

# Quick Start Guide to Academic Search Premier

Here is what you will see when you first enter the database, with some search terms added in:

The screenshot displays the EBSCO Academic Search Premier interface. At the top, there are navigation links for 'New Search', 'View Folder', 'Preferences', and 'Help'. Below this, there are tabs for 'Basic Search', 'Advanced Search', and 'Choose Databases'. The 'Advanced Search' tab is selected, and within it, the 'Keyword' search method is chosen. The search area contains three input fields with the following terms: "no child left behind act", "education policy", and "federal government". Each term is followed by a dropdown menu set to "Default Fields". The search terms are connected by "or" and "and" operators. Below the search area, there are options to limit results, including checkboxes for "Full Text", "References Available", and "Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals". There is also a section for "Published Date" with dropdown menus for "Month" and "Yr." and a "Reset" button.

Academic Search Premier gives you a myriad of search options. This handout is designed to show you only the crucial steps involved in a search. Here you can see the default setting is the **Advanced Search** tab, and within that tab, **Keyword** searching is selected.

You have the option of limiting your results. This is helpful if your search, like the example above, isn't very specific, or if you know you need articles of a particular type. The "Full Text" limit may save you some time, but keep in mind that it will exclude articles that could have full-text coverage in other databases to which Dominican subscribes.

When you're viewing this screen online, scroll down to see the other limit options available. You'll notice, for example, that you can limit a search by "Document Type" and specify "Book Reviews." Other options include publication date, publication type (journal, newspaper, etc), and "peer-reviewed" journals.

1. Start at the topmost search field. Type in your first search term, the one you feel is most central to your topic. If it is a phrase, place it in quotation marks.

2. Then specify what the term is (author, article title, etc.) with the drop-down menu on the right. If you search with **Default Fields**, it will search as if your term could be part of the author, subject, keyword, title, and abstract fields.

3. If you want to search several terms together, you can connect them with "and" "or" or "not." In the example above you'll notice all three boxes are used.

4. If you would like more detailed explanations about how to search, click on the "Search Tips" link underneath the boxes.

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After clicking “Search”, this is what came up:

The screenshot shows the EBSCOhost search results interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'Refine Search', 'Search History / Alerts', and 'Results'. Below the tabs, it displays '1 - 10 of 1885 Pages: 1 2 3 4 5 Next' and a 'Sort by: Date' dropdown menu. The main content area lists search results with various options like 'PDF Full Text' and 'HTML Full Text'. On the right side, there are 'Add' buttons for each result and an 'Add (1-10)' button at the top right. Arrows from the text boxes point to the 'Refine Search' tab and the 'Sort by' dropdown menu.

The first thing to notice is the number of results. **1,885** is far too many to sort through, unless you have a lot of time to spare—we’re guessing you’d rather save as much time as possible. This search might need some refining, then.

Take a look at these first five results. The first, third, and fourth citations listed have links to full-text articles. The second article listed is from Time; you will be able to find the full-text of this article in another database. The fifth record is from Congress Daily, a newsletter that Dominican does not have access to either in print or online.

Notice the italicized words correspond with your search terms, but the search engine has in some cases isolated the words in the phrases so carefully placed in quotation marks. If the quotation marks are not been included, the result list is 3,585 records long.

Before refining the search, there is a simple step you can take to find more relevant results. This drop-down menu tells you that the results are sorted by date, with the most recent appearing first. Try selecting “Relevance” from this menu and see if that changes the records at the top of the list.

To refine your search, click on the “Refine Search” in the upper left corner.

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To refine the search, “**Full Text**” was selected, and the publication type was limited to “**Periodicals**.”

You can also try switching the order of your search terms. EBSCO’s search engines rank the terms by the order you type them in. In this example, “no child left behind act” was searched first. From that pool of results, the search engine collected those records which contained the other two terms.

The screenshot shows the EBSCO Academic Search Premier interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'Refine Search', 'Search History / Alerts', and 'Results'. A message at the top right says 'To store items added to the folder for a future session, Sign In to My EBSCOhost'. Below the tabs, it shows '1 - 10 of 1427 Pages: 1 2 3 4 5 Next' and 'Sort by: Relevance'. There are filters for 'Academic Journals' and 'Magazines'. The search results are listed as follows:

