

Search Syntax At-a-Glance

Use this:	To Run a Search:
?	<p>Wildcard: Stands in for one character in or at the end of a word.</p> <p><i>Example:</i> Searching for educat?? will find articles that contain "educated" and "educator." But it won't find "education," which contains more than two letters following "educat."</p>
*	<p>Truncation: Stands in for any number of characters, including none, at the end of a word.</p> <p><i>Example:</i> Searching for comput* will find articles that contain "computer," "computerized," or "computers."</p>
"..."	<p>Quotation Marks: Search words must appear exactly as typed.</p> <p><i>Example:</i> Searching for "business process" will find business process articles, but not about the process of starting a business.</p>
(..)	<p>Parentheses: Whatever is inside the parentheses is searched first, then those results are searched with the words outside the parentheses.</p> <p><i>Example:</i> Searching for Federal Reserve OR (U.S. AND economic policy) finds articles dealing with either the Federal Reserve or articles containing both the words "U.S." and "economic policy."</p>
AND	<p>AND: Both the search words before and after AND must appear in the article. AND narrows your search.</p> <p><i>Example:</i> Searching for El Nino AND Atlantic Ocean will only find articles that mention both El Nino and Atlantic Ocean.</p>
OR	<p>OR: Either the words before or after OR can appear in the article. OR broadens your search.</p> <p><i>Example:</i> Searching for El Nino OR Atlantic Ocean will find articles that mention either El Nino or Atlantic Ocean.</p>
AND NOT	<p>AND NOT: The search words before AND NOT must appear in the article, but the words after must not.</p> <p><i>Example:</i> Searching for El Nino AND NOT Atlantic Ocean gives you articles on El Nino, excluding those which also mention Atlantic Ocean.</p>
W/n	<p>Within: Search words must appear within <i>n</i> of words to match.</p> <p><i>Example:</i> Searching for U.S. W/15 economic policy finds articles where U.S. appears within 15 words of economic policy. This finds articles on American economic policy, but doesn't restrict the search to use the exact phrase "U.S. economic policy."</p>
NOT W/n	<p>Not Within: Search words must be separated by at least <i>n</i> words to match.</p> <p><i>Example:</i> Searching for U.S. NOT W/50 economic policy finds articles where U.S. doesn't appear within 50 words of economic policy. This finds articles on worldwide economic policy, very few would include information about U.S. economic policy.</p>
PRE/n	<p>Precede By: The first search word must precede the second by <i>n</i> words to match. This is useful for phrase searching.</p> <p><i>Example:</i> Searching for U.S. PRE/5 economic policy finds articles on many types of American economic policy, such as U.S. foreign aid economic policy, or U.S. wartime economic policy.</p>

Tips for Defining Your Search Word or Phrase

Follow these tips for searching ProQuest.

When You Need More Articles

Try broadening your search by switching from **Search in: Citation and Abstract** to **Search in: Article Text** in Basic or Advanced Search Methods.

Uppercase or Lowercase Letters?

Search statements are not case sensitive. A search for **Federal Reserve Board** will find the same articles as **federal reserve board** in Basic, Advanced and Publication Search Methods.

Searching Two-Word Phrases

Two-word searches are treated as an exact phrase. A search for **Federal Reserve** will find articles in which the word **Federal** immediately precedes the word **Reserve**.

About Longer Phrases

When you enter three or more words in the search field, they are searched in proximity. A search for **Federal Reserve system** will find articles in which the terms **Federal**, **Reserve** and **system** appear within a 250-word block.

Searching Exact Phrases

Use quotation marks to search exact phrases that are three or more words in length (for example “**Federal Reserve system**”). Quotation marks also let you include Stop Words in your search.

A search for **fire and brimstone** will be interpreted as asking ProQuest to find articles containing both the word fire and the word brimstone within a 250-word block. The search “**fire and brimstone**” will be interpreted as a command to find that exact phrase.

A complete list of Stop Words can be found on the **Search Tips** page.

