



Database Guide: Applied Social Sciences Index and Abstracts (ASSIA)

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What Is Applied Social Sciences Index and Abstracts (ASSIA)?

Applied Social Sciences Index and Abstracts (ASSIA) is an indexing and abstracting tool covering health, social services, psychology, sociology, economics, politics, race relations and education. Updated monthly, ASSIA provides a comprehensive source of social sciences and health information for the practical and academic professional.

ASSIA currently contains over 475,000 records from over 500 journals published in 16 different countries, including the United Kingdom and USA.

Subject Coverage

ASSIA is designed to serve the information needs of the caring professions – whether the members of those professions are practitioners, researchers or students. It is unique in its focus on the practical problems of society and also in that it covers both sociology and psychology.

The core disciplines to support practice are covered in depth and so central areas of coverage in ASSIA are:

- Social problems like poverty and overcrowding, abuse, crime and violence, disease and disability, mental illness and addiction, racism and sexism, inequality and discrimination.
- Social and psychological issues concerning drugs, gender, women and the family, education and employment, housing, migration, child and adolescent development, ageing, citizenship, ethnicity and nationality.
- Health care, therapy, nursing and midwifery: policy, professions and practices.
- The social services, including social work, welfare, counseling and probation, and the police and prison services.

Some of the major topics covered include:

Child Abuse	Housing	Race relations
Communication	Immigration	Religion
Criminology	Industrial relations	Sexuality
Education	Geriatrics	Social work
Ethnic and minority studies	Legal issues	Substance abuse
Family	Mental health	Unemployment
Health	Nursing	Urban planning
Health policy	Psychology	Women's studies

For a complete list of subject coverage and further information, visit the factsheet at <http://www.proquest.co.uk/en-UK/catalogs/databases/detail/assia-set-c.shtml>.

Selection Policy

At present ASSIA covers journal articles from a wide range of over 500 English language journals published in the United Kingdom (~46%), USA (~43%) and a wide variety of other countries from Australia to Zimbabwe. The majority of titles are from academic publishers and learned and professional societies or associations.

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When selecting journals for ASSIA our editorial team carefully reviews journals on their subject coverage and selects those that are best suited to support the goal of ASSIA to cover the information need of the caring professions.

We are always thrilled to hear from you, our user, about journals you consider must-have coverage for ASSIA. Please contact support@proquest.com to suggest additional coverage items.

Sample Record



Database ASSIA: Applied Social Sciences Index and Abstracts

Title Factors shaping substance use by young people in Wales

Author [Case, Stephen; Haines, Kevin R](#)

Affiliation Centre for Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of Swansea, UK

Source Journal of Substance Use, vol. 13, no. 1, pp. 1-15, Feb. 2008

ISSN 1465-9891

Descriptors Young people Risk factors Wales Substance abuse Behavioural problems

New Search Using Marked Terms: Use AND to narrow Use OR to broaden

Add to Current Search: Use AND to narrow Use OR to broaden

Abstract This paper examines the prevalence of, frequency of and factors underpinning, substance use by young people. The research augments previous exploration of the causes of youth drug use by integrating factor analysis into traditional statistical techniques to identify composite risk factors for different forms of drug use (any drugs, soft drugs, hard drugs, inhalants) by the youth population in Wales. The existing risk-focused research literature is further extrapolated through detailed investigation of the relative salience of risk factors by specific gender and age group in the Welsh sample. Reported drug use by the whole sample and specific sub-groups generally accorded with the findings of previous research with equivalent age groups in Wales, the UK and Europe. Those factors exerting the most influence upon youth drug use were: **anti-social** behaviour/attitudes, drug-related behaviour/attitudes, negative thinking, psychological problems and behavioural problems. This study affords a first tentative step on the road to a more comprehensive and sensitive exploration of the role of composite risk factors in drug taking behaviour by young people. Findings imply the need for comprehensive, multi-dimensional drug prevention programmes addressing multiple and composite risk factors, targeted appropriately upon specific sub-groups of the youth population. Adapted from the source document.

Language English

Publication Year 2008

Publication Type Journal Article

Publisher Taylor & Francis, Basingstoke UK

Update 20080627

Accession Number 200813450

DOI 10.1080/14659890701635384

Searchable Field Codes

Field Name	Label	Search Examples & Explanation
Abstract	AB	ab=child welfare workers

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		<p>We use the journal-provided abstract with little or no modification, or have members from our editorial team write an abstract from scratch, drawing on the article's text and concepts. Our team's goal is to make the article's point as clearly and succinctly as possible.</p> <p>Abstracts are available from 1987</p>
Accession Number	AN	<p>an=123456</p> <p>This field states the unique record number, which can be used to quickly refer back to a particular record via a Quick or Advanced Search. In Quick Search enter an=123456 and search.</p>
Author	AU	<p>au=wolf, david or au=wolf, d or au=wolf david</p> <p>Author names will generally be indexed as shown in the original article. The standard format is Last Name, First Name. We do recommend that you use the Author Name Index for searches (Search Tools > Indexes) to ensure a comprehensive result set.</p>
CODEN	CD	<p>CD=WESOEY</p> <p>CODEN are unique, six-character codes that identify serial and non-serial publications produced worldwide. CODEN are assigned not only to chemistry-related literature but to publications in all subject areas by CAS (Chemical Abstracts Service). Please note that not all records have a CODEN.</p>
Descriptors	DE	<p>DE=voting systems</p> <p>Descriptors are controlled vocabulary terms drawn from the 18,000+ term ASSIA Thesaurus. Using the Thesaurus for your search will offer precise and comprehensive search results for your query. Learn more about the ASSIA Thesaurus on page 14.</p>
Features	FE	<p>While not searchable, it contains information on the document at hand, i.e. whether the source record contains references, illustrations, tables</p> <p><i>Example: (from AN=391036)</i> il. refs. tbls.</p>
ISSN	IS	<p>IS=1077-5595</p> <p>The International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) is used to uniquely identify any serial publication worldwide. If known, it can be the quickest and most accurate way to search for records stemming from a particular journal. Not all journals have an ISSN though.</p>

