EBSCOhost User Guide—Searching

Basic, Advanced & Visual Searching, Result List, Article Details, Additional Features

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What is EBSCOhost®

EBSCOhost is a powerful online reference system accessible via the Internet or direct connection. It offers a variety of proprietary full text databases and popular databases from leading information providers. The comprehensive databases range from general reference collections to specially-designed, subject-specific databases for public, academic, school, medical, corporate, and government libraries.

System Requirements

In order to effectively use all EBSCOhost features, the minimum browser requirements are Internet Explorer 6.0, Firefox 2.0, and Safari 2.0 (for Macintosh). You must also have Adobe® Reader® installed to view the PDF Full Text files. If you are using Visual Search, you must also install Adobe® Flash Player 8.0 or higher.

Inside this User Guide

This guide is designed to cover the basics of searching and finding results. Additional user guides cover topics such as browsing, searches and alerts, and printing, e-mailing and saving. All user guides can be downloaded from the EBSCO Support Site: support.ebsco.com.
Learning More about a Database

There are two versions of the Choose Database Screen—brief and detailed. The brief version of the Choose Database Screen is available from any search or browse screen, result list, or citation details.

To learn more about a database:

1. Click the Choose Databases link.

2. Place your mouse over the Preview icon. A brief description of the database is displayed. To return to your previous screen, click OK.

3. To view descriptions of all the databases available to you, click the Detailed View link. The Choose Databases Screen displays.
Choosing Databases to Search

EBSCOhost offers the ability to select the databases you want to search by database name or by subject area. Your library administrator decides how databases will be selected.

Selecting Databases by Database Name

To select a database:

1. Click the **Choose Databases** link. Select the database name, e.g., *Academic Search Complete*, *MasterFILE Premier*, etc. from the list of databases.

2. To search more than one database, mark the check boxes to the left of the database names. You can also use the **Select All** | **Clear All** buttons to make your selections.

3. To save your selections, click **OK**; or click **Cancel** to discard your changes.
Selecting Databases by Subject Area

If your library groups your databases by subject area, the two most recently selected database groups are listed above the Find field. If additional groups are available, click the hyperlinked ellipsis (...) to view them.

To select databases by subject area:

1. Click the Choose Databases link. Select the subject area, e.g., Communications/Media Databases, General/News Databases, etc.

2. To search more than one subject area, mark the check boxes to the left of the subject areas. (You can also use the Select All | Clear All buttons to make your selections.

3. To save your selections, click OK; or click Cancel to discard your changes.
Search Screens

EBSCOhost offers a variety of search screens, which are described in this section.

Basic Search

The Basic Search Screen lets you create a search with limiters, expanders, and Boolean operators.

To use Basic Search:

1. On the Basic Search Screen, enter your search terms in the **Find** field.

2. If you want to use any of the optional Limiters or Expanders, click the **Search Options** link.

   You can use a specific **search mode**, such as “Find all of my search terms,” or “SmartText Searching”; apply **Limiters** such as Full Text or Publication type; or use search options that expand your search, such as “Apply related words.”

3. To close the **Search Options**, click the link again.

4. Click the **Search** button. The Result List displays.
The search field is displayed about the Result List. Your search terms, limiters and expanders are retained. To revise your search, you can click the **Search Options** link under Limit your results.
Advanced Search Screens

The library administrator can choose from three styles of Advanced Search: Single Find Field, Single Find Field with Search Builder, or Guided Style Fields.

Advanced Search with Single Find Field

To use Advanced Search with Single Find Field:

1. On the Advanced Search Screen, enter your search terms in the Find field.

2. Select from the available Search Options:
   - **Search modes** – Use specific search modes, such as “Find all of my search terms,” or “SmartText Searching,” or use search options that expand your search such as “Apply related words.”
   - **Limit your results** – such as Full Text or Publication type.
   - **Special Limiters** – Apply limiters specific to a database. If you select a special limiter, it is applied only to the database under which it appears

3. Click the Search button. The Result List displays.
The search field is displayed about the Result List. Your search terms, limiters and expanders are retained. To revise your search, you can click the **Search Options** link under Limit your results.
Advanced Search with Guided Style Find Fields

To use Advanced Search with Guided-Style Fields:

1. On the Advanced Search Screen, enter your search terms in the first **Find** field.

2. Choose the search field from the optional **Select a Field** drop-down list (for example, search in only the Subject Terms field of the citation).

