

ABC-CLIO's Online Databases: Search Means Find

Internet search engines are useful tools, but they are not the most effective solution for student research because they often return thousands of irrelevant and unreliable results.

The **Search** functions in ABC-CLIO's online databases deliver what your students need—a narrow or broad focus, the ability to easily find and refine a topic, and the option to target a type of resource with one search. Whether they are seeking the comprehensive history of the Byzantine Empire, information on traditions and etiquette in China, excerpts from the Lincoln-Douglas debates, or an ancient map depicting the Silk Road, your students get to the right content right away.

Students can choose to search a single database or search among all of the databases that are available under your subscription.

Let's Get Started!

Simple Search

Simple Search looks for a word or phrase in all of the database content:

- Enter a term in the Search box on the upper right of the page in any of ABC-CLIO's online databases
- Click "**Search**" to go directly to your results
- Results will be displayed by relevance to your search term(s). Use the "Sort by" drop down menu to display results alphabetically by category or by title
- Narrow the search by checking any type of resource box on the menu on the left, such as *Images* or *Articles*, and then clicking on **Filter My Results**

Advanced Search

Advanced Search gets the results for selected topics and types of resources in one search.

- Click on the Advanced Search tab near the top of the page in any of ABC-CLIO's online databases
- Each database has its own menu of topics
- Select one or a combination of database topics, types of resources, and text entries to perform your search. For example, in *American History* you may limit a search to The Civil War Era and Speeches and Narratives.
- When you have made your selections, click the **Search** button on the Advanced Search page to get your results
- If desired, filter those search results further using the same techniques that you did for a Simple Search

Cross-Database Search

Find this search function on the log-in page or from the link in the upper right corner of any search results page. You can choose to perform a Simple Search on any or all of the databases you subscribe to:

- Select the database or databases you want to search by clicking the box to the left of the database title, or select "ALL"
- Enter the search terms in the box and click Search
- Results are summarized by the number found in each database. Select the database that contains the results you want to browse



More Search Tips and Tricks

By default, **Simple Search** produces results from all resources, including primary resources and reference material. You may limit the results to only reference material, which excludes entries in the Era, Analyze, and Feature Stories sections, by clicking the **Reference** button above the search box.

You can target your search results even more by using the following techniques:

- Use a comma to separate multiple search terms. Example: Washington, Lincoln
- Use "or" to find either word. Example: Michelangelo or Leonardo da Vinci
- Use "-" to exclude a word. Example: Martin Luther -King
- For an exact phrase, enclose the phrase in quotation marks. Example: "George Washington Carver"

For additional support for effective educational use of ABC-CLIO's online databases, visit www.abc-clio.com/SchoolResources