

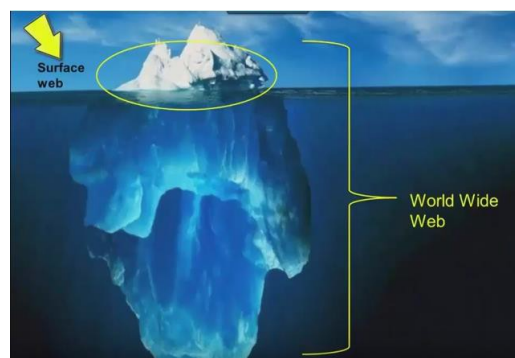
SEARCH TIPS

- 1 Search the Web VS Databases, what's the difference?
- 2 Using Boolean Operators to refine searches.
- 3 Too many or too few results? Try these tips to narrow or broaden your search.
- 4 Advanced search tips for databases

1. Searching the Web VS Databases, what's the difference?

	WEB	DATABASES
Credibility	Difficult to verify. Lack of regulation and often published without evaluation.	Authority and content credibility is guaranteed by subject experts and publishers.
Access	Free (with internet subscription/free wifi)	Paid for through tuition and provincial taxes.
Relevance	Search may include many irrelevant results . Information may not have been updated in years.	Subject, medium and/or geographic focus weeds out a lot of irrelevant information . Updated regularly.
Number of Hits	Can be in the 100's and millions, duplicates included .	More manageable number of results), duplicates can be filtered out.
Search Features	Mostly reliant on keywords (and some symbols) and lacks filters to refine searching . Using fuzzy logic, search engines in some ways, could be considered "smarter" than database searches, often searching misspelt words or making suggestions for alternative keywords or phrases . To make your search more accurate, use common Boolean operators (i.e. and, or, not).	Many filters available to narrow and refine searches including ability to limit by publication type, date, language, and scholarly/peer-reviewed status. Generally searches only EXACTLY what is input . Ex. if your keyword is misspelt, your search will likely be unsuccessful . When searching multiple keywords simultaneously, separate them with Boolean operators (i.e. and, or, not) to increase search accuracy.

Here's a short clip from the Monroe Community College Library Services on [Library Databases vs Google](#), discussing the difference between researching on the Internet and databases. [Return to Top Menu](#).



2. Using Boolean Operators, truncation and wildcards to refine searches:

When searching the library catalogue and databases, try using specific [search terms](#) like boolean operators, truncation and [wildcards](#) to refine your keyword searches. These techniques can also be used when searching the Internet to increase search accuracy.

SEARCH TERMS

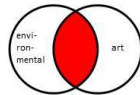
using Boolean Operators to improve your searches

Boolean Operators are related terms that either narrow or broaden your results.
The most useful Boolean Operators are: **AND**, **OR** and **NOT**.

AND

Use **AND** to connect search terms and get results that include all of your search terms.
This search will give you results that include both "environmental" **AND** "art".

environmental **AND** art

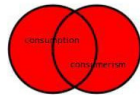


OR

Use **OR** to get results that include *either one OR both* of your search terms. Using **OR** can be useful when searching multiple synonyms simultaneously.

This search will include all results with either "consumption" **OR** "consumerism" **OR** both.

consumption **OR** consumerism

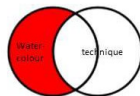


NOT

Use **NOT** to narrow your search. Search specifically for one term, but **NOT** another. Using **NOT** can be useful when a term has many applications or associations.

This search will include all results for "watercolour" but **NOT** those titles which also have "technique" as a searchable term.

watercolour **NOT** technique



WILDCARD SEARCH

also known as truncation

use symbols at the end of root words **OR** to replace letters in order to search multiple forms and spellings simultaneously

The Luke Lindoe Library Online Catalogue uses \$ (dollar sign) as a wildcard to search for multiple forms or spellings.

modern\$ Will bring up results for: modern modernity modernism	sustain\$ Will bring up results for: sustain sustainable sustainability	wom\$n Will bring up results for: woman women womyn	col\$r Will bring up results for: color Colour collar
---	--	--	--

NOTE: wildcards CANNOT be used at the beginning of a search word
ex. \$modern is NOT a valid search

Different library catalogues and databases (Oxford Art Online, JSTOR, Artsource...) use different wildcard symbols. Although the most common wildcards are * (asterisk) and ? (question mark), always check the catalogue or database Help sections to determine what wildcards to use.