3. Repeat steps 1 and 2 for the second set of **Find** fields.

4. Select a Boolean operator (AND, OR, NOT) to combine the two **Find** field entries.

5. You can enter another Boolean operator, keyword, and search field in the third set of fields.

6. If you need additional rows, click the **Add Row** link. Up to 12 rows can be displayed. To delete a row, click the **Remove Row** link.

7. Select from the available Search Options:
   - **Search modes** – Use specific search modes, such as “Find all of my search terms,” or “SmartText Searching,” or use search options that expand your search such as “Apply related words.”
   - **Limit your results** – such as Full Text or Publication type.
   - **Special Limiters** – Apply limiters specific to a database. If you select a special limiter, it is applied only to the database under which it appears.

8. Click the **Search** button. The Result List displays.
The search fields are displayed about the Result List. Your search terms, limiters and expanders are retained. To revise your search, you can click the Search Options link under Limit your results.
Advanced Search with Search Builder

Single Find Field with Search Builder allows you to combine keywords, search fields and a Boolean operator with any existing text in the Find field.

**Note:** If there is no existing text in the Find field, the Boolean operator selection is ignored.

Each time you click Add to Search, the new terms are surrounded by parentheses.

**To create an Advanced Search using the Search Builder:**

1. On the Advanced Search Screen, enter your search terms in the Find field. To remove search terms, click the Clear button.
2. In the Term(s) field, you can enter more keywords.
3. Choose the search field from the optional Select a Field drop-down list (for example, search in only the Subject Terms field of the citation).
4. Select a Boolean operator (AND, OR, NOT) to combine the Find field with the Term(s) field.
5. Click the Add to Search button. Each time you click Add to Search, the added terms are surrounded by parentheses.
6. Click the Search button. The Result List displays.
Viewing Search Results

Viewing the Result List

Search results can be citations, full text articles, document summaries or abstracts, and can include links to full text.

The Result List Screen has three columns—Narrow your results, All Results, and Limit your results. You can hide or show the different areas by clicking the control arrows near the top of your results.

Narrow your results – You can narrow by source type, subject, journal, author, and more. This feature, also known as "clustering," is helpful if you want to discover the major subject groups for your topic without having to browse multiple pages of results, or checking individual articles to see if they are relevant.

To narrow your results, click a hyperlinked term in the "Narrow your results" column. A new Result List, limited to the chosen term is displayed and a new list of terms appears in the left-hand column.

All Results – The articles that were found display in the center of the Result List Screen.

- The article title link takes you to the citation information and/or the full text. Place your mouse over the Preview icon  to view the Abstract.
- The HTML Full Text link takes you directly to the full text of the article.
- The PDF Full Text link takes you to a PDF version of the full text. The PDF will open in the Adobe ® Reader®.
- Add to Folder – To save an article to the Folder, click the Add to Folder link to the right of the Relevancy indicator, or inside the Article Preview that you hover over with your mouse.
- The Relevancy indicator  tells you how relevant the article based on your search terms.
Limit your results – Apply limiters right from the Result List. Select any of the limiters displayed and click Update. A revised Result List displays. (You can refine your search even more by clicking the Search Options link under Limit your results.)

- Folder – To save an article to the Folder, click the Add to Folder link to the left of the Relevancy indicator. To view the items in your Folder, click the Go to Folder View link.

- Related Information – When additional sources such as images, blogs, and Web news are available, they will be displayed.

- Related Images – Place your mouse over an image—a full size view of the image displays.

- Alert/Save/Share – Click this link to view alerting, linking and bookmarking options.
  
  - Create an alert – Create a search alert right from the Result List, even if you are not signed in to My EBSCOhost.
  
  - Add search to folder – Add the query to the folder as a persistent link to a search.
  
  - Create RSS feed – A pop-up screen displays with the search alert information. Copy the Syndication Feed URL into your newsreader.
  
  - Permalink – The search query is displayed in a shaded area below the link. Highlight the link text and copy using your browser’s copy function. You can immediately paste the link into a web site, document or e-mail.
  
