

Novanet Libcasts

BASIC Searching an EBSCO database

Screen shots	Script
Title page	<p>This libcast will introduce you to doing a <i>*basic*</i> search in an EBSCO database. It will show you how to do a basic search, and how to read your results.</p> <p>There is also a libcast for more <i>*advanced*</i> searches in an EBSCO database found on the libcast page.</p>
<p>Screen with “effects of TV violence on children”</p> <p>EBSCO Advanced screen</p>	<p>As an example, let’s assume that your psychology professor has asked you to write a paper about the effects of TV violence on children.</p> <p>The key database for psychology is PsycINFO.</p> <p>This database uses the EBSCO interface.</p>
<p>Dal Libraries Database Search Screen with PsycINFO as search term. Click search.</p> <p>Open Database</p>	<p>Access this Database from Dalhousie’s list of databases.</p> <p>When you open the database it will automatically bring you to the advanced search screen.</p>
<p>Zoom into Search Field Call-Out Boolean Operators</p> <p>POWERPOINT</p>	<p>First let’s consider our search terms. In advanced search you can combine search words in a variety of ways using these Boolean Operators, And, Or and Not.</p> <p>We’re looking for information about the effects of tv violence on children. First, decide what main concepts you can take from your topic, then list some terms.</p> <p>TV, violence and children are three terms we can use to begin our search. Place an asterisk next to child* so the database will search for any word beginning with those letters. Similarly place an asterisk after v-i-o-l so the database will know to search for violence and violent.</p>
<p>Transition back to search screen. Enter “effect of tv violence on children”</p> <p>Enter tv AND viol* AND child*</p> <p>Check Boolean/Phrase search and Apply Related Words.</p> <p>Call out publication date range option.</p>	<p>In the search fields, you can enter more than one word, in quotation marks, and EBSCO will search it as a phrase, in the order it appears.</p> <p>In our case it is better to separate the words with the Boolean operator AND. Now EBSCO will find results in which all three keywords appear, in no specific order.</p> <p>Check Boolean/Phrase search, because we are doing a Boolean Search.</p> <p>You may want to limit the date range to make sure you’re getting the most current results.</p> <p>Besides date range, there are a variety of other ways you can narrow</p>

<p>Scroll down.</p>	<p>your search, including publication type, language, intended audience and more...</p>
<p>Click Search.</p>	<p>Click search to begin</p>
<p>Results Show tabs on left-hand side. Open Publication Types, Subjects and Source Types.</p> <p>Click on Peer Reviewed</p> <p>Show drop-down list.</p> <p>Show Limiters on right-hand side.</p>	<p>On the left hand side of the results page, you will see that EBSCO has organized your results in a variety of helpful ways. Some important ones to take note of are Publication Types, Subjects and Source Types.</p> <p>Under source types you will see Peer Reviewed Articles. The peer reviewed tab is important to take note of, since professors often ask for “peer reviewed” articles in your bibliography. These articles have been reviewed by experts in the field.</p> <p>The Subjects tabs are also important to look at because these subjects are words EBSCO uses to sort information using EBSCO’s vocabulary. Notice how EBSCO uses the word “television” instead of TV. Also, one of the Major Headings is Aggression. These would both be good terms to add to your search.</p> <p>The default view is “All Results” but by clicking on one of these headings, EBSCO will bring up the sorted results.</p> <p>You can also sort your results by date, author, source or relevance with this drop-down list.</p> <p>From the results page, you can also limit your results those with available references, or peer reviewed results, or with this sliding dial, you can alter the date range.</p>
<p>Mark some records Click Update Marked Records Click Marked List</p> <p>Zoom to Folder.</p> <p>Click on Folder View. Highlight icons.</p>	<p>You can save records that interest you, as you navigate through the results by clicking the icon beneath the record that says Add To Folder.</p> <p>As you save records, you will see them appear in a folder on the right hand side of the results screen.</p> <p>To view your saved records, click on Folder View. Your saved records can be printed, emailed, saved or exported using these icons.</p>
<p>Back to results.</p> <p>Enter tv OR television AND violen* OR aggress* AND child*</p>	<p>You can refine your search using the fields at the top.</p> <p>Let’s add some of the database’s vocabulary and add the Boolean operator OR to refine our results.</p>
<p>Zoom into result. Click on title. Back to results.</p> <p>Zoom into holdings information. Call Outs.</p>	<p>The results are listed by title first, then the author’s name, then the publication details. Click on the title to see more detailed description. This is called a Full Record.</p> <p>Below each record, the holdings information will be displayed. This is where you can access the full text, if it is available. This article’s full text is available in HTML or PDF format.</p>

Click on Get It At Dal	<p>If no full text is available you can use the Get It At Dal button to search for the item at Dalhousie.</p> <p>Because EBSCO searches many different journals, the article you want might not necessarily be available at Dalhousie. The Get It At Dal button will let you know.</p> <p>For more information on the Get It At Dal service, see the libcast that addresses this topic.</p>
End Title	<p>This has been a brief introduction to doing a basic search in an EBSCO database. If you need further assistance please visit one of our reference desks, or you can get online help with our live help service. You may also want to view some of our other libcasts on doing library research available on the displayed website.</p>

<p>Publication Details:</p> <p>Length – 5:12 html – 40.9 MB wmv – 4.12 MB m4v – 14.8 MB</p>	<p>Checklist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> edited the HTML file for title, author and meta tags <input type="checkbox"/> script updated <input type="checkbox"/> added author info on produced files as “Dalhousie University Libraries”
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