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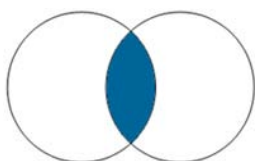
Field Name	Label	Search Examples & Explanation
Journal Name	JN	<p>jn=Journal of Health Psychology</p> <p>This field contains the journal name of a periodical, it displays as part of the source information (SO=). This field is word indexed allowing for easy retrieval. You may wish to consult the Journal Name Index (Search Tools > Indexes) for a comprehensive list of journal names.</p>
Journal Volume	JV	<p>jv=23</p> <p>The journal volume field displays as part of the source information (SO=).</p>
Keywords	KW	<p>kw=foster care</p> <p>The keywords field is used to search the Abstract (AB) , Descriptors (DE), and Title (TI)</p> <p>In other Illumina databases Keywords might search additional fields; please check with the database guide or factsheet for the appropriate database.</p>
Language	LA	<p>la=english</p> <p>Denotes the language or languages of the main text body of the indexed article. All records in ASSIA are English language.</p>
Publication Type	PT	<p>pt=journal article</p> <p>All records in ASSIA are derived from journals and will have "journal article" in this field.</p>
Publication Year	PY	<p>py=1997</p> <p>A four digit number, which indicates the year of publication of an item. ASSIA was first produced in 1987, but some records in the database date from 1986, 1985, 1984 and 1982.</p>
Shelfmark (British Library)	SH	<p>SH=9421.510</p> <p>A unique identifier specifying the precise location of the item within the British Library.</p>
Source	SO	<p>so=(Criminal Law Review near 2005)</p> <p>The source field contains Journal Name (JN), Journal Volume (JV), Journal Issue (JI), Pages and Publication Year (PY). Rather than searching these independently you can combine a search with a Proximity or Boolean Operator. If you are uncertain about the correct spelling of a Journal Name, you might wish to consult the Journal Name Index (Search Tools > Indexes).</p>

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Field Name	Label	Search Examples & Explanation
Title	TI	<p>ti=Benefits of birth centres</p> <p>The title as shown in the original publication.</p> <p>Titles frequently contain words which double as Boolean Operators (AND, NOT, OR) or Proximity Operators (NEAR, WITHIN). If you wish to search for a full title containing such words, remember to place either the entire title or the word in quotation marks.</p> <p>Example: ti=Sports utility vehicles "and" older pedestrians ti="Sports utility vehicles and older pedestrians"</p>
Update	UD	<p>ud=200511*</p> <p>The update field consists of an eight digit date in the format YYYYMMDD. The database is updated monthly, thus you could use this field to search for all records, which were added in a specific month, e.g. <i>ud=(200511*)</i>. Due to changes in technology the earliest update is 20010807, which contains all older data.</p>

Boolean Operators and Other Search Tools Supported by Illumina

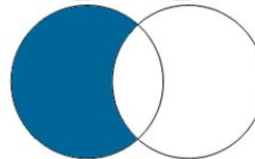
Boolean operators help define the relationships between words or groups of words.



Use **AND** to narrow a search and retrieve records containing all of the words it separates, e.g. **adolescents and children** will only find records containing both these words.



Use **OR** to broaden a search and retrieve records containing any of the words it separates, e.g. **adolescents or children** will find records containing adolescents only, children only, or both words.



Use **NOT** to narrow a search and retrieve records that do not contain the term following it, e.g. **adolescents not children** will find records that contain adolescents, but will not contain the word children.

()

Use parenthesis to group words or search expressions when applying Boolean logic, also use to show the order in which search expressions are to be executed.

Proximity operators identify the number of words to come between the search terms.

WITHIN X

Use to narrow a search by specifying a proximity relationship of fewer than "X" words between search terms, e.g. **adolescents within 3 children**.

NEAR

Use to narrow a search by specifying a proximity relationship of fewer than 10 words between search terms, e.g. **adolescents near children**.

Special symbols can expand the scope of your search

- * Truncate using an asterisk. This expands a search term to include forms of a root word, e.g. **child*** retrieves *child; children; childhood; etc.*
- * Find an unlimited number of characters within a word, e.g. **behavi*r** retrieves *behavior and behaviour*.
- ? Find alternative spellings. The ? represents any single character; ?? represents two characters and so on. Use within or at the end of a word, e.g. **customi?e** finds *customize as well as customise*, **cent??** will find *center and centre*.