Searching Citations and Abstracts

When you select **Citation and Abstract** from the drop-down menu next to the search terms on the Advanced Search page, ProQuest searches in several areas:

- Author
- Abstract
- Article Title
- Company Name
- Geographical Name
- Personal Name
- Product Name
- Subject Terms
- Source (Publication Title)

When you select **Citation and Article Text**, ProQuest searches within the complete text of the article, the citation fields, and the abstract.

Sample Searches and What You'll Find

The examples below illustrate the kinds of searches you can build on the **Basic** or **Advanced** Search pages using operators and fields.

Content varies between ProQuest databases; therefore, the number of articles found using the examples below would vary.

Note: The words AND and OR are capitalized to show that they are being used as a search operator. You do not need to do this when entering a search in ProQuest.

fiber

Finds articles that contain the word **fiber**.

*Educat**

Finds articles containing the words: **education**, **educator**, **educate**, **educating**, **educational**, **educated**, **education's**, and **educators**. The * is the truncation symbol used at the end of a word to find multiple forms of the word.

Educat??

Finds articles containing the words: **educator**, **educated**. This search will not find **education**. The symbol ? is a wildcard, used to replace any single character, either inside the word or the right end of the word. (? cannot be used to begin a word.)

weather AND pacific ocean

Finds articles that contain the word **weather** and the phrase **pacific ocean**.

"stem cell research"

Finds articles containing the exact phrase **stem cell research**.
Use quotation marks to find an exact phrase match.

su(tourism) AND (arizona OR california)

Finds articles about **tourism** that mention either **Arizona** or **California**. You can find Subject Terms in the **Thesaurus** or the options on the **Advanced Search** page. You may be able to browse Subject Terms if this feature is available for the database you are searching.

cap(panda)

Finds articles that have a caption containing the word **panda**. Use the Caption search field, or select Image Caption from the drop-down menu next to the search terms field on the Advanced Search page to find articles containing graphics with your search term in the caption.

au(Dave Barry)

Finds articles written by Dave Barry, a popular commentary writer. You can also enter **au(Barry, Dave)** or **au(barry dave)** and get the same results.

at(book review) AND name(Stephen King)

Finds book reviews of works by Stephen King. Use the Article Type search field to find different kinds of articles, including biographies, interviews, and recipes.

Note that **na** is a valid abbreviation for **name**.

source(Fortune) AND company(Ford)

Finds articles from the magazine *Fortune* about the company Ford. Use the Publication Name (Source) search field to restrict your search to a specific newspaper or periodical. Use the Company field to restrict to a specific company. This search could also be expressed as **so(fortune) and co(ford)**.

Using Boolean and Adjacency Operators to Broaden or Limit a Search

You can use Boolean operators and adjacency operators to adjust your search.

These Boolean Operators Limit or Broaden Your Search

Boolean operators connect your search words and treat them differently than a search phrase — to either broaden or limit your search.

<i>This Operator:</i>	<i>Example Search:</i>	<i>What It Finds:</i>
<i>OR</i>	bush OR cheny	Articles that include either or both of the search terms.
<i>AND</i>	microsoft AND gates	Articles that include both of the search terms within a 250 word block.
<i>AND NOT</i>	java AND NOT coffee	Articles that include the first term (java), but NOT the second term (coffee) in the same 250 word block.

These Adjacency Operators Limit Your Search

Adjacency operators let you control how closely the two search words are positioned to each other in the articles ProQuest finds. Using an adjacency operator limits your search results, because you're constraining what constitutes a match.

<i>This Operator:</i>	<i>Example Search:</i>	<i>What It Finds:</i>
<i>Within</i>	education W/5 internet	Articles where the first search term appears within 5 words of the second search term.
<i>Not Within</i>	mississippi NOT W/3 river	Articles where the first search term does NOT appear within 3 words of the second search term.
<i>Preceded by</i>	european PRE/2 community	Articles where the first search term appears 2 words before the second search term.
<i>Within Doc</i>	baseball W/Doc michael jordan	Articles where both search terms appear somewhere in the document.

