



Database Guide: MLA International Bibliography (MLAIB)

Search Tips

All searches are case-insensitive, so you don't have to know whether a word should be capitalized or not. For example, there is no difference between shakespeare, Shakespeare or ShakeSpeare.

Wildcard Characters

MLA International Bibliography allows you to list documents containing variations on a search term by using the * (asterisk) or ? (question mark) wildcard characters. The * character can represent one or more characters in a search term. The ? character represents a single character in a search term. To perform a wildcard search, enter the first few letters (or stem) of your search term followed by one of the wildcard operators. Note that you can only use the ? wildcard in the middle of a word. If you are performing a phrase search, you can only use wildcard operators in the final word in the phrase (though wildcards can be used in both terms of a Boolean search).

- **creat*** will retrieve entries for all documents containing the words: creature, creation, create, creating, creator, etc.
- **made in he*** will retrieve matches for all documents containing the phrases: made in heaven, made in hell, made in here, etc.
- **wom?n** will retrieve matches for all documents containing the words woman or women.

Operators

Boolean operators

AND retrieves all sources that contain the search terms it separates. However, this type of search normally retrieves fewer results than if you searched for one of the terms on its own. If you want to search for the word 'and' in a phrase, such as 'love and hate', you should type the phrase into the search box and enclose it in double quotes; for example, "love and hate".

NOT retrieves all sources that contain the first search term but not the second. If you want to search for the word 'not' in a phrase, such as 'love not hate', you should type the phrase into the search box and enclose it in double quotes; for example, "love not hate".

OR retrieves all sources that contain either or both of the search terms it separates. This type of search retrieves more results than if you searched for one of the terms on its own. If you want to search for the word 'or' in a phrase, such as 'love or hate', you should type the phrase into the search box and enclose it in double quotes; for example, "love or hate".



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Proximity operators

MLA International Bibliography not only allows you to search for a particular word or phrase, but also enables you to refine your searches by using two **proximity operators** to look for words that are close to each other:

- NEAR
- FBY (Followed BY)

To use proximity operators:

- Enter your first search term.
- Enter a proximity operator.
- Enter a full stop followed by the required number of words you want to allow between search terms; for example, near.6.

If no maximum is set, **MLA International Bibliography** will list all items that contain the selected search terms within ten words of each other. However, you may not see all the words that you searched for until you view the **Full Text** or Record of the work, as only the five words directly before and after the first search term are given in the List of Results page.

If you are performing a phrase proximity search, **MLA International Bibliography** counts the number of words between the first word of the first phrase and the first word of the second phrase.

NEAR operator

Allows you to search for terms that have a specified distance between each other, and are in any order. For example:

- education near female
- sly near.6 fox

FBY operator

Allows you to search for terms that have a specified distance between each other, and are in a specified order.

- heart fby head
- young fby.5 in love



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MLA International Bibliography – List of Fields

Every element in the MLAIB data is searchable within the Chadwyck-Healey implementation of the Bibliography, either via its own designated search box, or via a general field such as Keyword, Publication Details or Subjects – All. The MLAIB Advanced Search screen includes 29 designated search boxes and limiters; other than certain numeric fields, all of these search boxes have browseable indexes, allowing targeted searching of a broad selection of the most useful index fields in the bibliography. All searchable fields are displayed and clearly identified on the Full Record page.

In the case of Subject fields, the browse lists only contain terms that appear in the MLA Thesaurus. Many records contain additional non-Thesaurus subject terms; these are searchable via the relevant subject search box even though they do not appear in the browse list for that field.

Note: there are four fields in the MLAIB source data which are not included for either searching or displaying purposes in this version of the Bibliography. Two of these are technical „back-office‘ fields relating to linking which do not need to be displayed: SIC (the SICI or Serial Item and Contribution Identifier for JSTOR records) and JSS (the SICI link for JSTOR articles). The other two are acronyms that are used in the print version of the bibliography: JNA (Journal Acronym) and SEA (Series Abbreviation).

You can find material by using one or a combination of the search boxes.

You can switch between the Standard or Advanced Search pages, or the Directory of Periodicals Search page by using the links at the top of the page (at the bottom of the page in Literature Online).

If you need help deciding what to enter into a search box, you can click the relevant **Select from a list >** link. This displays a list of appropriate terms for you to select, which are then transferred back to the relevant search box when you click **Select**.

Subject fields have a **Select from thesaurus ≥** link, allowing you to include related, broader or narrower terms from the MLAIB's thesaurus in your search.

Keyword

Use the keyword field to list records containing a particular word; enter the word in the Keyword field and click the Search button. The list of results will be displayed, listing records containing your chosen word.

Title Keyword

Use the title keyword field to search for works of criticism with particular words in the title. To list criticism with a particular word in the title, enter a keyword in the Title Keyword(s) box and click the Search button. Click the Select from a list > link to display a list of the available search terms. The List of Results page will be displayed, listing all criticism which have the word you selected in the title.

Subject

Use the subject field to list materials for a particular subject. Enter a description of the subject in the Subject box and click the Search button.