Notes:

Illumina requires three characters at the beginning of a word before truncation or wildcard characters may be used. A search for wom?n will retrieve woman and women.

Search queries containing several operators are executed in the following order:

(), NEAR, NOT, AND, OR

Quick, Advanced, or Command Searching

Now that you have an understanding of what ASSIA is and how the searchable field codes and search tools function, you are ready to search the database through Illumina.

Clicking on „Help & Support’ in Illumina at any time will direct you to a context-specific help page.

On Illumina, search strategies can be applied using one of three approaches.

Quick Search: Depending on the defaults set by your administrator, Quick search either executes your search “anywhere” or only searches “keywords”. An anywhere search looks across all of the available fields in a record whereas a Keyword search would look in the subject fields (Title, abstracts, descriptors, identifiers, Original titles).

Multiple words entered into the search field, will be treated as a phrase. Searches are **not** case sensitive.



CSA ILLUMINA
Drill, Baby, Drill! For steam, not oil

Logout Quick Search **Advanced Search** Search Tools Browse

Please log in to My Research XML
0 Marked Records | Search History

Help & Support

Search

Search Tips: All Fields are being searched.
For best results, use AND between terms, wildcard*, or "exact phrase"

Now Selected: ASSIA: Applied Social Sciences Index and Abstracts

Change: Subject Area or Specific Databases

Date Range: Earliest to Current

Create Desktop Shortcut to Quick Search

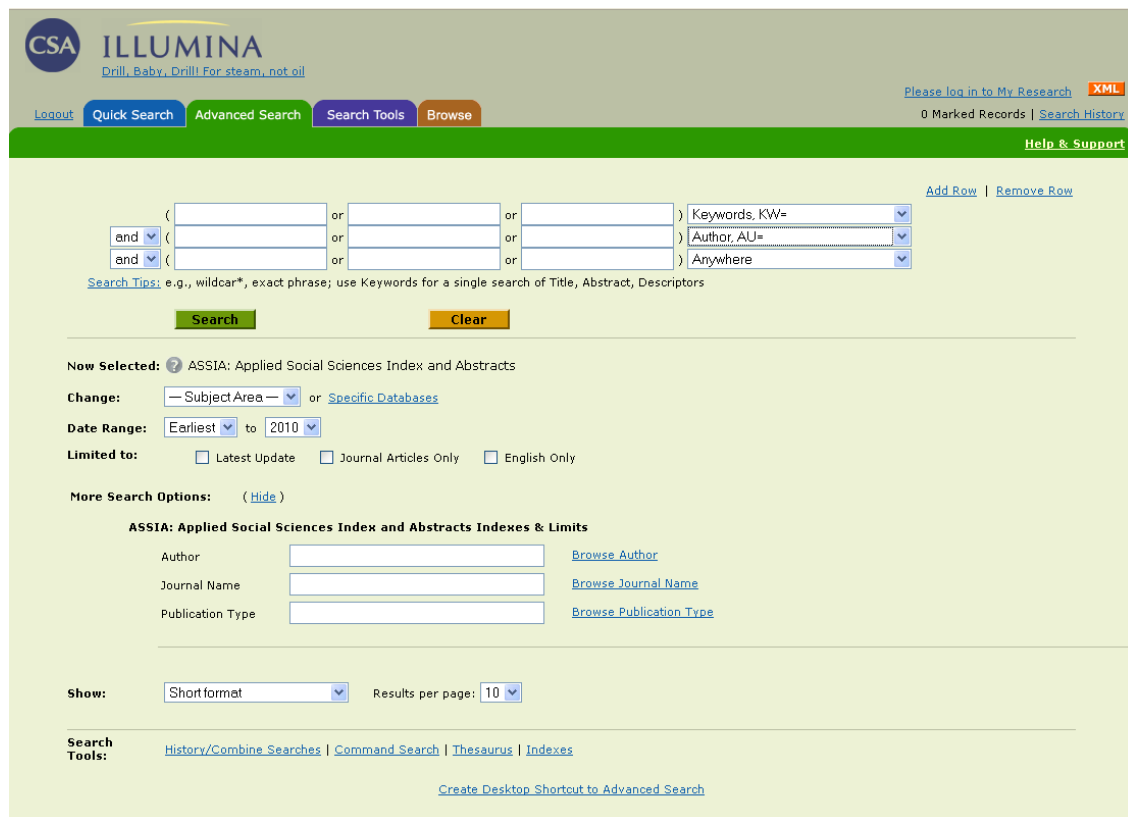
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Interface English Go

Advanced Search: Gives you the advantage of being able to select any of the 25 field codes from a pull-down menu. The list of available field codes will vary if you select more than just one database for your search.

You have the ability to add or remove rows from Advanced Search. The three search boxes in each row are connected with a Boolean OR operator. Each of the search boxes can accept a nested Boolean search of its own.

The individual rows can be combined with AND, NOT, OR and you have the ability to select Search Limits to narrow down your search.



