



How to Search **ABELL**, the Annual Bibliography of English Language and Literature

Introduction

ABELL, the *Annual Bibliography of English Language and Literature*, indexes journal articles, books, chapters, dissertations, and book reviews from approximately 500 journals published since 1920.

ABELL is narrower in focus than the *MLA International Bibliography* (Ref. PB 1 M29; online from 1963+), but it too is a necessary tool for scholarly research in literature.

<http://www.lib.uconn.edu> → UConn Libraries home page → All Databases → **ABELL** (Annual Bibliography of English Language and Literature)

Search Fields

ABELL permits searches via the following fields:

- Keyword
- Title Keyword
- Subject
- Author/Reviewer
- Publication Details
- Journal
- Publication Year

Multiple searches can be entered in each field; multiple fields can be searched simultaneously. There are no Stopwords.

Search Field Browse Indexes

In all search fields, a partial term may be entered and **<browse>** clicked. The first thirty entries matching the partial term will display. These can be highlighted and transferred to the search box.

When more than one term is transferred, the boolean operator **or** is automatically supplied.

The browse indexes are scrolled through using the **<up>** and **<down>** buttons or they can be searched using the **<look for>** button.

Search Options

Select:

- (All) = Primary works and reviews (Default)
- Articles = Primary works only
- Books = Primary works only
- Reviews = Reviews only

Boolean Search Terms

- AND retrieves all records which contain all terms
OR retrieves all records which contain any of the terms
NOT retrieves all records that contain the first term but not the later terms

To search for a phrase that contains a boolean operand, put the entire phrase into quote marks [“ ”].

Proximity Searching

NEAR permits the linkage of keywords and phrases within a specified number of words and in any order. Unless a number is specified, the default is ten words.

Examples:

Keyword

o'connor near catholic → words within ten words of each other

“science fiction and fantasy” near.25 monographs → words within 25 words of each other

FBY (followed by) permits the linkage of keywords and phrases within a specified number of words and in the specified order.

Unless a number is specified, the default is ten words.

Examples:

Keyword

weird tale fby lovecraft → words within ten words of each other and in the order given

James Joyce fby.15 disease → words within 15 words of each other and in the order given

Truncation Searching

The asterisk (*) is used to truncate terms. Only right truncation is possible.

Example:

Joyce* retrieves joyce, joycean, joyceana, joyceanas, joyceans, joyceanus, joycechoice, joyceful, joycelyn, joycen, joyceova, joyces, joyceu, and so forth.

Customizing Search Results

Up to 99 retrieved records are displayed at one time.

The default is 50.

To change default, enter number in **Retrieve:** box.

Select **Sampling** or **Subset**

Sampling displays those records that have been retrieved at regular intervals.

The intervals have not been defined.

Subsets displays sections of consecutive items.

Enter entry number for the first subset in number box.

Displays cannot be customized.

On Screen Help

Click **Help Contents** bar.

For further assistance, ask at the Research & Information Services Desk.