Combining Boolean Operators and Adjacency Operators

You can always combine multiple search strategies to focus your search to ensure that you find just the articles you want. Here are some examples of more complex searches.

<i>These Operators:</i>	<i>Example Search:</i>	<i>What It Finds:</i>
<i>OR and Within</i>	trend W/5 (internet OR web)	Articles on Internet trends or web trends. Using OR will broaden the search, but using Within limits the search.
<i>AND NOT and Within Doc</i>	java AND NOT coffee W/Doc sun	Articles about Sun's Java technology, but not articles on growing coffee. Using AND NOT and using Within Doc both limit the search.
<i>OR and Preceded by</i>	military policy PRE/1 (U.S. OR american)	Articles covering U.S. military policy as well as articles referring to American military policy.
<i>AND and Not Within</i>	herniated disk AND spinal cord NOT W/5 lumbar	Articles about spinal cords and herniated disks in the cervical and thoracic regions of the spine, but not the lumbar region.

Precedence and Parentheses

ProQuest interprets your search from left to right. However, it observes an order of precedence with respect to operators.

OR has precedence over AND

ProQuest gives the OR operator precedence over the AND operator. This means, if you enter **cat AND dog OR pet**, ProQuest interprets the search as **cat AND (dog OR pet)**. All the articles your search finds will contain the word cat, and will also contain the word dog, the word pet, or the words dog and pet.

Using Parentheses

You can change the order of precedence for your search by using parentheses. Surrounding terms with parentheses forces them to be evaluated together. To change the search in the previous example to find articles that contain both cat and dog within the same paragraph or articles that contain just pet, add parentheses: **(cat AND dog) OR pet**.

Precedence and Operators

Precedence is not limited to operators. It extends to cover anything that you can include in a search, including fields, operators, and phrases.

The following list details the order of precedence (from highest to lowest) that ProQuest observes when interpreting your search:

<i>Operator</i>	<i>Example:</i>	<i>Becomes:</i>
<i>A phrase</i>	"big yellow dog" OR pet cat AND dog OR pet	(big yellow dog) OR pet cat AND (dog OR pet)
<i>PRE/n</i>	cat AND dog PRE/2 pet	cat AND (dog PRE/2 pet)
<i>W/n</i>	cat AND dog W/2 pet	cat AND (dog W/2 pet)
<i>AND with a search field</i>	cat AND Sub(dog) OR pet	cat AND (Sub(dog) OR pet)
<i>AND NOT with a search field</i>	cat AND NOT dog AND pet	cat AND NOT (dog AND pet)
<i>W/DOC</i>	cat W/DOC dog AND pet	cat W/DOC (dog AND pet)

Precedence and Advanced Search

When you create a search using AND NOT, the search applies the AND NOT to everything after it. For example, when you search for **cat AND NOT dog AND pet**, it searches for **cat AND NOT (dog AND pet)**. This can cause problems for new users working with the Advanced Search page. If they select AND NOT as the Boolean operator on one of the rows, the complete search may not get the results expected.

To solve this problem, ProQuest handles AND NOT differently than other Boolean operators. When it creates the search it automatically moves the AND NOT and its associated term to the end of the search.

Using Search Fields

You can use search fields in ProQuest, to focus your search on a specific kind of information.

For example, you might be looking for movie reviews in newspapers in the month of July, 2001.