CSA ILLUMINA
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Logout Quick Search **Advanced Search** Search Tools Browse

Please log in to My Research XML
0 Marked Records | Search History

Help & Support

Add Row | Remove Row

and () Keywords, KW=

and () Author, AU=

and () Anywhere

Search Tips: e.g., wildcard*, exact phrase; use Keywords for a single search of Title, Abstract, Descriptors

Search Clear

Now Selected: ASSIA: Applied Social Sciences Index and Abstracts

Change: Subject Area or Specific Databases

Date Range: Earliest to 2010

Limited to: Latest Update Journal Articles Only English Only

More Search Options: (Hide)

ASSIA: Applied Social Sciences Index and Abstracts Indexes & Limits

Author: Browse Author

Journal Name: Browse Journal Name

Publication Type: Browse Publication Type

Show: Short format Results per page: 10

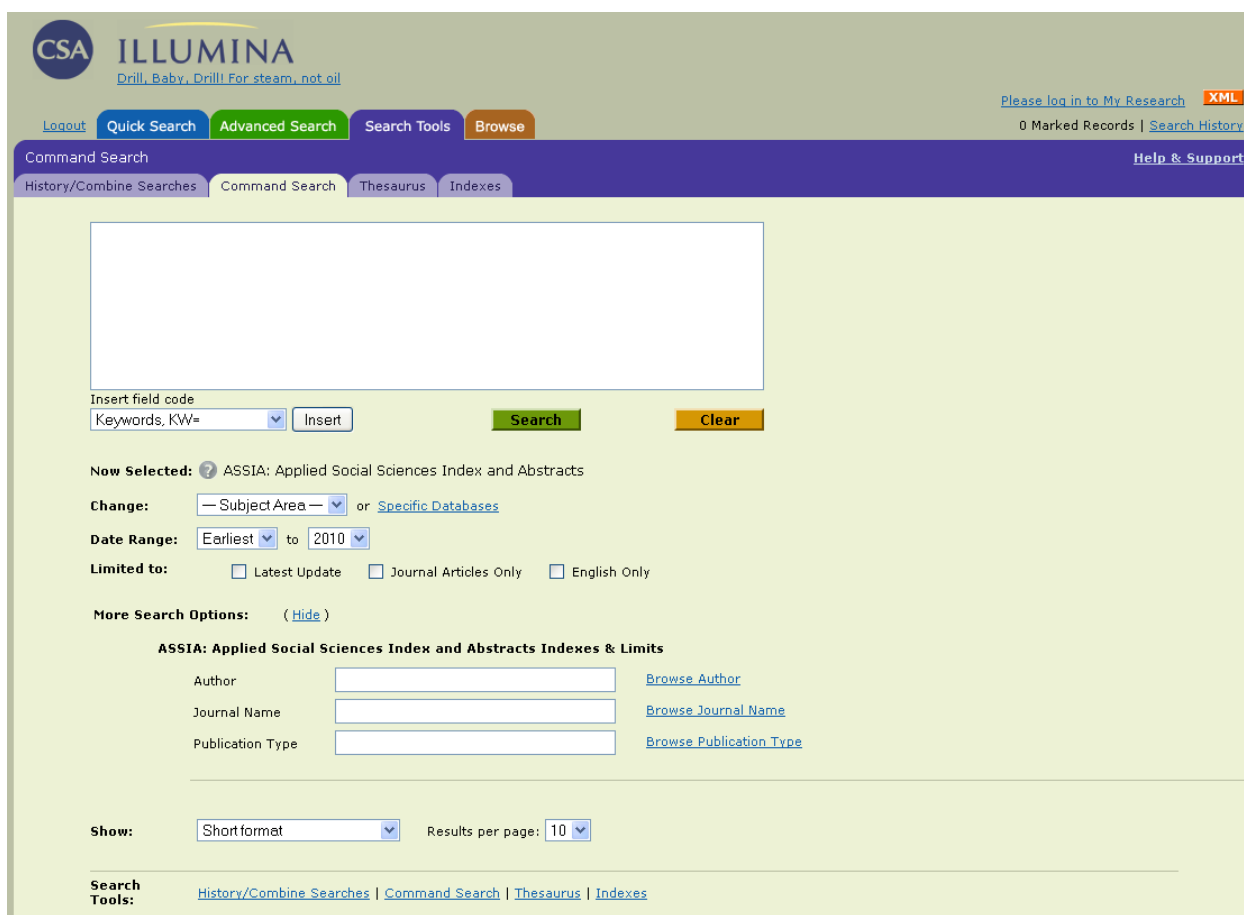
Search Tools: History/Combine Searches | Command Search | Thesaurus | Indexes

Create Desktop Shortcut to Advanced Search

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Command Search or Professional Search: May be preferred by advanced users who are comfortable with entering search strategies without aid of a template. You can select the required field tags from a list at the bottom of the form. The search is not case sensitive, so you can enter field tags in capital or lower case (e.g. DE= vs. de=).

Below the search form, you have access to various limits again and quick access to the other search tools available to you.



The screenshot shows the ProQuest search interface for the Applied Social Sciences Index and Abstracts (ASSIA) database. The page header includes the CSA ILLUMINA logo and navigation links like 'Quick Search', 'Advanced Search', 'Search Tools', and 'Browse'. The main search area is titled 'Command Search' and features a large text input field. Below the input field are buttons for 'Search' and 'Clear', along with an 'Insert' button for field codes. The interface includes several filter options: 'Now Selected' (ASSIA: Applied Social Sciences Index and Abstracts), 'Change' (Subject Area or Specific Databases), 'Date Range' (Earliest to 2010), and 'Limited to' (Latest Update, Journal Articles Only, English Only). There are also 'More Search Options' and a section for 'ASSIA: Applied Social Sciences Index and Abstracts Indexes & Limits' with fields for Author, Journal Name, and Publication Type, each with a corresponding 'Browse' link. At the bottom, there are 'Show' and 'Results per page' settings, and a 'Search Tools' section with links to 'History/Combine Searches', 'Command Search', 'Thesaurus', and 'Indexes'.

