

Search Tips

- Use "quotation marks" to search for exact phrases – "Cuban Missile Crisis"
- Two (2) word queries (such as Emancipation Proclamation) are searched as an exact phrase by default.
- Three (3) word queries (such as Little Big Horn or Nobel Peace Prize) are searched as words that need to appear in proximity to each other by default. (Proximity being a 250 word block.)

Truncation and Wildcard Characters

* The symbol * is used as a right-handed truncation character only; it will find all forms of a word. For example, searching for **orphan*** will find "orphan", "orphaned", "orphanage", " ", etc.

? The symbol ? is used to replace any single character, either inside the word or the right end of the word. ? cannot be used to begin a word. For example, searching for **t?re** will find "tire", "tyre", "tore", etc.

Operators

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

AND Find all the words. When searching for keywords in "Citation and Document Text," AND finds documents in which the words occur in the same paragraph (within approx. 1000 characters) or the words appear in any citation field.

Use W/DOC in place of AND when searching for keywords within "Citation and Document Text" or "Document Text" to retrieve more comprehensive results.

Example: Churchill **and** Iron Curtain

AND NOT Find articles which contain the first word, but not the second word.
Example: Edison **and not** telephone

OR Find any of the words.
Example: women's suffrage **or** women's rights

W/# Find documents where these words are within some number of words apart (either before or after). Use when searching for keywords within "Citation and Document Text" or "Document Text." Can use any number from 1 to 100.
Example: San Francisco **w/20** earthquake

W/PARA Finds documents where these words are within the same paragraph (within approx. 1000 characters). Use when searching for keywords within "Document Text."
Example: polio vaccine **w/para** Salk.

W/DOC Find documents where all the words appear within the document text. Use W/DOC in place of AND when searching for keywords within "Citation and Document Text" or "Document Text" to retrieve more comprehensive results.
Example: President Kennedy **w/doc** "bay of pigs"

NOT W/# Find documents where these words appear but are not within some number of words apart (either before or after). Use when searching for keywords within "Citation and Document Text" or "Document Text." Can use any number from 1 to 100.
Example: "Duke of Windsor" **not w/20** abdicat*

PRE/# Find documents where the first word appears some number of words before the second word. Use when searching for keywords within "Citation and Document Text" or "Document Text."
Example: gold **pre/5** standard will find phrase such as "gold or silver standard"

Search Field Syntax

| | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| Abstract | Date (Numeric) | Section |
| Author | Document Text | Word Count |
| Citation and Abstract | Document Title | Year |
| Citation and Document Text | Publication Title | |
| Date (Alpha) | | |

Abstract (AB)

Search article abstracts for your terms.

Valid Forms:

AB
ABS

Examples:

AB(Steinbeck)
ABS(pony express)
ABS(Huckleberry Finn)

Author (AU)

Use to find articles written by an author or reviewer.

Valid Forms:

AU

Examples:

AU(Churchill) any author with the name of Churchill
AU(Edgar Allan Poe)

Citation and Abstract

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

- Author
- Citation
- Abstract
- Article Title
- Source (publication title)

Citation and Document Text

When you select **Citation and document text**, ProQuest searches within the complete text of the article, the citation fields, and the abstract.

Date (Alpha) (DA)

The publication date in alphanumeric format (month day year). For example December 12, 1905 appears as Dec 12 1905.

Do not use a comma.

Valid Form:

DA
DATE

Example:

DA(Dec 12 1905)

Date (Numeric) (PDN)

The publication date in numeric format (mm/dd/yyyy).

EX: December 12, 1932 appears as 12/12/1932.

You can use the < and > signs to indicate dates before and after a date, or between specific dates.

For example, **PDN(>1/1/2002) AND PDN(<1/5/2002)** will find results from publications with numeric dates between January 1 2002 and January 5 2002.

Valid Form:

PDN
PD

Example:

PDN(1/1/1897)

Document ID (ID)

Search the unique database ID for articles and documents in ProQuest.