To search for those movie reviews, you'd enter:

at(movie review) AND da(July 2001) AND stype(newspaper)

Field Name:	Short Name:	Example:
Abstract	ab	ab(customer service)
Article Text	text	text(home schooling)
Article Title	ti	ti(tornado)
Article Type	at	at(movie review)
Author	au	au(Katherine Marsh) au(Marsh, Katherine)
Classification Code	cc	cc(2330)
Company/Org	co	co(Gillette)
Date (alphanumeric)	da	da(July 4 2001) Note: no comma
Date (numeric)	pdn	pdn(07/04/2001)
Image Caption	cap	cap(graph)
ISSN	issn	issn(0035791X)
Location	geo	geo(Massachusetts) geo(Midwest)
NAICS Codes	naics	naics(7377) naics(111110)
Person	per	per(Oprah Winfrey)
Product Name	prod	prod(ford focus)
Publication Title (Source)	so	so(newsweek)
Source Type	stye	stye(newspaper)
Subject Term	sub	sub(boycott)
Ticker Symbol	ts	ts(MSFT)
Word Count	words	words(>2500)

Literal Search Fields

When you search using **Company/Org**, **Location**, or **Person**, ProQuest finds articles containing your search terms in the index field. For example, a search for **CO(United Nations)**, will find articles indexed on United Nations and United Nations Federal Credit Union.

You can use literal search fields to find articles indexed with an exact term. For example, to find articles indexed with the exact term United Nations in the Company/Org field, you would use the literal search field: **LCO({United Nations})**. The literal search field uses curly braces inside of parentheses.

Field Name:	Mnemonic	Example:	Literal Mnemonic	Example
Company/Org	co	co(United Nations)	lco	lco({United Nations})
Geographic Name	geo	geo(Paris)	lgeo	lgeo({Paris})
Person	Per	Per(Cher)	lper	lper({Cher})
Subject	Su	Su(Lsu	lsu({Internet})

Using the Article Type Search Field

The Article Type field is very useful, because it allows you to search for articles based on the nature of their content. For example, use the Article Type and Personal Name fields together to find feature stories (articles) written about George W. Bush: **NAME(George W. Bush) AND DTYPE(feature)**.

Article Types You Can Enter in a Search

Valid article types include:

Biography	Editorial	General Information	News	Report
Commentary	Editorial Cartoon	Instructional	Obituary	Review**
Corrections	Feature	Interview	Poetry	Speech
Cover Story	Fiction	Letter	Recipe	Statistics

Types of Review Articles

art/exhibit review	product review
audio review	restaurant review
book review	television review
movie review	video review
performance review	

These review types can be further subdivided by adding:

-favorable	-no opinion
-unfavorable	-comparative
-mixed	

Note: You must include the hyphen, such as: **AT(movie review-mixed)**

Example Article Type Searches

All of the following forms are valid to build your article type search:

Dtype AT DT TY

For example:

AT(recipe) and chili

DT(movie review-favorable) and "Remember the Titans"

TY(book review-unfavorable) and Stephen King

Dtype(biography) and SO(New York Times)

Using Classification Codes to Find Articles

Classification codes let you search business-targeted databases such as ABI/INFORM[®], Banking Information Source, and ABI/INFORM Dateline[®]. The classification codes segment these databases into broad topical areas.

When you use the codes with search words, classification codes are a fast way to precisely target a search by topic, industry or market, geographical area, or article type.

Example Searches with Classification Codes

cc(2120) AND salar?

Finds articles with salary information for Chief Executive Officers (classification code 2120).

policy AND stype(newspaper) AND cc(8340)

Finds newspaper articles on utility policies, since classification code 8340 covers electric, water, and gas utilities.

Using NAICS Codes to Find Articles

NAICS codes let you search databases for articles dealing with specific industries. When you use the codes with search words, NAICS codes are a fast way to precisely target a search by industry.

You should use the most specific code possible. Remember, the codes don't cascade. If you enter 22 (Utilities), your search won't find any records. If you want to broaden the search to include multiple codes, you need to use the truncation character (*). For example, to find information on the use of genetic engineering in farming, you would search for genetic engineering AND naic(11*).

To enter NAICS or SIC codes using the truncation character, you will need to enter the search values using the mnemonic, and not through the Browse NAICS/SIC codes window.

Example Searches with NAICS Codes

naic(541213) AND block

Finds articles about HR Block and Tax Preparation Services (NAICS code 541213).

policy AND naic(22*)

Finds articles on utility policies, since NAICS code 22 covers electric, water, and gas utilities.