

## **ABC-CLIO - HISTORICAL ABSTRACTS**

### ***Browsing***

The Author/Editor, Journal Name, Language, Document Type, and Subject Terms search fields include browsable indexes. To browse an index, select the book icon at the end of the field.

### ***Operators and Wildcards***

The Boolean operators AND, OR, and NOT are available in each field. The search logic interprets absence of operators in a field containing two or more search terms separated by spaces as an implied AND operator between these terms.

OPERATOR: AND

RESULT: Retrieves entries containing both terms.

OPERATOR: OR

RESULT: Retrieves entries containing the first term OR the second term.

OPERATOR: NOT

RESULT: Retrieves entries that include the first term(s) and NOT the term that follows.

WILDCARD: \*

RESULT: If the exact spelling of a word is unknown, insert an asterisk (\*) for an indeterminate number of unknown letters.

WILDCARD: ?

RESULT: If the exact spelling of a word is unknown, insert a question mark (?) for each unknown letter.

### **Basic Search**

#### ***Keyword Search***

The Keyword field permits a free text search of terms in the title, abstract, author, and subject terms fields. Enter a word or phrase, to retrieve all the entries in which that word or phrase occurs in any of those fields.

EXAMPLE: christina rossetti

RESULTS: Retrieves all the entries in which both christina AND rossetti appear, whether in author, title, abstract text, or subject terms.

Care should be taken in selecting search terms. A search for the words new, economic, and policy, for instance, will return a great many entries in which these words appear together more or less accidentally.

A distinctive phrase may, however, be enclosed in quotation marks to retrieve only the words in that phrase appearing contiguously in that order. To avoid the possibility of a transaction timeout, it is recommended that quotation marks not be used for common terms such as Civil War.

EXAMPLE: "new economic policy"

RESULTS: Retrieves all those entries in which the phrase New Economic Policy appears in title, abstract text, or subject terms. The search is not case sensitive, and entries for articles about a generic new economic policy would also be retrieved.

### ***Subject Terms Search***

Several subject terms are assigned to each entry by the ABC-CLIO editors. These terms reflect the main subjects of the scholarship being cited; editors attempt to apply uniform terminology to the bibliographic entries. In many cases they apply terminology not specifically used in a title or abstract.

EXAMPLE: "land reform"

RESULTS: Retrieves entries in which such words or terms as agrarian reform, land redistribution, collectivization, collectivized agriculture, confiscation, or property rights appear.

Subject terms may be entered with or without quotation marks. Quotes are useful for searching for two or more words bound together in a Subject Terms search. To avoid the possibility of a transaction timeout, it is recommended that quotes not be used for common terms such as Civil War.

EXAMPLE: "military government"

RESULTS: Retrieves entries with the subject term Military Government and other entries with subject terms in which the words military government appear contiguously in that order, as in Office of Military Government, United States.

Searching on an unbound phrase will often retrieve unwanted entries.

EXAMPLE: military government

RESULTS: Retrieves the same entries as in the preceding example, as well as entries that include the subject terms Military reform and Colonial Government or Federal Government and Military Service.

Be aware that some single-word searches will retrieve large numbers of entries.

EXAMPLE: military

RESULTS: Retrieves all entries with the subject term Military, as well as entries with such terms as Military Strategy, Military Campaigns, and Civil-Military Relations.

Some subject terms, especially geographical terms and personal names, have multiple components and are inverted. For geographical terms, first enter the larger component (e.g., country, continent, or, when using *America: History and Life* and searching for a location in the United States or Canada, a state or province). Follow this with the more specific geographical name, such as a city.

EXAMPLE: "france paris"

RESULTS: Retrieves entries with such subject terms as France (Paris), and France (Paris; Montmartre).

EXAMPLE: "illinois chicago"

RESULTS: For *Historical Abstracts* retrieves entries with the subject terms USA

(Illinois; Chicago), and for *America: History and Life* retrieves Illinois (Chicago), Illinois (Chicago area), and Illinois (Chicago; North Shore).

Personal names in the Subject Terms field should be entered surname first.

EXAMPLE: "nkrumah kwame"

RESULTS: Retrieves entries with the subject terms Nkrumah, Kwame and Nkrumah, Kwame (Consciencism).

EXAMPLE: "lu xun"

RESULTS: Retrieves entries with the subject terms Lu Xun and Lu Xun (*True Story of Ah Q*).

To abort a lengthy Subject Terms search, select the Stop button on the web browser. Select the browser's Back button to return to the Search Screen and browse the index.

### **Additional Options in Advanced Search**

#### ***Author/Editor Search***

To locate works by a particular individual or institution use a free-text search in the Author/Editor field. Enter personal name and surname, omitting middle initial(s), middle name(s), and punctuation, then select SEARCH.

EXAMPLE: John Williams

RESULTS: Retrieves entries with authors that have both John AND Williams in their names, including works by John Williams or John M. Williams as well as works with coauthors John Breen and Mark Williams. Transposing surname and personal name will produce the same results.

Enter surname and personal name bound in quotes to retrieve entries authored or edited by individuals with the surname Williams and personal name John, with or without a middle name or initial.

EXAMPLE: "Williams John"

RESULTS: Retrieves entries authored or edited by John Williams, John M. Williams, or John Hoyt Williams.