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3. Too many or too few results? Try these tips to **narrow** or **broaden** your search in the library catalogue:

Narrow your search

Too many results? If your search retrieved too many titles, try to:

1. Narrow your search type.

In the Quick Search box, instead of hitting return (defaults to words or phrase) select the title button or subject button. Use quotation marks to search for an exact phrase, for example "sustainable design".



2. Use the Boolean Operators (and, not) to make your search more specific.

- sustainable (77) vs. sustainable **and** design (58)
- self portraits (85) vs. self portraits **not** painting (57)
- indigenous and art (306) vs. indigenous **and** art and performance (18)

3. Do an Advanced Search (instead of a Quick Search) and search a combination of terms, including item type and publication year range.

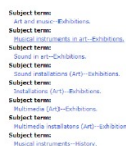
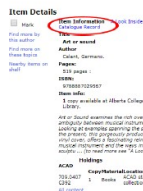
Ex. glass (subject search = 515) vs. glass and sculpture (subject search limited by item type and publication dates = 48)



4. Check the catalogue record

(click on the title to go to Item Details)

The catalogue record lists terms which may help to refine your search or think of alternative search words.



Broaden your search

Too few results? If your search didn't come up with much, try to:

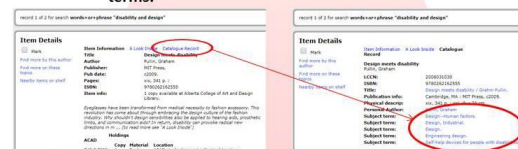
1. Use "or" between similar search terms to broaden your search.

Ex. activism (29) vs. activism or protest (49) vs. activism or protest or social change (83)

2. Do a wildcard search.

Use the \$ as a wildcard to search for multiple forms or spellings. Ex. enviro\$ will retrieve: environment, environmental, environmentalism, environmentalist...

3. Check the catalogue record for other search terms.



4. Consider the historical and social context as well as broader movements or trends which may impact your topic.

Ex. Judith Scott (6) vs. subject searches for: art, amateur (21), naïve art (26), art brut (47), outsider art (69), women and sculpture (103),

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4. Advanced search tips for databases

Searching databases is very similar to searching the library catalogue. It's a good idea to use Boolean logic, truncation and wildcards as well as all the additional filters databases offers to refine searches.

Different databases use different symbols for wildcards (the AUArts Library uses \$ as a wildcard, but others may use the * or the ! for example). Different databases may also interpret searches with some slight variation. For example, some databases search words typed next to each other as phrases, others automatically default to the Boolean AND between keywords.

Access databases through the Library [E-Resources](#) and take a look at **advanced search** tips in the Help sections for three of our most popular databases:

- **Oxford Art Online:** art reference which include works cited, useful for finding background and general information on artists, movements, art theory and historical context. Follow this link for a [guided tour](#).

Oxford Art Online also offers [Oxford Art Subject Guides](#) on a variety of topics (ex. Roman Art and Architecture, Dada and Surrealism, Asian Art, Women in Visual Arts). Each guide introduces the subject, links to key essays, biographies and external resources.

- **Artsource:** offers full-text articles, indexing and abstracts for a broad range of subjects from fine, decorative and commercial art to architecture and design. You can search for articles, limit your search to full-text results to read immediately online, organize articles into folders, email or print out copies and create journal alerts so that you are notified by email of new issues and their table of contents. Follow this link for an [Advanced Searching Tutorial for Artsource and other EBSCO databases](#).

- **JSTOR:** full-text articles in the humanities and social sciences, including art, art history, history, sociology and political science. Follow this link for a brief [video about advanced searching in JSTOR](#).

JSTOR also produces [JSTOR Daily](#), an online publication that provides scholarly context for current events.