Limits

Search strategies may be refined by using the following limits (available in Advanced Search and Command Search):

- **Latest Update** limits your results to include only those records most recently added to the database. ASSIA is updated monthly.
- **Journal Articles Only** limits the search to only include the publication type of journal articles (Article / Journal Article).
- **Date Range** limits your results to those records, whose Publication Year (PY) field falls within the range selected.

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- **ASSIA Indexes and Limits** are author, journal name and publication type. (You can browse those limits by clicking on the hyperlink next to the field box).

Sorting

The sorting features give you the opportunity to order your results based on the publication date or relevancy.

- **Most Recent First** displays the records in reverse chronological order, beginning with the most recent.
- **Relevance Rank** displays records in order based on relevancy. Relevancy is determined through a rating system that weighs the records based on the number of times the term(s) appear in the record and where they appear.

Showing Records

Select how to display records from the „Show’ pull-down menu. Options include displaying the short format, full format, full format-no references, and custom format.

The „de-dupe’ feature automatically removes any duplicate records that appear in your set of results, which is especially useful when you are cross-database searching. You can also use the „Show Duplicates’ feature to display the duplicates.

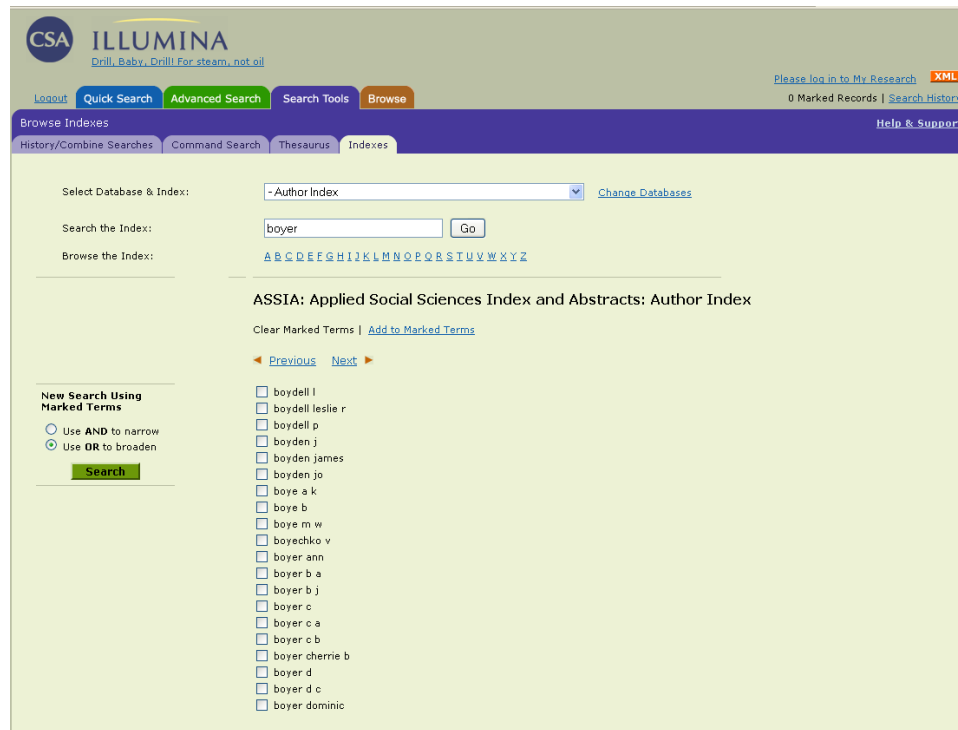
When viewing records on Illumina, both the author name and descriptor terms are hyperlinked; clicking on the hyperlink will search the database for each occurrence of the selected author or descriptor.

Printing, Saving, & E-Mailing Records

Printing, saving, and e-mailing records can be done by using the “Save, Print, E-mail” function. This function also includes a direct exporting feature to RefWorks, an online bibliographic management tool. In addition, you can quickly format a bibliography by using QuikBib.

Browse Indexes

Searches may be activated through three browsable indexes: Author, Journal Name, and Publication Type.



The screenshot shows the ProQuest database interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs for 'Quick Search', 'Advanced Search', 'Search Tools', and 'Browse'. Below this, there are search options: 'History/Combine Searches', 'Command Search', 'Thesaurus', and 'Indexes'. The main search area has a dropdown menu for 'Select Database & Index' set to '- Author Index', a search box with 'boyer', and a 'Go' button. Below the search box is an alphabetical index 'A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z'. The search results are titled 'ASSIA: Applied Social Sciences Index and Abstracts: Author Index' and show a list of author names with checkboxes next to them, including 'boydell l', 'boydell leslie r', 'boydell p', 'boyden j', 'boyden james', 'boyden jo', 'boye a k', 'boye b', 'boye m w', 'boychko v', 'boyer ann', 'boyer b a', 'boyer b j', 'boyer c', 'boyer c a', 'boyer c b', 'boyer cherrie b', 'boyer d', 'boyer d c', and 'boyer dominic'. On the left side, there is a section for 'New Search Using Marked Terms' with radio buttons for 'Use AND to narrow' and 'Use OR to broaden', and a 'Search' button.