  - Bookmark – Store links to your EBSCOhost pages to social bookmarking sites such as dig, del.icio.us, Technorati, bloglines, etc.
Reading an Article

When you click the title of an article, the "Best View" selected by your library administrator is displayed. To view a different format, click on the citation, HTML full text or PDF icon.

Citation View

When the citation view is displayed, it may also include a summary or an abstract. If activated by your library administrator, the full text of the article may appear below the citation. The Image Quick View feature provides the ability to view thumbnails of the images in an article right from the citation.

- The author and subject terms of the record can appear as links that let you perform a search of that particular field.
- If similar articles are found, they are displayed in the Related Information column. You can click on the hyperlinked title to read the article, or hover over the Preview icon to view the abstract.
- Where a Find More link appears, you can click the link to perform a search for articles with similar subject headings. A new Result List will display.
- The source may display a link or journal logo that leads to a detailed view of the source or publication. Clicking on the journal logo links you to a detailed description of the journal. Clicking Back returns you to the full record of the article.
- The source may also include a table of contents link that lets you perform a search on the same issue of the source or publication.
**HTML Full Text View**

When the HTML full text view is displayed, you can also return to the citation, or any PDF or linked text by clicking on the available icons. The text is displayed formatted and ready for printing. A brief citation is always included at the end of the article.

- From either the citation or full text views, you can refine your search, return to the Result List, save to the **Folder** 🗂️, and **Print** ⚡️ **E-mail** 📧 or **Save** 🗑️ the article.

- Click the **Cite** 📄 icon to view the citation for the article formatted in several different citation formats, including MLA, APA, etc., or the **Export** 🗄️ icon to export your citations in a variety of bibliographic manager formats.

- Where a **Find More** link appears, you can click the link to perform a search for articles with similar subject headings. A new Result List will display.
PDF View

When the PDF view is displayed, the article opens in the Adobe Acrobat Reader. To print or save the article, use the print/save capability available from the Reader.

You can also return to the citation, any full text, or linked text by clicking on the available icons. From the PDF view, you can also refine your search, return to the Result List, or e-mail the article.
Saving Results to the Folder

You can save an article to the Folder from the article, or from the Result List. Click the Add to Folder link or icon.

As you add the articles to the folder, you can click the Folder icon and review which items have been added.

You can then print, e-mail or save many results all at the same time. If you have signed in via My EBSCOhost, any search results that you collect in your folder will be automatically saved at the end of the session.
Visual Search

Visual Search is a new and innovative way to search EBSCOhost. Your results are sorted by topic in an interactive, visual map. You can switch between Result List styles at any time by selecting either Block style or Column style from the Display Style menu. Adobe Flash Player 8.0 or higher is required when using Visual Search.

To conduct a visual search:

1. Click the Visual Search link, and then enter your search terms in the Find field.

![Visual Search screenshot]

2. If you want to use any of the optional Limiters or Expanders, click the More Options link.

   You can use a specific search mode, such as “Find all of my search terms,” or “SmartText Searching”; apply Limiters such as Full Text or Publication type; or use search options that expand your search, such as “Apply related words.”

3. To close the Search Options, click the link again.

4. Click Search. Your search results are displayed in columns. To follow a path, click on the subject (or publication) name. Your results are narrowed even further.
5. **Results Sorting Options** - To see different ways to group, sort, or filter your search, click any of the buttons above the Result List. You can select these options at any time – before you run your search, or after, when you are viewing your results.

- **Group Results** – You can group by Subject or by Publication Name.

- **Sort Results** – You can sort the results by Date (newest to oldest), or by Relevance (articles with the greatest relevance at the top of the list; those with the least relevance at the bottom of the list).

- **Filter Results by Date** – Move the Date Range slider to filter from the newest articles to the oldest.

- **Display Style** – Switch between the Blocks or Columns style at any time.
To preview an article:

1. To view the citation, click the article title inside the result. The Summary window displays more information about the article, including Title, Author, Journal Name, and a brief abstract.

2. To view the full text of the article (if available), click the More link at the bottom of the citation. The Summary window will expand to display the full article.

To collect articles:

Use the Collect Articles area to "drag-and-drop" articles that you are interested in. Items that you "collect" will remain there for the current session, unless you remove them. You will need to collect the items that you want to save to your folder.