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SEARCH TERMS

using Boolean Operators to improve your searches

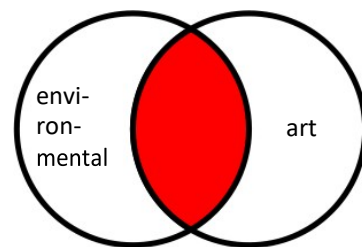
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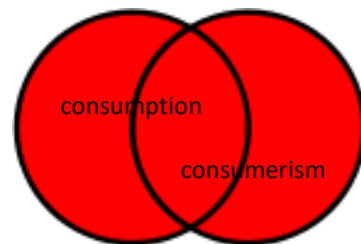


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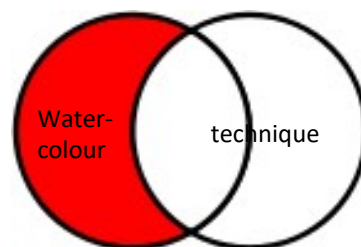


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Will bring up
results for:

modern
modernity
modernism

sustain\$

Will bring up
results for:

sustain
sustainable
sustainability

wom\$n

Will bring up
results for:

woman
women
womyn

col\$r

Will bring up
results for:

color
Colour
collar

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Quick Search

Search for
logo

words or phrase **title** subject series

Advanced Search

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3. Do an Advanced Search (instead of a Quick Search) and search a combination of terms, including item type and publication year range.

Ex. glass (subject search = 515) vs.
glass and sculpture (subject search
limited by item type and
publication dates = 48)

Complex Search

subject
glass And
subject
sculpture And
title
And
subject
And
series

Search Reset

Item Type: Book Materials
Location: ANY
match on: Keywords
Pub. Year: 2010-2017
Sort By: None

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(click on the title to go to Item Details)

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Item Details

Mark

Find more by this author

Find more on these topics

Nearby items on shelf

Item Information Catalogue Record Look Inside

Title

Art or sound

Author
Celant, Germano.

Pages:
519 pages :

ISBN:
9788887029567

Item info:
1 copy available at Alberta College of Art and Design Library.

Art or Sound examines the rich overlap and areas of ambiguity between musical instruments and works of art. Looking at examples spanning the seventeenth century to the present, this gorgeously produced book, with its thick vinyl cover, offers a fascinating reinterpretation of the musical instrument and the ways in which it can become a sculptu ... (to read more see "A Look Inside")

Holdings

ACAD	Copy	Material	Location
709.0407 C392	1	Books	ACAD stacks (general collection) location

[All content](#)

Subject term:
[Art and music--Exhibitions.](#)

Subject term:
[Musical instruments in art--Exhibitions.](#)

Subject term:
[Sound in art--Exhibitions.](#)

Subject term:
[Sound installations \(Art\)--Exhibitions.](#)

Subject term:
[Installations \(Art\)--Exhibitions.](#)

Subject term:
[Multimedia \(Art\)--Exhibitions.](#)

Subject term:
[Multimedia installatons \(Art\)--Exhibitions.](#)

Subject term:
[Musical instruments--History.](#)

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record 1 of 2 for search words+or+phrase "disability and design"

Item Details

☐ Mark

[Find more by this author](#)
[Find more on these topics](#)
[Nearby items on shelf](#)

Item Information [A Look Inside](#) [Catalogue Record](#)

Title Design meets disability
Author Pullin, Graham
Publisher: MIT Press,
Pub date: c2009.
Pages: xix, 341 p. :
ISBN: 9780262162555
Item info: 1 copy available at Alberta College of Art and Design Library.

Eyeglasses have been transformed from medical necessity to fashion accessory. This revolution has come about through embracing the design culture of the fashion industry. Why shouldn't design sensibilities also be applied to hearing aids, prosthetic limbs, and communication aids? In return, disability can provoke radical new directions in m ... (to read more see "A Look Inside")

Holdings

ACAD	Copy	Material	Location
745.2 P982	1	Books	ACAD stacks (general collection) location

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Item Details

☐ Mark

[Find more by this author](#)
[Find more on these topics](#)
[Nearby items on shelf](#)

Item Information [A Look Inside](#) [Catalogue Record](#)

Design meets disability
Pullin, Graham

LCCN: 2008031030
ISBN: 9780262162555
Title: Design meets disability / Graham Pullin.
Publication info: Cambridge, MA : MIT Press, c2009.
Physical descrip: xix, 341 p. : col. ill. ; 21 cm.
Personal Author: Pullin, Graham
Subject term: Design--Human factors.
Subject term: Design, Industrial.
Subject term: Design.
Subject term: Engineering design.
Subject term: Self-help devices for people with disabilities.

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Ex. Judith Scott (6) vs subject searches for: art, amateur (21), naïve art (26), art brut (47), outsider art (69), women and sculpture (103),