBSCO Help page. Also check out the Discovery LibGuide for further instructions on how to use the different features of Discovery.

You can also send an e-mail to the Library Help Centre with any queries.