

Search Tips

ProQuest Dialog™ allows you to search quickly and efficiently.

Quick hints

- Broaden your search by separating your search terms with OR.
- Use Advanced Search to search using specific information, such as Authors or Subjects.
- Look for phrases by enclosing them in quotation marks, e.g. *"healthy eating"*.

How ProQuest Dialog interprets your search

You can search just by typing words into the search form (Basic, Advanced, or on search results pages). ProQuest Dialog will:

- Look for results containing **all your search terms**. A search on *healthy eating* is the same as a search for *healthy AND eating*, and will not retrieve results with just the word *healthy* or just the word *eating*.
- Look for your search terms **appearing in key fields**, including document titles, authors, abstract, subjects, full text, and tags.
- Remove common phrase terms** to ensure a focused search. For instance, if you search on *who is Abraham Lincoln*, you'll find results on Abraham Lincoln even if they do not contain the terms *who* and *is*. You can include those terms in your search by enclosing them in a [phrase search](#).

Control your search using advanced features

- Use [operators](#) to combine search terms (AND, OR, NOT, etc.)
- Search for [phrases and exact terms](#)
- Use [wildcards and truncation](#) to broaden your search
- Search for terms in [specific fields](#)

Operators and Search Modifiers

Use operators to combine your search terms. Use search modifiers to tell ProQuest what results to look for. Operators are case-insensitive, they do not have to be entered in capital letters.

Detailed operator and modifier list

Operator/Modifier Description Example

Look for documents containing both term A and term B.

and food and nutrition

Helps you narrow your search. Look for documents containing term A and for documents containing term B.

or food or nutrition

Helps you broaden your search. not Look for documents containing term A, that **do not** have term B.

nursing not shortage

Look for documents where term A appears **close to** term B, in any order.

nursing near/3

near/n Use "n" to specify the number of words apart - "3" means within 3 words.

Look for documents where term A appears **before** term B.

nursing pre/3 pre/n

Use "n" to specify the number of words apart - "3" means within 3 words.

Look for your exact search term in its entirety. Used primarily for searching specific fields, like Subject.

su.exact ("higher education") exact

For instance, a search on su.exact("higher education"), will return documents with a subject term of "higher education", but not documents with a subject term of "higher education funding". –

Used to search for ranges in numerical fields, such as Publication Date. YR(2005-2008)

Operator precedence

ProQuest Dialog assumes your search terms should be combined in a certain order. If you include operators such as AND and OR, we will combine them in the order indicated below.

NEAR PRE NOT AND OR

For instance, a search on *education AND elementary NOT secondary* would be interpreted in this order: *education AND (elementary NOT secondary)* *elementary NOT secondary* is considered first. This search will return results on education that discuss elementary but not secondary education.

You can use parentheses to control the order in which your search terms get combined, instead of using the standard operator precedence.

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Phrases and exact terms

- Look for phrases by enclosing your search terms in **quotation marks**. For instance, *"higher education"* will retrieve results with the phrase higher education. It will not retrieve results with the words higher and the word education, they must appear in a phrase.
- You can also look for your exact search term in its entirety. This is primarily used when searching specific fields, like Subject. For instance, a search on *su.exact("higher education")*, will return documents with a subject term of *higher education*, but not documents with a subject term of *higher education funding*.

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Wildcards and truncation

You can expand your search using truncation and wildcard symbols.

Symbol Description Example

*nurse** Returns *nurse, nurses, nursed*

*colo*r*

* Used to replace **zero or more** characters

Returns *colour, color*

**taxa* Returns *taxa, supertaxa nurse?* Returns *nurses, nursed*

sm?th

? Used to replace **one** character.

returns *smith* and *smyth*

ad??? Returns *added, adult, adopt*

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Search in specific fields

You can target your search to specific fields, such as Authors or Subjects. You can use Advanced Search to help you build targeted searches, OR use **search field syntax** to quickly target your search.

Search field syntax - each search field has a **field code**. Type the code for the field you want your search targeted against, then put your search terms in parentheses.

CODE(search term)

For example, AU(smith). Examples of common search fields are below. You can also view field codes for search fields in Advanced Search. Field codes are case-insensitive, they do not have to be entered in capital letters.

Common search fields

Example

Field	Field Code	Field Code	Field
Abstract	AB	AB	Food
Author	AU	AU	smith
Document feature	DF	DF	maps
Date of publication	PD	PD	20051231
Document ID/Accession number	AN	AN	123
Document title	TI	TI	Food
Document type	DTYPE	DTYPE	Literature review
Full Text	FT	FT	Food
ISBN	ISBN	ISBN	0205189997
ISSN	ISSN	ISSN	10673881 or 1067-3881
Issue	ISS	ISS	23
Language	LA	LA	French
Location as subject	LOC	LOC	France
Person as subject	PER	PER	Smith
Publication title	PUB	PUB	Wall Street Journal
Source Type	STYPE	STYPE	Source Type
Subject heading	SU	SU	Higher education
Tag	TAG	TAG	Benefits
Volume	VO	VO	85
Year of publication	YR	YR	2005