Author Name Index

We usually index author names in the format Last Name, First Name, however we can only index as much information as available in the article. Many articles thus only show the initial rather than the first name.

For example:

Muller, C
Muller, Carsten

Select all spelling variants of a name and then use the Boolean OR operator to arrive at comprehensive results for the selected author(s).

Journal Name Index

By providing a journal name index we give you a comprehensive list to hand, from which you can select the journal names rather than typing them into the search box. The Journal Name Index will be your definitive resource to finding the right spelling, e.g. when you are uncertain whether the journal title is "Behavioral Medicine" or "Behavioural Medicine."

Publication Type Index

All ASSIA records are journal articles and thus assigned the same Publication Type.

The index has been included with ASSIA for when users might cross search ASSIA with other social sciences databases, such as Sociological Abstracts or Social Services Abstracts.

For users less familiar with ASSIA the publication type index will serve as a quick guide to what they will find in this field.

ASSIA Thesaurus

The ASSIA Thesaurus contains over 18,000 terms and was developed by ASSIA founder Peter F. Broxis to coincide with the launch of the database in 1987. The ASSIA Thesaurus has developed since to include new terms as required by the developing field of Social Sciences.

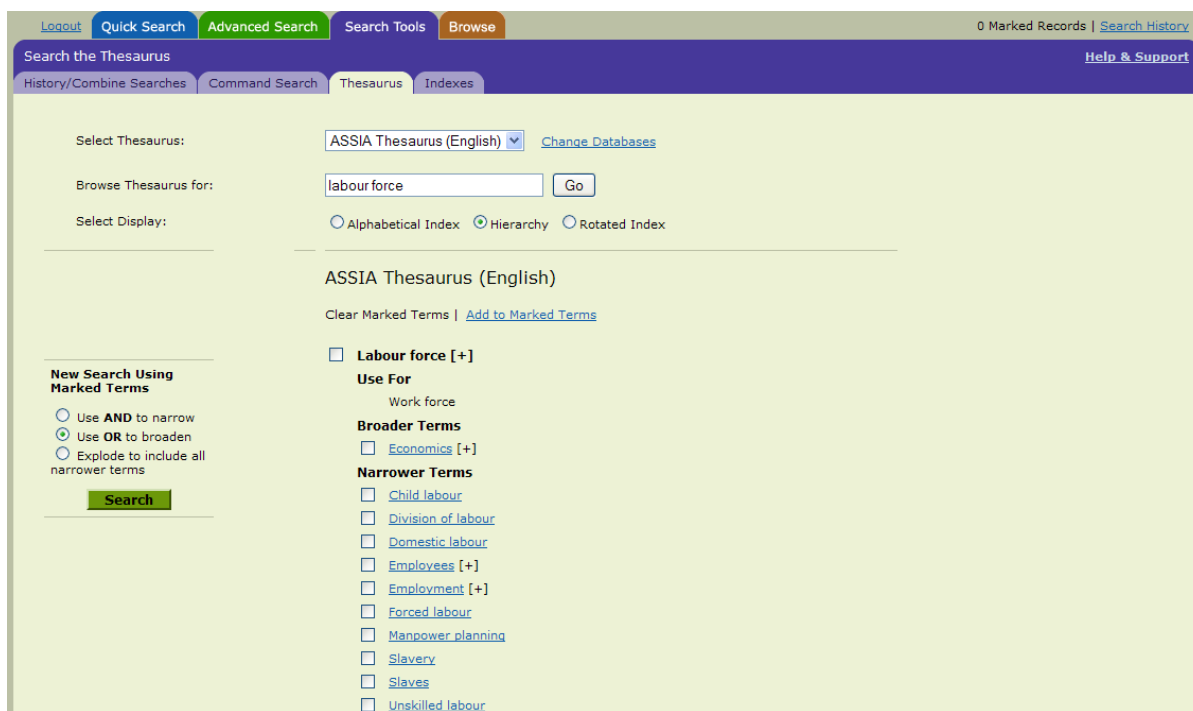
The Thesaurus is a search aid that helps you select appropriate terms, ensuring the most precise retrieval. In ASSIA, the thesaurus allows you to browse terms in a hierarchical index and helps you define more accurately what you are looking for.

ASSIA Thesaurus may be searched directly from the Thesaurus tab, using the Thesaurus Search Feature.

There are 3 ways of searching the thesaurus:

1. The Alphabetical display presents an alphabetical list of thesaurus terms. In many ways this search options is similar to that of the indexes. The result display will however indicate terms with an associated hierarchy by displaying [+] behind the term. Clicking the entry will open up the hierarchy.
2. The display below shows a term and its hierarchy. You will find its relationships with Broader Terms, Narrower Terms, and Related Terms. Additionally you will frequently find *Use For* descriptions which indicate synonyms (see screenshot).
3. The Rotated Index displays all thesaurus terms or phrases that contain the search term used. You should only enter one word in the box. For example if you search for the word "labour" you will find terms such as "child labour", "international labour migration", or "labour cost" along with the term "labour".