You must enter full personal names in the format *last name, first name* e.g. Shakespeare, William.

If you need help deciding what to enter into the search box, you can click the relevant Select from a list > link. The List of Results page will be displayed, listing records containing references to the subject you chose.

Document Author

Use the document author field to list criticism written by a particular author. Enter their name in the Document Author box and click the Search button.

You must enter full names of authors in the format *last name, first name* e.g. Waugh, Evelyn.

Click the Select from a list > link to display a list of document authors. The List of Results page will be

displayed, listing material written by the person you selected.

Journal

Use the journal field to list criticism from a particular journal. Enter the journal's name in the Journal box and click the Search button.

Click the Select from a list > link to display a list of the journals you can search. The List of Results page will be displayed, listing all criticism from the journal you selected.

Publication Year

Use the publication year field to list criticism published during certain years:

- Enter the start year of the range (in full) in the **Publication Year From** box.
- Enter the end year of the range (in full) in the **Publication Year to** box.
- Click the **Search** button.

The List of Results page will be displayed, listing all criticism published during the selected years.

Author as Subject

Use the author as subject field to list material where an author is the primary subject. Enter an author name in the Author as Subject box and click the Search button.

You must enter full personal names in the format *last name, first name* e.g. Shelley, Mary.

If you need help deciding what to enter into the search box, you can click the relevant Select from a list > link. The List of Results page will be displayed, listing records containing references to the author you chose.

Note that this field also contains the titles of anonymous works, folk works and other works that



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lack an identified author, e.g. 'Beowulf', 'The Sopranos'.

Publication Details

Use the Publication Details field to search the titles of journals, book collections or book series in which an article appears, plus other details such as place of publication, publisher, volume and issue numbers, degree-awarding institution (for dissertations), pagination and date.

Journal Volume

The Journal Volume field contains the journal volume number in which a journal article appeared; use this field in combination with Journal to search for articles from a specific volume of a journal.

Series Title

Use the Series Titles field to search for the title of the book series in which a book or book article appeared, e.g. 'Cambridge Studies in American Literature and Culture'.

ISBN

Use the ISBN field to search for books and book articles by using the ISBN (International Standard Book Number) of the book as a unique identifier.

ISSN

Use the ISSN field to search for journal articles by using the ISSN (International Standard Serial Number) of the journal as a unique identifier.

Language of Publication

Use the Language of Publication field to search for items published in a specific language, e.g. "English," or "French."

Subjects - All

Use the Subjects – All field to search for items about a specific author, work, theme or other subject area. For more targeted subject searching, use subject sub-fields such as 'Author as Subject' or 'Literary Theme'.

Folklore Topic

Use the Folklore Topic field to search for subject terms relating to folklore, e.g. 'magic' or 'folk medicine'.

Genre

Use the Genre field to search for genres of literary works, e.g. 'novel', or 'Bildungsroman'.

Linguistics Topic

Use the Linguistics Topic field to search for subject terms relating to linguistics, e.g. 'phonetics' or 'articulatory phonetics'.

Literary Influence

Use Literary Influence field to search for subject terms relating to influence, e.g. '(influence on) Pound, Ezra (1885–1972)'. Note: the role indicator '(influence on)' does not appear in the index list.

Literary Source

Use the Literary Source field to search for subject terms relating to sources and influences, e.g. '(sources in) Dante (1265–1321)' or '(influence of) English folklore'. Note: the role indicators '(source in)' and '(influence of)' do not appear in the index list.



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Literary Theme

Use the Literary Theme field to search for subject terms relating to the themes of the work under discussion, e.g. '(treatment of) Germany'. Note: role indicators such as '(treatment of)' do not appear in the index list.

General Literature Topic

Use the General Literature Topic field to search for general literary terms, literary techniques or features of literary works; e.g. 'narrative frame', 'manuscript study' or 'rhetoric'.

National Literature

Use the National Literature field to search for subject terms relating to specific national literatures, e.g. 'German literature'.

Performance Medium

Use the Performance Medium field to search for subject terms relating to medium of performance, e.g. 'theater' or 'puppet theater'.

Period

Use the Period field to search for subject terms relating to time periods. Numeric formats are generally used, e.g. '1800–1899'.

Place

Use the Place field to search for subject terms relating to geographic places, e.g. 'Turkey' or

'London'. In records from 1981 onwards, this field is only used for linguistics and folklore entries.

Publisher Abstract

Use the Publisher Abstract field to search within abstracts sourced from a select group of publishers. Available for a select set of records at present; the number of records with Publisher Abstracts available will increase in future updates.

Subject Language

Use the Subject Language field to search for subject terms relating to specific languages, e.g. 'Portuguese language' or 'French language (old)'. WRD(>500) finds articles containing 500 words or more.

WC(>750 AND <1000) finds articles between 750 and 1000 words.

Update Code

Use the Update Code field to search for the data update in which the record was added to the bibliography. The format is YYYYNN, where YYYY is the bibliography year (not the calendar year), and NN is the number of the update (not the month). Example: to find records added from the 2001 volume onwards, enter 200101 in the 'From' field.



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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)