

Designing Effective Searches

- **Boolean searching**

Using connectors OR, AND, NOT between search terms can specify mandatory terms, alternate terms, terms to exclude, terms in specific parts of the document, terms appearing X times, or terms within a certain proximity of other terms. You can narrow your search to find your terms in the document title, full text, author, or subject terms.

The screenshot shows the EBSCO Academic Search Premier interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the text "night" and "AND day" entered. Below the search bar, there are options to search in "TI Title" and "Select a Field (optional)". The search results page displays 1387 results. The first result is titled "Differential Phosphorylation of Ribosomal Proteins in Arabidopsis thaliana Plants during Day and Night" by Turkina, Maria V.; Årstrand, Hanna Klang; Vener, Alexander V. The second result is titled "Night-time neuronal activation of Cluster N in a day- and night-migrating songbird" by Zapka, Manuela; Heyers, Dominik; Liedvogel, Miriam; Jarvis, Frith D.; Mouritsen, Henrik. The interface includes a navigation bar with "Page: 1 2 3 4 5" and "Relevance Sort", "Page Options", and "Alert / Save / Share".

- **Wildcards, Truncation, Proximity Operators**

Wildcard and truncation symbols can create searches where there are unknown characters, multiple spellings, or various endings. Neither symbol can be the first character in your search term.

The wildcard symbol is a question mark (?). Enter your search terms and replace any unknown character with a ? and EBSCO will find all citations of that word with the ? replaced by a letter.

For example, a search for **ne?t** will return hits containing **neat**, **newt**, **nest**, or **next**.

Searching: **Academic Search Premier** | Choose Databases

ne?t in TI Title ?

AND in Select a Field (optional)

AND in Select a Field (optional) [Add Row](#)

Basic Search | Advanced Search | Visual Search | Search History

Page: 1 2 3 4 5 > Relevance Sort Page 0

37844 Results for...

Refine your results

- Full Text
- References Available
- Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals

1865 Publication Date 2012

Source Types

- All Results

- KOOLHAAS BUILDS THE NEXT WORLD WONDER.**

By: DICKEY, CHRISTOPHER. Newsweek. 7/23/2012, Vol. 160 Issue 4/5, p46-51. 6p. 4 Color Photographs, 1 Black and White Photograph, 1 Diagram.
Subjects: ARCHITECTURE; ARCHITECTS; BEIJING (China); CHINA; Other Construction Material Merchant Wholesalers; KOOLHAAS, Rem, 1944-

Database: Academic Search Premier
- The next step in arms control: Eliminate the counterforce mission.**

By: Oelrich, Ivan. Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. Jan2012, Vol. 68 Issue 1, p79-85. 7p. DOI: 10.1177/0096340211433394.
Subjects: INTERNATIONAL security; WAR; NUCLEAR weapons; NUCLEAR energy; UNITED States

Database: Academic Search Premier

Truncation is represented by an asterisk (*). Enter the root of a search term and replace the ending with an *. EBSCO returns citations of all forms of that term.

For example, a search for **teach*** will return hits containing **teach**, **teaching** and **teacher/teachers**.

Searching: **Academic Search Premier** | Choose Databases

teach* in TI Title ?

AND in Select a Field (optional)

AND in Select a Field (optional) [Add Row](#)

Basic Search | Advanced Search | Visual Search | Search History

Page: 1 2 3 4 5 > Relevance Sort Page Options Alert / Save / Share

87625 Results for...

Refine your results

- Full Text
- References Available
- Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals

1866 Publication Date 2013

Source Types

- All Results

- The relationship between teaching styles and motivation to teach among physical education teachers.**

By: Hein, Vello; Ries, Francis; Pires, Francisco; Caune, Agnese; Emeljanovas, Arunas; Ekler, Judit Heszeráné; Valantiniene, Irena. Journal of Sports Science & Medicine. Mar2012, Vol. 11 Issue 1, p123-130. 8p.
Subjects: SPORTS medicine; RESEARCH; TEACHING methods; PHYSICAL education teachers; PHYSICAL education; PHYSICAL fitness testing; EUROPE; Sports and Recreation Instruction

Database: Academic Search Premier
- THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE ELEMENTARY TEACHER CANDIDATES' TEACHER EFFICACY AND THEIR ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE PROFESSION OF TEACHING.**

Proximity searches can be used to find two or more words that occur within a specified number of words (or fewer) of each other. Proximity searching is used with a keyword or Boolean search.