This example illustrates the hierarchical display:



The screenshot shows the ASSIA Thesaurus search interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs: Logout, Quick Search, Advanced Search, Search Tools, and Browse. Below these, there are search options: History/Combine Searches, Command Search, Thesaurus, and Indexes. The main search area includes a dropdown for 'Select Thesaurus' (ASSIA Thesaurus (English)), a text input for 'Browse Thesaurus for:' (labour force), and radio buttons for 'Select Display:' (Alphabetical Index, Hierarchy, Rotated Index). The search results are displayed in a hierarchical format for 'ASSIA Thesaurus (English)'. The main term is 'Labour force [+]' with a 'Use For' description: 'Work force'. Below this, there are 'Broader Terms' (Economics [+]) and 'Narrower Terms' (Child labour, Division of labour, Domestic labour, Employees [+], Employment [+], Forced labour, Manpower planning, Slavery, Slaves, Unskilled labour).

The Research Process

I) How to begin the electronic research process

A. Determine your goals:

1. State your research question:

“General overview of information on special needs children in an educational environment”

2. Set parameters for your search

“Be specific – Special Needs Children, Education, UK, England, ...”

“Any aspect of Education in particular?”

“What time frame is important?”

B. Identify general concepts:

1. Which general terms relate to your search?

“Special Needs Children, Education, School, UK, England, Wales, Scotland”

C. Choose the appropriate database

1. Are there specific journals that specialize in this topic?

“British Journal of Special Education”

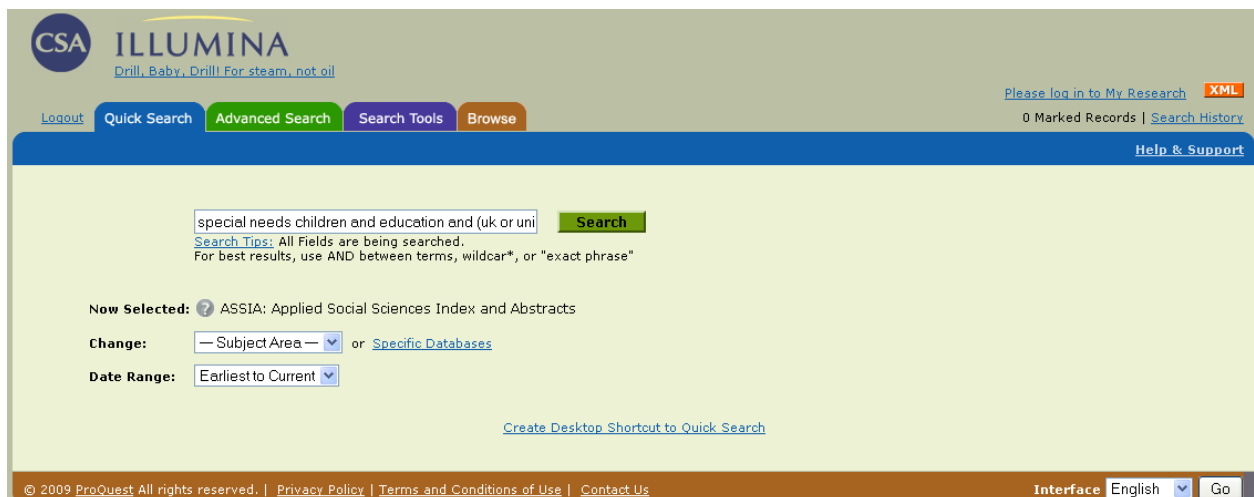
“Journal of Special Education”

“International Journal of Disability, Development and Education”

2. Are any of these journals covered in ASSIA?

II) Build your search strategy:

A. Quick search:



The screenshot shows the ProQuest search interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs: Logout, Quick Search, Advanced Search, Search Tools, and Browse. The search bar contains the text: "special needs children and education and (uk or uni)". Below the search bar, there are search tips: "Search Tips: All Fields are being searched. For best results, use AND between terms, wildcard*, or "exact phrase"". Below the search bar, there are filters: "Now Selected: ASSIA: Applied Social Sciences Index and Abstracts", "Change: Subject Area or Specific Databases", and "Date Range: Earliest to Current". At the bottom, there is a footer with copyright information and a language selection dropdown set to English.