Valid Forms:

ID

Examples:

ID(83453275)

Document Text (TX)

Searches only the full text of articles for your search terms. Article abstracts are not included in this search. AND, OR, and other search operators are treated as such unless enclosed in quotes.

Valid Forms:

TX
TEXT

Examples:

TX(Kofi Annan)
TEXT("North Sea oil")

Document Title (TI)

The title of an article, such as "PERILS OF THE SEA.; Dismantling of a British Bark in a Hurricane." This search field locates the occurrence of search words in the title of the article.

Valid Forms:

TI
TITLE

Examples:

TI(NAACP)
TI(Pony Express)
TI("PERILS OF THE SEA")

Document Type (DT)

Use this search field to look for search words or phrases in articles of a certain type.

Valid Forms:

DT
AT

Examples:

DT(display_ad)
AT(editorial_cartoon)
DT(photo_standalone)
DTYPE(front_page)

Publication Title / Journal Name (JN)

Used to search by a specific publication name or source name.

Valid Forms:

JN
SO

Examples:

JN(Wall Street Journal)
SO(Christian Science Monitor)
SO(New York) — retrieves all newspapers with "New York " in the title – New York Times as well as New York Daily Times

Section (SE)

Search for articles that appear in a specific section of a publication. Use the SOURCE search field to specify a publication. You must specify the section name exactly as it appears in the publication.

Valid Forms:

SE
SEC

Examples:

SE(money)
SEC(sports)

Year (YR)

Used to search **Publication Year** index.

Valid Forms:

YR

Examples:

YR(1876)
YR(1902-1905)
YR(>1966)
YR(<1998)

Stop Words

ProQuest ignores the following frequently used words. To use them as part of a search phrase, enclose them with quotation marks: e.g. "the sound and the fury".

| | | | | | | |
|---------|--------|------|------|---------|---------|-------|
| about | do | more | than | when | been | it |
| can | make | some | were | be | into | other |
| just | should | was | as | how | only | they |
| out | to | any | has | now | there | with |
| those | an | from | no | their | who | but |
| after | each | most | that | which | between | its |
| could | many | such | what | because | is | our |
| like | so | we | at | if | or | this |
| said | use | are | have | of | these | would |
| through | and | had | not | them | will | by |
| also | for | much | the | while | both | |

Example Searches

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

Content varies between ProQuest Historical Newspaper files; therefore, the number of articles found using the examples below will vary.

Gettysburg*

Finds articles that contain the word **Gettysburg** or **Gettysburgh**

Orphan*

Finds articles containing the words orphan, orphaned, orphanage, etc. The "*" is the truncation symbol to find multiple forms of a word.

Churchill and Iron Curtain

Finds articles that contain the word Churchill and the phrase **Iron Curtain**. (and searches for terms within approx. 1,000 characters)

"Nobel Peace Prize"

Finds articles that contain the phrase **Nobel Peace Prize**.

Always enclose phrases longer than two words in quotation marks.

Blacklist and hollywood

Finds articles that mention blacklist and Hollywood.

At(photo_standalone) and John F. Kennedy

Finds articles that have image captions containing the words John F. Kennedy.

author(Hans Christen Andersen)

Finds articles written by Hans Christen Andersen.

at(review) AND au(Edgar Allen Poe)

Combines article type (AT) review and author (AU) field Edgar Allen Poe.

Note that dtype is also a valid syntax form for Article Type.

source(New York Times) AND Babe Ruth AND yr(1900-1925)

Finds articles from the New York Times about the Babe Ruth between 1900 and 1925. Use the Source search field to restrict your search to a specific newspaper. Use the YR field to limit to specific years.

at(front_page) AND "Nobel Peace Prize"

Finds front page articles about the Nobel Peace Prize.

So(New York Times) and title(Titanic)

Finds major articles in the New York Times about the Titanic.