To save items to your folder:

1. With your Result List displayed, drag the articles to the Collect Articles area.
2. Click the Add to Folder link. The items are immediately added to your "session" folder.
3. If you want to save the items for use in a future session, be sure to sign into your My EBSCOhost account.

Block Style Result List

If you select a Display Style of Blocks, the "block-style" Result List will display.

The Block Style Result List has two additional features - the control arrows, and the Results Map. To follow a path, use the control arrows on the left-hand side of the screen. Or, click in a new block within the Results Map to move to a different area of the Result List.

Note: Your library administrator decides whether Visual Search will be available, and which style (blocks or columns) will be the default.
Searching for Images/Video

The Image Collection provides you with instant access to more than 180,000 images relating to people, natural science, places, history, and flags.

Focus your image search by using the categories available: Photos of People, Natural Science Photos, Photos of Places, Historical Photos, Maps, and Flags.

To search for an image:

1. Click the Images (or Images/Video) link. The Image Collection Search Screen displays.
2. Enter your search terms in the Find field, for example: Martin Luther King.
   
   Your search term(s) must exactly match a word in the title or caption of an image; the search term Roosevelt does not yield the same results as the search terms Eleanor Roosevelt. You can use Boolean terms to broaden your search, for example: Eleanor AND Roosevelt.

3. Select from the available categories to narrow the focus of your search. If you make no selections, all categories are searched.
4. Click Search. A Result List consisting of thumbnail images with brief descriptions appears. (Place your mouse over any image—a full size view of the image displays.)

5. Apply limiters right from the Result List. Select any of the limiters displayed and click the Update button. A revised Result List displays.
   - To print the image, click on the thumbnail image and click Print. The Print Manager Screen is displayed. Click Print.
   - To save the image, click on the thumbnail image and click Save to Disk. The Save Manager Screen is displayed. Click Save, and then save from your browser window.

Note: Your library administrator decides whether image searching will be available. If enabled by the library administrator, you may also be able to search for video content. The Images/Video link would display, and additional limiters would be available. You can filter your Result List to display only images, or only videos.
Preferences

Setting Preferences allows you to control the look and feel of the EBSCOhost 2.0 Result List. The selections you make on the Preferences Screen can now be saved to your personal account (My EBSCOhost) and retrieved for use at any time. Once you sign in to My EBSCOhost, your personal preferences are applied. And, if you make changes to your preferences, those changes are saved for future use.

Setting Preferences

1. From the search screen or the Result List, click the Preferences link below the Find field. (The Preferences feature is also available from the Folder Screen.)

2. General Settings – Choose language and keyword suggestion settings.
   - Language – Select the language in which you want to display the interface: Spanish, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Korean, Japanese, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Turkish, Greek, Polish, Arabic and Thai. (Your library administrator decides whether this feature will be available.)
   - Autocomplete search suggestions – As you begin to enter a search term in the Find field, keyword suggestions are automatically displayed. (Set to On or Off.)
3. **Result List Display** – Choose the look and feel of your Result List.

- **Format** – Select the level of detail for each result: Standard, Title Only, Brief or Detailed.
- **Image Quick View** – Turn on or off the display of image thumbnails on the Result List, Citation, and Folder. (Availability varies by database.)
- **Results per page** – Specify how many results (or records) are displayed per page (for example: 5, 10, 20, 30, 40 or 50). (Will be applied to both the Result List and the Folder.)
- **Sort by** – You can set how you would like your results sorted. All sort options for the database you are using are available. (For example, date, author, source, etc.) If you select “Database Default," the results are sorted using the database defaults. (Will be applied to only the Result List.)
- **Page layout** – Control which columns display on the Result List.

4. **Print, E-mail, Save, Export** – Set your defaults for Print, E-mail, Save and Exporting of your results. You can still change these settings when you print, e-mail, save or export your results.