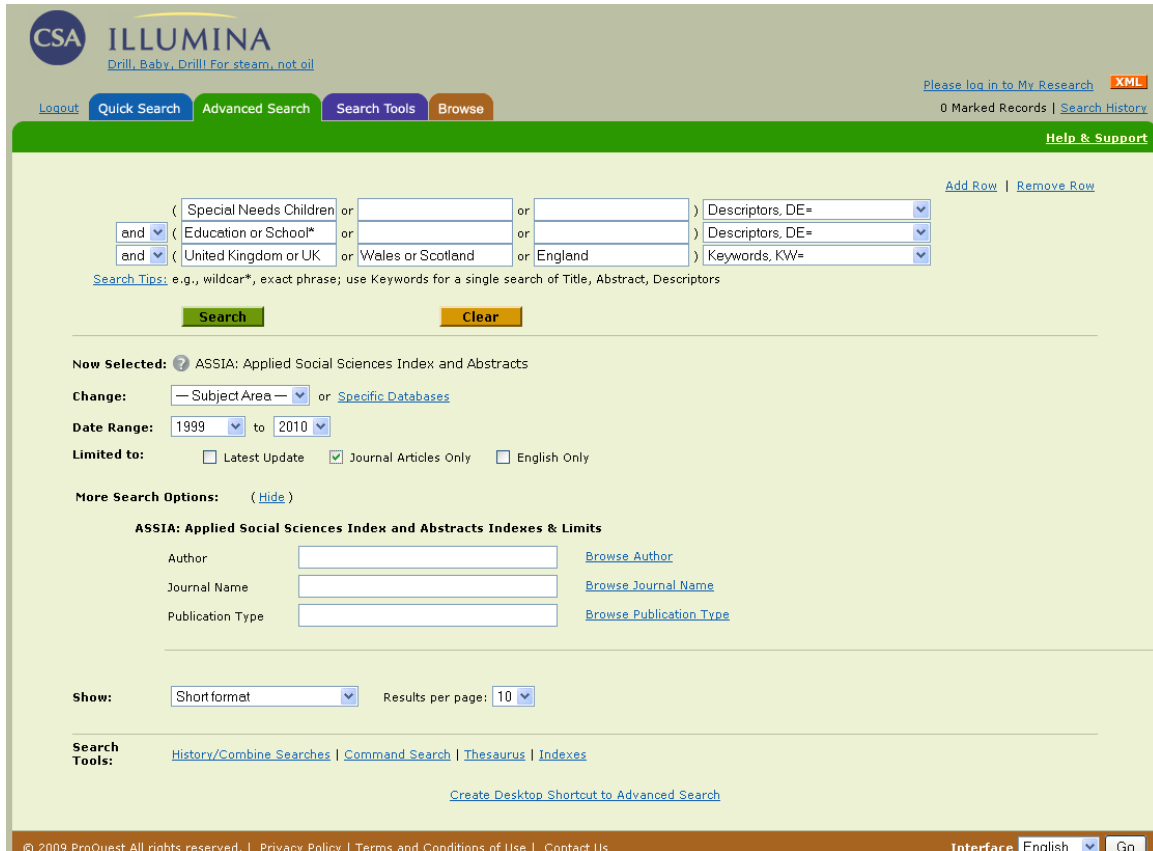
1. Enter phrase or multiple search terms separated by Boolean operators AND to link terms, OR to link similar words or synonyms, use NOT to exclude specific terms, and remember to use parenthesis to group terms or expressions,

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special needs children and education and (uk or united kingdom or england or wales or scotland)

Note: Consult Thesaurus for proper use of terms and to possibly find related terms, narrower or broader term to ensure the best possible retrieval for your need.

B. Advanced Search:



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Logout Quick Search **Advanced Search** Search Tools Browse

Please log in to My Research XML
0 Marked Records | Search History

Help & Support

and (Special Needs Children or Education or School* or United Kingdom or UK or Wales or Scotland or England) Descriptors, DE= Descriptors, DE= Keywords, KW=

Search Tips: e.g., wildcard*, exact phrase; use Keywords for a single search of Title, Abstract, Descriptors

Search Clear

Now Selected: ASSIA: Applied Social Sciences Index and Abstracts

Change: Subject Area or Specific Databases

Date Range: 1999 to 2010

Limited to: Latest Update Journal Articles Only English Only

More Search Options: (Hide)

ASSIA: Applied Social Sciences Index and Abstracts Indexes & Limits

Author: Browse Author

Journal Name: Browse Journal Name

Publication Type: Browse Publication Type

Show: Short format Results per page: 10

Search Tools: [History/Combine Searches](#) | [Command Search](#) | [Thesaurus](#) | [Indexes](#)

[Create Desktop Shortcut to Advanced Search](#)

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The drop boxes allow you to limit the search by any of the searchable field codes. You furthermore have the option to limit your search to certain publication dates, publication type or language.

Example:

If I wanted to limit my search to records from the last 10 years, published in Journal Articles and in English only I could do this:

DE= Special Needs Children
and DE= Education or School
and KW= United Kingdom or UK or England or Wales or Scotland

Date Range: 1996 – 2006

Limit to: Journal Articles Only

III) Analyzing Results

A. Good results:

If results are satisfactory, then download them to a bibliographic manager like RefWorks; alternatively, save, print, or email your records or output them via QuikBib.

B. If results are not on target:

1. Check spelling of search terms and use browsable indexes to drop unnecessary or misleading terms.
2. Increase precision: for example, as done above, name a specific descriptor or a specific work, if it is relevant to your work
3. You may need to rethink whether the database you selected is appropriate for your search.

C. Too few/too many results:

1. Increase retrieval by using fewer ANDs and more ORs, consider truncating terms to find various forms
2. Increase precision by using additional ANDs and fewer ORs (NOT can be used to exclude some terms)
3. Ask a librarian to help you. Be sure to bring the result of this section along.

Where to Find Help

Search our Support Center:

<http://www.proquest.com/support>

To access product help and training documentation:

<http://www.proquest.com/go/training>

<http://www.proquest.co.uk/go/training>

By phone

In North America: 800-889-3358

Outside North America: 0880 220 710 (UK only)
+44 1223 271 496 (Outside of UK)