See: All Results	Academic Journals	Magazines	Add (1-10)
1. <a href="#">Subject-Matter Groups Want More From Teachers Than NCLB Seeks</a> . By: Cavanagh, Sean; Manzo, Kathleen Kennedy. <i>Education Week</i> , 9/14/2005, Vol. 25 Issue 3, p6-7, 2p; (AN 18386077) HTML Full Text			Add
2. <a href="#">BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT: COMPETING IDEOLOGIES</a> . By: Nichols, Dan J.. Brigham Young University <i>Education &amp; Law Journal</i> , 2005 Issue 1, p151-181, 31p; (AN 18470709) PDF Full Text (1.8MB)			Add
3. <a href="#">Connecticut Files Court Challenge to NCLB</a> . By: Archer, Jeff. <i>Education Week</i> , 8/31/2005, Vol. 25 Issue 1, p23-27, 2p; (AN 18279888) HTML Full Text			Add
4. <a href="#">No Child Left Behind and Students With Autism Spectrum Disorders</a> . By: Yell, Mitchell L.; Drasgow, Erik; Lowrey, K. Alisa. <i>Focus on Autism &amp; Other Developmental Disabilities</i> , Fall2005, Vol. 20 Issue 3, p130-139, 10p; (AN 18320345) Cited References (15) PDF Full Text (300K)			Add
5. <a href="#">No... Teenager Left Behind?</a> By: Bacon Jr., Perry. <i>Time</i> , 1/31/2005, Vol. 165 Issue 5, p19-19, 1/3p, 1c; (AN 15790368) HTML Full Text			Add

Here is the refined search result list, sorted by relevance. Notice there are 1,427 results now: 460 were weeded out when the search was refined. The first five articles come from a variety of sources: *Education Week*, the *Brigham Young University Education & Law Journal*, *Focus on Autism & Other Developmental Disabilities*, and *Time*. To see more information about the article, click on the title.

Database Help is available through the Library Homepage - just click on the Help/Tutorials link. Links are also available for Citation Style guides through the Library Homepage by clicking on Library Information and then Citation Styles

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Here is an example of what you will see when you click on an article title:

<b>Title:</b> <i>No Child Left Behind and Students With Autism Spectrum Disorders.</i>
<b>Authors:</b> <a href="#">Yell, Mitchell L.</a> <sup>1</sup> <a href="mailto:myell@gwm.sc.edu">myell@gwm.sc.edu</a> <a href="#">Drasgow, Erik</a> <sup>2</sup> <a href="#">Lowrey, K. Alisa</a> <sup>3</sup>
<b>Source:</b> <a href="#">Focus on Autism &amp; Other Developmental Disabilities</a> ; Fall2005, Vol. 20 Issue 3, p130-139, 10p
<b>Document Type:</b> Article
<b>Subject Terms:</b> <a href="#">*EDUCATION, Elementary</a> <a href="#">*EDUCATIONAL law &amp; legislation -- United States</a> <a href="#">*COMPREHENSIVE instruction</a> <a href="#">*CUMULATIVE instruction</a> <a href="#">*UNITED States. No Child Left Behind Act of 2001</a>
<b>Geographic Terms:</b> <a href="#">UNITED States</a>
<b>Abstract:</b> The <i>No Child Left Behind Act</i> of 2001 (NCLB) is a complex, sweeping, and controversial law that was passed as a reaction to the low academic achievement exhibited by so many public school students in the United States. This powerful law profoundly changes the ways in which educators work with students in both general and special <i>education</i> by holding states, school districts, principals, and teachers accountable for making meaningful improvements in students' academic performance and by requiring the use of scientifically based practices. In this article, the authors (a) describe the history of NCLB; (b) explain the law's purpose and major principles; (c) discuss how NCLB's principles will affect students with disabilities, specifically those students with autism spectrum disorders; and (d) offer recommendations to teachers, administrators, and teacher trainers to ensure that educators meet the letter and spirit of NCLB. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]
<b>Author Affiliations:</b> <sup>1</sup> Professor, Department of Educational Studies, University of South Carolina. <sup>2</sup> Associate Professor of special <i>education</i> , University of South Carolina. <sup>3</sup> Assistant Professor, Department of Educational Studies, University of South Carolina.
<b>ISSN:</b> 1088-3576
<b>Accession Number:</b> 18320345

The remainder of this record, plus the full text of the article itself, can be found by scrolling down.

This information is very helpful for evaluating the article. It can tell you:

- 1) if the article is relevant to the topic you're researching, and
- 2) if it's appropriate for the assignment.

It also gives you all the information you need to put together a citation in your bibliography. Notice there are five subject terms included; these are hyperlinked so you can see if there are other articles the same subject in this database. The abstract gives you a summary of what the article will discuss. Since the article was written by three professors, it's very likely that it's from a scholarly journal, which it is.

The source of this article is the American journal *Focus on Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities*. You can see the date it was published and how many pages it runs (ten).

Disclaimer: this is just one example of a search and its results. Searches can vary widely. Don't assume that just because you can't find it, it isn't out there. (Additional disclaimer: there is, however, the possibility that it really isn't out there—sometimes). Don't be shy about asking a librarian for assistance with searching.

**Reference Desk Location: Rebecca Crown Library, Lower Level**  
**Reference Desk Phone Number: 708-524-6875**  
**Email: [reference@dom.edu](mailto:reference@dom.edu)**