The proximity operators are a near operator or within operator (**N** or **W**) and a number (to specify the number of words). The proximity operator is placed between the words you're searching.

For example, searching for **tax N5 reform** will find instances of these words occurring within 5 words of one another, regardless of the order in which they appear. This search will return results matching *tax reform* as well as *reform of income tax*.

The screenshot shows the EBSCO Academic Search Premier interface. The search query is "tax N5 reform" in the TI Title field. The results page shows 886 results. The first two results are:

- Broadening the Political Constituency of Tax Reform: The Visual Rhetoric of Canadian Taxation, 1979-81.** By: Tough, David. Journal of Canadian Studies. Winter2012, Vol. 46 Issue 1, p193-212. 20p. Database: Academic Search Premier. Add to folder. PDF Full Text (10.4MB). Check journal holdings in WorldCat.
- Bartlett on Tax Reform.** By: Henderson, David R. Policy Review. Apr/May2012, Issue 172, p140-144. 5p. Database: Academic Search Premier. Add to folder.

Using a within operator (**W**) in the same search will find the words within the range you specify, in the order in which you enter them. A search for **tax W8 reform** will return results matching *tax reform* but NOT *reform of income tax*.

The screenshot shows the EBSCO Academic Search Premier interface. The search query is "tax W8 reform" in the TI Title field. The results page shows 834 results. The first two results are:

- Broadening the Political Constituency of Tax Reform: The Visual Rhetoric of Canadian Taxation, 1979-81.** By: Tough, David. Journal of Canadian Studies. Winter2012, Vol. 46 Issue 1, p193-212. 20p. Database: Academic Search Premier. Add to folder. PDF Full Text (10.4MB). Check journal holdings in WorldCat.
- Bartlett on Tax Reform.** By: Henderson, David R. Policy Review. Apr/May2012, Issue 172, p140-144. 5p. Database: Academic Search Premier. Add to folder.

Notice in the images that the first two results are the same; however, the first search returned more results because the order of the search terms does not matter. The second search narrowed the results.

- **Grouping Terms Using Parenthesis**

Without parenthesis, a search is executed from left to right. Words enclosed in parenthesis are searched first, allowing you to control and define your search. The left phrase in parenthesis is searched first, then the second phrase is searched based on those results.

For example, a generalized search for **dog or cat and show or parade** will retrieve everything on dogs, *as well as* cat shows, *as well as* everything on parades, giving you far too many irrelevant results.

Searching **(dog or cat) and (show or parade)** will control the search to only find articles about shows or parades that reference dogs or cats.

The screenshot shows the EBSCO Academic Search Premier interface. The search query is "(dog or cat) and (show or parade)". The results page displays 270 results. The first two results are:

- 1. WORLD.** Beijing Review. 3/29/2012, Vol. 55 Issue 13, p8-9. 2p. 6 Color Photographs. Subjects: RESCUE work; **CAT shows**; SAINT Patrick's Day; **PARADES**; PHOTOGRAPHIC images. Database: Academic Search Premier. Add to folder. Check journal holdings in WorldCat.
- 2. Chasing perfection.** By: Amiel, Barbara. Maclean's. 4/2/2012, Vol. 125 Issue 12, p42-47. 6p. 8 Color Photographs. Subjects: ANIMAL pedigrees; **DOG breeds**; **DOG shows**; HISTORY; WESTMINSTER Kennel Club. **Dog Show**; PEDIGREE Dogs Exposed (TV program).

- **Quotation Marks**

When a phrase is enclosed by double quotation marks, the exact phrase is searched. This can be especially helpful when searching for specific, common names; the use of quotation marks can narrow your search.