- **Default Format** – Decide how much information you want to include with your results.
  - **Standard Field Format** – Defaults to "Detailed Citation and Abstract." You can also select from the drop-down list:
    - **Brief Citation** – Indicates that only a brief citation should be printed.
    - **Brief Citation and Abstract** – Indicates that a brief citation and an abstract should be printed.
    - **Detailed Citation and Abstract** – Indicates that a detailed citation and an abstract should be printed.
o **Citation Format** – If you would like to default your citations to a specific format, select one from the drop-down list:
  - AMA - American Medical Association
  - APA - American Psychological Association
  - Chicago/Turabian Author - Date
  - Chicago/Turabian Humanities
  - MLA - Modern Language Association
  - Vancouver/ICMJE

o **Customized Field Format** – A list of all fields available for the databases you are searching will display. The fields shared by all the databases you are searching appear in the Fields in Common area at the top of the screen. Mark the check boxes to the left of the fields you want to include.

- **E-mail From** – The “From” address on the e-mail you send defaults to ephost@epnet.com. If you would like to change that address, enter the information in this field. (For example, you could enter your own e-mail address, or a library e-mail address.) This will automatically fill in the “From” field on the e-mail that is sent.

- **E-mail To** – The “To” address on the E-mail Manager defaults to a blank field. If you would like to automatically fill in the E-mail Address field with a specific e-mail address, enter the information in this field. (For example, you could enter your own e-mail address, or list of e-mail addresses for the students in class or a group of colleagues.)

- **E-mail Format** – Select whether you want to default your e-mails to Rich Text or Plain Text format.

- **Export Settings** – You may be able to export your results into a format compatible with your bibliographic management software. (For example, RefWorks, EndNote, ProCite, etc.) Your library administrator decides whether the Export feature is available.
  - **Save citations to a file formatted for** – Select the default bibliographic management format to save a file.
  - **E-mail a file with citations in** – Select the default bibliographic management format to e-mail a file.

5. Click **Save**. If you were previously at the Result List, it is updated according to your selections. If you were previously at the Search Screen, you must first perform a search before viewing the customized Result List.
Trying New Features

“Try New Features” is an innovative way to learn about the features and functionality available on EBSCOhost. When the library administrator activates “New Features,” the New Features link will display in the top toolbar on EBSCOhost. You can visit the New Features Screen, try out selected features for your session, learn about additional features that are already active, and read about features that will be coming soon.

EBSCO Publishing decides which features can be tried and which features will display on the New Features Screen. The library administrator decides whether to show or hide these features, and sets profile level defaults for any “try able” features. (Note: Sample features shown below.)

- **Autocomplete Keyword Search Suggestions**
  - Try it!
  An autocomplete keyword search suggestions feature is now available. Start entering search terms, and as you type EBSCOhost offers keyword suggestions in real time. Suggestions are based on popular search terms and commonly misspelled searches.

- **Improved Navigation for CINAHL Headings and MEDLINE MeSH**
  - Try it!
  Enhanced subject screen are now available. There are now fewer steps to search into the main database once a term is marked. Additionally, we’ve added the option to allow searching for a term as a keyword. Other on screen clarifications and minor changes are included, as well as adjustments to the tree view.

- **Ask-A-Librarian**
  The Ask-A-Librarian feature is now available. If enabled at your institution, a new link will be available in the top left link area. Simply click the link to send your librarian an e-mail with your questions or comments. You can optionally include your current Search History to assist with your question.

- **Coming Soon**
  - Enhancements to Other Interfaces
    New enhancements are coming to some of our other EBSCOhost powered interfaces. These include: Searchasaurus, Student Reference Center, Literary Reference Center, Consumer Health Complete, and DynaMed.
  - One Step Alerts
    Create RSS feeds for search or journal alert even easier. Simply click the RSS icon from the result list page, the journal alert list or beside a line of search history to create an RSS feed to your search.
  - OpenURL Access Enhancements
    For institutions and users who access EBSCOhost content via OpenURL, several streamlined usability enhancements are coming soon.

What’s New Area

You can turn on any of the features above the dotted line, and they are applied for the entire EBSCOhost session, unless you choose to turn them back off. Once you mark the Try It! check box, the Feature Enabled indicator displays. The feature is now active for the length of your session.

Features that are displayed below the dotted line are active, newly-released features, but the Try It! feature is not available. You can read a description of the feature, and when displayed, can click the thumbnail image and view a sample screen. Your library administrator decides whether to enable these features.

Coming Soon Area

The Coming Soon area previews features that will be available in future releases.