

Search Guide: Dissertations & Theses

ProQuest Information and Learning is a global leader in collecting, organizing and distributing value-added information to researchers. **ProQuest Dissertations & Theses (PQDT)** is the world's most comprehensive collection of dissertations and theses, covering graduate works from 1861 to the present.

Search Tips

- 2 word queries search as an exact phrase - **greenhouse effect**
- 3 word queries search words appearing in proximity to each other - **numerical weather prediction**
- Use "quotation marks" to search for exact 3+ word phrases - **"global positioning system"**
- Use special characters and operators (below) to focus your query.

Truncation and Wildcard Characters

- * The symbol * is a right-handed truncation character only; it will find all forms of a word.
Example: searching for **econom*** will find "economy", "economics", "economical", etc.
- ? The symbol ? replaces any single character, either inside a word or at the end of a word.
? cannot be used to begin a word.
Example: searching for **"wom?n"** will find "woman" and "women."

Operators

Boolean, proximity and adjacency operators are used to broaden and narrow your search.

- AND** Find all the words.
Example: obesity AND diabetes
- AND NOT** Find documents which have the first word, but not the second word.
Example: skiing AND NOT cross-country
- OR** Find any of the words.
Example: euro OR lira
- W/#** Find documents where these words are within some number of words apart (either before or after).
Example: architecture W/5 gothic
- NOT W/#** Find documents where these words appear but are not within some number of words apart (either before or after).
Example: computer NOT W/2 scripting
- PRE/#** Find documents where the first word appears some number of words before the second word.
Example: art PRE/3 museum

Search Field Syntax

Abstract

Search abstracts for your terms.

Valid Forms:

ABS
AB
ABSTRACT

Examples:

ABS(consumer behavior)
ABS(ozone)

Advisor

Lets you search for dissertations and theses completed under the supervision of a specific academic advisor for dissertations from 1989 forward. Use truncation if you're unsure of the name spelling.

Valid Forms: *Name Forms:*

AD	First
ADV	Last
ADVISER	First Last
ADVISOR	Last, First

Examples:

ADV(Yoder,Edgar)
ADVISOR(Harrington)

Alternate Language Title

Use the Alternate Language Title search field to look for dissertations by their alternate language title. For example, you can search for documents originally published in Spanish by searching for an alternate title in English.

Valid Forms:

ALTITLE

Examples:

ALTITLE("The local area as a strategy for sustainable urban development")

Author

Use to find dissertations or theses written by a particular author.

Valid Forms:

AUTHOR
AU

Examples:

AUTHOR(Carr, Kirsten)
AU(Leon Slaweki)

Citation and Abstract

When you select **Citations and abstracts** from the drop-down menu, ProQuest searches the following fields:

- Advisor
- Author
- Abstract
- Index Terms (Keywords)
- Document Title
- Subjects

Date

Searches for the year a degree was awarded by a school.

Valid Form:

PDA
DA
DATE

Example:

DA(2001)

Degree Name

Used to search degree name. For master's thesis and doctoral dissertation records, identifies the degree. Search for degree abbreviations and include periods (Ed.D.) (M.A.)

Valid Forms:

DEGREE
DG
DDN

Example:

DG(M.S.N.)

Dissertation Volume / Issue (DVI)

Limit your search to the DAI (Dissertation Abstracts International) database or the MAI (Master's Abstracts International) database. The default setting searches across both.

Also limits your search to:

Social Sciences and Humanities (Volume A)
Sciences and Engineering (Volume B)
International (Volume C)

Or search for specific issue numbers. Note that limiting by volume or issue may not make sense if your subscription only covers a portion of the database.

Valid Forms:
DISVOL

Examples:

DISVOL(MAI)
DISVOL(DAI-B 56-02)
DISVOL(B)

Document Language

This field contains the language in which the document was published originally.

Valid Forms:
LA
LN

Examples:
LA(French)
LN(French or Italian)

Document Title

Use to find search terms only in the title of a document.

Valid Forms:
TITLE
TI

Examples:
TITLE(coffee)
TI(coffee or tea)
TI("Grounds for agreement: The political economy of the coffee commodity chain")

Index Terms / Keywords

Searches on keywords/index terms supplied by the author of the dissertation or thesis, or ProQuest editorial staff to improve retrieval.

Valid Forms:
IF
PKEY

Examples:
PKEY(algebra)
IF(Shakespeare)

ISBN

This search field looks for the ten-digit International Standard Book Number (ISBN), where available. Do not enter hyphens. Spaces are required.

Valid Forms:
ISB
ISBN
BN
SN

Examples:
BN(1 55570 397 6)

Publication Number

Search for a specific dissertation by publication number. This number appears in each citation. You must OMIT "AAT" from the ID number. You can include or omit any dashes.

Valid Forms:
DISPUB

Examples:
DISPUB(3130208)
DISPUB(MM-98765)

School Location

Search for a school in a specific geographic location, such as state, province, or country.

Valid Forms:
SCHLOC

Examples:
SCHLOC(Ireland)

School Name/Code

Search for dissertations granted by a specific school. Enter the school name or four-digit school code.

You can click the **Browse Schools** link to select from a list of available schools.

Valid Forms:
SC
SCH
SCHNAME

Examples:
SC(University of Michigan)
SCH(Northeastern University)
SCHNAME(0113)

Subject Name/Code

Search for a specific subject term which conforms to the ProQuest/UMI controlled vocabulary.

Enter a term or the four number code associated with each subject name. You can also click the **Browse subjects** link to select from a list.

Note: Subject searching is most effective when used with keyword, degree date, or other search limiters. *Valid Forms:*
SUB

Examples:
SUB(sports medicine)

Year

Used to search **Publication Year**

Valid Forms:
YR
PY

Examples:
YR(1971)

Example Searches

The examples below illustrate the kinds of searches you can build in Basic Search or Advanced Search using operators and fields.

calculus

Finds documents that contain the word **calculus**.

educat*

Finds documents containing the words **education, educator, educate, and educating**. The "*" is the truncation symbol to find multiple forms of a word.

bilingual education AND teenager

Finds documents that contain the phrase bilingual education **and the word teenager**.

"optical character recognition"

Finds documents that contain the phrase optical character recognition.
Always enclose phrases longer than two words in quotation marks.

author(Yin) AND sch(Columbia University)

Finds documents written by an author with the name Yin from the school Columbia University.

la(German) AND mechanical engineering

Finds documents written in German containing the phrase mechanical engineering. Use the language field to find documents written in a specific language.

disvol(MAI) AND pediatrics

Finds documents only from the Master's Abstracts International database written about

pediatrics. Use the Dissertation Volume (disvol) field to limit your search to only master's theses.

dg(M.A.) AND Chaucer

Finds documents written by a Master of Arts candidate and containing the word Chaucer. Use the Degree field to find a specific type of degree. Note that the degree abbreviation must be used and periods must be included.

ad(grantham)

Finds documents completed under the supervision of an academic advisor with the last name Grantham.

Where to find help

In North America:

- **Technical Support**
Phone: 800-889-3358
Email: tsupport@proquest.com
Web: <http://proquest.com/techsupport>
- **Search Assistance**
Phone: 800-889-3358
Email: technicalsupport@proquest.com
Web: <http://proquest.com/techsupport>
- **Product Help**
Product help and downloadable guides:
http://proquest.com/products_pq/training

Outside of North America:

- **Technical Support**
Email: support@proquest.co.uk



Freephone: 0880 220 710 (UK only)
Telephone: +44 1223 271 496 (Outside
of UK)

- **Product Help**
Product help and downloadable guides:
<http://proquest.co.uk/pqtraining>