

EBSCO HOST

SEARCH TIPS:

Creating a Basic Search

- 1) On the Basic Search screen, enter your search terms in the **Find** box.
- 2) Select from available search options to adjust the focus of your search. Below the search bars, select limiter options to narrow your search or select expander options to broaden your search. Please note: Limiters will be different for each database you are searching. Below are some common options:
 - Full Text** – limits search results to full text articles.
 - Publication Type** – limit searches to newspapers or journals, etc.
 - Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals**
- 3) Click the **Search** Button to begin searching.

Searching Techniques

- 1) **Boolean Searching - Boolean searching** allows you to create a very broad or very narrow search by using Boolean operators (**AND**, **OR** and **NOT**) to string or combine search terms together.
- 2) **Wildcard (?) and Truncation (*)** - Use the wildcard and truncation symbols to create searches where there are unknown characters, multiple spellings or various endings. The **wildcard** is represented by a question mark (?). To use the wildcard, enter your search terms and replace each unknown character with a ?. EBSCOhost will find all instances of that word with the ? replaced by a letter. For example, type **ne?t** to find results containing **neat**, **nest** or **next**. (EBSCOhost does not find 'net' because the wildcard replaces a single character.) **Truncation** is represented by an asterisk (*). To use truncation, enter the root of a search term and replace the ending with an *. EBSCOhost will find all forms of that word. For example, type **comput*** to find the words **computer** or **computing**.
- 3) **Searching by Proximity** – This is a way of searching for two or more words that appear a specific number of words apart in the article(s). The proximity operators must contain a **letter (N or W)** and a **numeric** value to specify the number of words that may appear between the terms when searched. The proximity operator is placed between the words, which are to be searched in proximity, as follows:

Near Operator (N) - In the following example, **N5** will find the words if they are within five words of one another regardless of the order in which they appear. For example, type **tax N5 reform** to find results that would match **tax reform** as well as **reform of the tax code**.

Within Operator (W) - In the following example, **W8** will find the words if they are within eight words of one another and in the order in which you entered them. For example, type **tax W8 reform** to find results that would match **tax reform** but would not match **reform of the tax code**.

PDF or HTML Full Text

PDF Full Text - This means that EBSCO has a PDF full page image of the article on its Web server. Most often the PDF document will be an exact copy of the article from the journal, which would include the correct page numbers the article appears on as well as all graphics. This is not always the same when viewing an HTML Full Text document.

HTML Full Text - When this link is chosen, the patron will see the HTML transcription of the full text. The link will show a camera icon if the article has graphics elements. The text may have graphics elements included or only the caption for the graphics elements.

EBSCOHOST PRACTICE QUESTIONS:

PRACTICE QUESTIONS USING ACADEMIC SEARCH PREMIER:

- 1) I need articles about frogs that are in peer-reviewed journals.
- 2) I need full-text articles about stem cell research from peer-reviewed journals.
- 3) I need to email some full-text articles about Peter Jackson's *King Kong* to a friend.
- 4) I am looking for a motion picture about the privatization of railways in Great Britain.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS USING MLA:

- 1) I am writing a paper on Wordsworth and Wallace Stevens. Can you find articles comparing the two?
- 2) Are there any recent articles on Dostoevskii since 2000? It could be spelled Dostoyevsky. I can only read English.
- 3) I am doing a bibliography on *2001: A Space Odyssey*. Are there any articles in MLA?
- 4) Find records about female characters in French literature.
- 5) Find records by Lynne Rudder Baker.
- 6) Find records about Hebrew language or literature, written in English.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS USING ECONLIT:

- 1) Try a search on a UIUC economics faculty member, such as In-Koo Cho or Roger Koenker
- 2) Try a search on a very famous economist nationally, Gary Becker, Kenneth Arrow, Milton Friedman, etc. With what institutions are these individuals affiliated?
- 3) Try a search on signaling and efficiency wages. Are there any by UIUC faculty?

Search hints and tips for the Practice Questions in Academic Search Premier:

1) Do an Advanced Search. Type “frogs” into first **FIND** box. Leave the search fields box on “Default Fields” blank. Scroll down to the area marked **Limit your results**. Click in check box for “Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals.” If more than one database is chosen, you will not get that option. Click the **Search** button. Many results will be listed, so conduct more in-depth reference interview.

2) Click on “**New Search**.” Type **stem cell research** and select full-text only and select Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals. Again, do an extensive reference interview to get less results.

SEARCH NOTE: To be sure that the items you retrieve are true online, full-text, full-image, you can add the following terms to any search term: “**and fm p**” (Format PDF). This will limit retrieval to those articles which are available as PDF files. However, this can eliminate those only available in HTML format.

3) Search **Peter Jackson** and **King Kong** in two different search boxes, restricting search to Full-Text. Click the “Add” button for a couple of the articles. As you do so, note that the Folder now has items in it. Click on the folder to see which items are in it. You may edit the folder by removing any or all the items. Then choose, save to disk, print, or email, as you wish. On the email page, you can choose the format to be citation only, HTML full text, and/or the option to send the PDF image as a separate file. Because PDF files are huge and email quotas are small, use this option carefully.

4) Type **Railway** in one search box (default fields), type **Great Britain** in the 2nd search box (default fields). Type **Motion Picture** in the 3rd search box (default fields). Keep the “**AND**” boolean operator for each search bar. Select **Full Text**. The article in the *Economist* about Ken Loach (titled “Ken Who?”) does not show a “PDF Full Text” option and is only available in HTML, which does not show the page number the article appeared on or the color photo with the article. So, click on the title link and look just above the full text part and click on “**Check Library Catalog for holdings**.” A new window opens with the Online Catalog and the results of an ISSN search where one can find the *Economist* in our library.

Search hints and tips for practice questions using MLA:

1) Type Wordsworth in one search box and Stevens Wallace in another. Combining these terms should retrieve about 25 articles

2) Type "Dostoevskii" in the search box (3162) and "Dostoyevsky" in the next one (87). Combine with OR. (3168) For publication year, use 2000 to 2002. Then limit to English by entering it in the language box under Limit. You can do both limits at the same time. This should result in about 170 hits.

3. A search on "2001: A Space Odyssey" as a keyword will bring about 13 records.

4) Type “female?” in one search box for all variations of female including female characters, female figures and female protagonists. The “?” is a substitute for any string of zero or more characters. Enter "French literature" in the second box. Using the AND operator to combine these searches yields many records.

5) Do an author search for Baker, Lynne Rudder. Select the appropriate heading. You should get 4 records.

6) Use “Hebrew” and “literature” as keywords and limit to English. Combining all three yields many items. Another method to do this would be to further limit the items retrieved for the keyword Hebrew (limited to English) changing the descriptor subfields.

EconLit

1) Invert author’s name and select the author field.

2) Enter each author’s name separately, selecting the author field. Open one of the entries, and look on the second line.

Gary Becker (University of Chicago), Kenneth Arrow (Stanford), Milton Friedman (Hoover Institution, Stanford)

3) Search on both concepts: signaling and efficiency wages. (See article by Lanny Arvan and Esfahani, Hadi Salehi)