



FirstSearch

<http://lib.nmsu.edu/resources/dbfs.html>

FirstSearch is a collection of over 60 databases covering all subjects. Each FirstSearch database can be searched separately, and FirstSearch databases include: Dissertation Abstracts, MLA, Books in Print, WorldCat, WilsonSelect, and many more. Most of the FirstSearch databases provide minimal full-text coverage—except for WilsonSelect which is completely full-text.

Upon accessing FirstSearch, you can search for a topic within a particular topic or within a specific database. **Topics** are subject groupings of databases and include: Biography; Agriculture and Biology; Arts & Humanities; Business; Engineering, Science & Technology; General Reference; Government, Law & Politics; Health & Medicine; International & Area Studies; Physical Sciences; Social Sciences & Education. Results for a search in Topics will show you how many items each FirstSearch database in that category has for your topic and allow you to select multiple databases for simultaneous searching.

The main search page will also allow you to **List All Databases**; to **List Databases by Topic**; and to have FirstSearch **Suggest the Best Databases** for your subject.

When having FirstSearch Suggest the Best Databases for your subject, you can search by **keyword**, **author**, or publication title (**source**).

All FirstSearch databases offer a **basic**, an **advanced**, and an **expert** search option. The default option is an advanced search.

Search Commands

You type	For example	To tell FirstSearch to ...
One word	research	find records containing the word <i>research</i>
Two or more words (AND assumed between words)	nursing education research	find records containing <i>nursing</i> , <i>education</i> , and <i>research</i> with any number of other words between them
An exact phrase	"sun also rises"	find records containing the words typed in that exact order
+	cancer patient+	find records containing cancer and any of these words: <i>patient</i> , <i>patients</i> , or <i>patients</i> . Supplies -s or -es plurals only.
* (truncation)	securit*	finds records that use various possible endings: <i>security</i> , <i>securities</i> , <i>securitization</i> , etc. You must have at least 3 letters before the truncation symbol.
# (wildcard, single letter)	wom#n	finds words that use various possible spellings that are one letter different in forming plurals or in variant forms: <i>woman</i> or <i>women</i> . You must have at least 3 letters before the wildcard symbol.
? (wildcard, 0-9 letters)	colo?r	finds words that use various possible spellings: <i>color</i> , <i>colour</i> , <i>colonizer</i> , <i>colorimeter</i> , etc. You must have at least 3 letters before the wildcard symbol. You can also follow the wildcard symbol with a number specifying how many letters there should be in the variable part of the word: <i>colo?1r</i> finds <i>color</i> , <i>colour</i> , but not <i>colonizer</i> or <i>colorimeter</i> .
AND (default operator)	nursing AND education AND research	find records containing <i>nursing</i> , <i>education</i> , and <i>research</i> with any number of other words between them. Narrows a search.
OR	nursing OR education	finds records containing either nursing or education or both words. Broadens a search.
NOT	dolphins NOT football	finds all records which contain the word <i>dolphins</i> that do not also include the word <i>football</i> . Narrows a search.
()	nursing AND (education OR research)	finds records that contain either <i>nursing</i> and <i>education</i> or <i>nursing</i> and <i>research</i> . Used to group search terms.
W (with)	nursing w research	finds records containing first <i>nursing</i> and then <i>research</i> with no other words between them. Words must appear in the order listed.
W and a number (1-25)	nursing w3 research	finds records containing first <i>nursing</i> and then <i>research</i> with no more than N number of other words between them. Smaller numbers mean fewer results.
N (near)	overview n 1996	finds records containing <i>overview 1996</i> or <i>1996 overview</i> with no other words between them. Words can be in any order as long as they are within a specified distance of each other.
N and a number (1-25)	overview n2 1996	finds records containing <i>overview</i> followed by <i>1996</i> or <i>1996</i> followed by <i>overview</i> with no more than N number of other words between them. Smaller numbers mean fewer results.

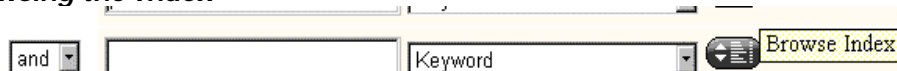
Field Searching

Each FirstSearch database will allow you to search your terms only within specified fields of the database's records. Common fields include: **keyword**, **subject**, **descriptor**, **author**, **title**, and **source**.

Limiting Results

You can limit your results to publications from a particular year, in a particular language, of a particular type, from a particular type of journal, available full-text, or owned by NMSU Library.

Browsing the Index



Allows you to see how often particular terms are used within the database's records.

Previous Searches

Allows you to re-do prior searches and view their results.