The Boolean operators AND, OR, and NOT can be used; AND is the default operator.

EXAMPLE: Finegold Skocpol

RESULTS: Retrieves entries citing works coauthored by Kenneth Finegold AND Theda Skocpol.

EXAMPLE: Finegold OR Skocpol

RESULTS: Retrieves entries citing works authored by Kenneth Finegold OR Theda Skocpol.

EXAMPLE: Skocpol NOT Finegold

RESULTS: Retrieves entries citing Theda Skocpol as author, excluding works coauthored by Kenneth Finegold.

### ***Titles/Translations Search***

Use the Title/Translation field to search for a title or title translation. Enter all or part of the title or title translation to retrieve all entries with this word or phrase in the title or title translation.

EXAMPLE: World War II

RESULTS: Retrieves entries citing works with "world," "war," or "II" in the title.

EXAMPLE: "World War II"

RESULTS: Retrieves entries citing works with "World War II" in the title.

The Boolean operators AND, OR, and NOT can be used; AND is the default operator.

### ***Language Search***

Use the Language field to search for all articles about a topic written in a specific language. Enter a language or leave blank to retrieve entries in all languages.

EXAMPLE: Basque

RESULTS: Retrieves all articles written in Basque.

The Boolean operators AND, OR, and NOT can be used; AND is the default operator.

### ***Journal Name Search***

The Journal Name field permits a free-text search to assist in locating journals published within a particular field of study. Entering a subject-specific word or phrase, will retrieve all entries in which the word or phrase appears in the journal title.

EXAMPLE: french

RESULTS: Retrieves entries with French in the journal title, including *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the French Colonial Historical Society, Nineteenth-Century French Studies*, and *Contemporary French Civilization*.

The Boolean operators AND, OR, and NOT can be used; AND is the default operator.

EXAMPLE: virginia hist\*

RESULTS: Retrieves entries citing journals with Virginia AND History or Historical in the title, including *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, *West Virginia History*, and *Journal of the West Virginia Historical Association*.

EXAMPLE: french OR francais\*

RESULTS: Retrieves entries citing journals with French OR Francais in the title, including *French Historical Studies*, *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Western*

*Society for French History, Etudes Françaises, Annales Historiques de la Révolution Française, and Revue d'Histoire de l'Amérique Française.*

### ***Publication Date Search***

The Publication Date field is the year of publication of the cited journal article, book, or dissertation. Searches on the publication date can be done several ways.

Search for an exact year of publication.

EXAMPLE: 1993

RESULTS: Retrieves only works published in 1993.

If an exact year is not known, search for a range of publication years.

EXAMPLE: 1988-1990

RESULTS: Retrieves works published in 1988, 1989, or 1990.

In addition, open-ended searches can be done in this field.

EXAMPLE: 1988-

RESULTS: Retrieves works published since 1988.

### ***Time Period Search***

Time Period is a good way to narrow a search to a particular century or decade. There are two ways to search for a particular time period. Fill in the blanks, and choose AD or BC from the pull down menus. To use the expert search function, click on the expert link. Enter one or more round-number dates, each followed by either H (for hundreds [centuries]) or D (for decades). Do not enter dates that are not decades or centuries (for example, do not enter 1912D or 1804H). Documents covering more than five decades are indexed by century and not individual decades. Documents covering more than six centuries are not indexed—leave the Time Period blank to include these.

EXAMPLE: 1800H OR 1900H

RESULTS: Entries dealing with the eighteen or nineteen hundreds (1800-1999).

EXAMPLE: 1820D 1830D 1840D

RESULTS: Entries dealing with the 1820's, 1830's, and 1840's (1820-1849). For entries dealing with the 1820's, 1830's, or 1840's use the OR operator between each search term.

EXAMPLE: 1890D 1900H

RESULTS: Entries dealing with the 1890's and the 20th century (1890-1999).

EXAMPLE: BC800H

RESULTS: Entries dealing with the 9th century BC (801 BC-900 BC).

EXAMPLE: BC\*

RESULTS: All BC entries.

*Historical Abstracts Practice Questions*

Search: Kennewick man

1. My real question is: What has been done with the Kennewick Man remains?
2. What other databases can be accessed through this interface?
3. Find articles about Kennewick Man.
4. What types of results do you see in your list?
5. Limit the search to eliminate the book reviews.
6. What year was the Kennewick Man found?
7. What was so special about the Kennewick Man?
8. Who is/was contesting the issues surrounding Kennewick Man?
9. What is Pearl Growing? Hint look in the answers below for the answer.  
We can now use these “pearls” to search other databases, for books, dissertations, articles, etc.

**Answers:**

1. Don't know the final answer. The rest of the questions may help us find more information.
2. Historical Abstracts, America: History and Life
3. Keyword search for Kennewick Man yields 9 results.
4. articles and book reviews
5. Check the boxes for articles, media reviews, collections, and dissertations next to "Limit to:" to exclude book reviews.
6. 1996
7. Kennewick man is 8,400 years old.
8. Native Americans feel he needs a proper burial.
9. From the 7 entries, we find some other keywords or terms we might use to find related articles. This is called Pearl Growing. Helpful terms might include personal names, unique characteristics, special terms.