Purpose

- To build on the subject-searching skills you developed in the previous session: *Beyond the Reading List*
- To improve the efficiency and effectiveness of your searches. To achieve this:
  - To introduce you to a range of search techniques that can be used in LibrarySearch, but which have much wider applicability
Programme

- LibrarySearch’s Simple Search interface
  - “Phrase searching”
  - Truncation*
  - LibrarySearch’s default parameters: search *everything*
- LibrarySearch’s Advanced Search interface
  - Journal article abstracts and subject terms (keywords)
- Advanced search techniques using LibrarySearch’s constituent databases
  - Example constituent: Humanities International Complete
    - The searchable Thesaurus of Subject Terms
- Access to databases, and assistance


LibrarySearch: Simple Search

Phrase searching
Truncation
**LibrarySearch: Phrase**

- To improve the precision of your result set, it might be appropriate to define your search term as a **Phrase** (as distinct from a series of separate words)
- To do this, enclose each term within "quotation marks"
- The system will then retrieve only those items where the words appear next to each other and in the specified order
  - This usually gives you a smaller, more relevant result set

![LibrarySearch: Phrase Example](image)

**LibrarySearch: Truncation**

- Conversely, use **Truncation** to expand the coverage of any search term
- To apply truncation, use the star (*) symbol
- For example, by entering the search term: `cultur*`
  - the system will simultaneously search for the terms: **culture; cultures; cultural; culturale; culturation;** etc.

![LibrarySearch: Truncation Example](image)
**Simple Search: Initial Result Set**

**Library Search**: typically eBooks, and physical media (inc. print books)

**Eresources**: typically e-journal articles, conference papers, etc.

**Sort and Limit** (Date, Language, Source Type, etc.) options

**What’s the (potential) problem with this type of search?**

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**Search Coverage Refinement**

To concentrate on articles (from journals and conferences, etc.) and dissertations (PhD), choose only to search **Eresources**

Further refinement can be effected by de-selecting the **Also search within full text** option

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact on search results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Everything</strong>:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“nineteenth century” imperial* britain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eresources</strong> only:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“nineteenth century” imperial* britain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deselect ‘...search within full text’ option:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“nineteenth century” imperial* britain</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Still too many? Add further words (country/region?); or use **Advanced Search**.
LibrarySearch: Advanced Search

Subject Terms

Advanced Search Interface

Find items that have:
- All these words:
  - britain
  - nineteenth century
- This exact phrase:
  -

Don't show items that have:
- These unwanted terms:
  -

Additional limits:
- Format type:
- Language:
- Library:
  - Find
  - Don't show
  - Title:
  - Journal
  - English
  - Any Library
  -
- Find
  - Don't show
  - Author:
  -
- Find
  - Don't show
  - Subject:
  - imperial
  - migrat
  - imperial* and migrat* (Subject Terms are a list of the main concepts or themes discussed in an article)

Input a string of words and/or a single phrase.

Exclude words – use with extreme caution or not at all, especially when searching within full text. Why?

As appropriate, select type of resource, language and/or physical library.

We are not searching for a specific author or title, but have added two truncated(*) Subject terms: imperial* and migrat*
Advanced Search Results

Our word, “phrase” and Subject search terms

Additional Limit parameters: date, subject, source database, etc.

Note: You still have the Sort facility, and the option to deselect the default Also search within full text parameter

Subject Terms : Focussed Searching

This is an example record from LibrarySearch. It includes citation data, an abstract and descriptive keywords (Subject Terms). Similarly structured records will also be found in the individual databases that comprise the source content of LibrarySearch.

The full list of Subject Terms associated with a specific article. (If relevant, one or more may be incorporated into your subsequent searches.)

The Abstract briefly describes the main concepts and findings of the article. Subject Terms are a summary distillation of those main concepts.
Humanities International Complete

Subject Terms

Thesaurus

Humanities Int’l Comp.: Field Limiters

Smarter searching within individual (LibrarySearch source) databases:

- Use field limiters;
- Identify Subject Terms from the Thesaurus

This example is from EBSCOhost’s Humanities International Complete

The drop-down menu of field limiters. Note especially:
Title; Subject Terms (derived from the Thesaurus);
People (as a subject); and Geographic Terms
The full list of **Subject Terms** ascribed to this specific article.

Some databases allow you to search the **Thesaurus**, which lists all of the **Subject Terms**.

Click on the **Thesaurus** option.

Enter your search term (and select term location: **Begins with; Contains**).

Tick the required **Subject Term(s)**; change the OR connector to **AND**; and click the **Add** button.
Access to Databases

LibrarySearch
LibrarySearch’s constituent and other databases
Assistance

Access: University Portal / My Learning

Link to LibrarySearch; or go directly to: http://librarysearch.gre.ac.uk

The A-Z directory of individual databases; including Humanities International Complete (a constituent of LibrarySearch)
Access: The Directory of Databases

Lists all the individual databases, across all disciplines, to which the University subscribes. Many, but not all of these, are covered by LibrarySearch.

Scroll down for Humanities International Complete

Access: Humanities International Complete

Although you’ve selected Hum. Int’l Comp., the system doesn’t take you directly to that database:
1. Click on the History Databases link in the menu;
2. To access the full suite of advanced search tools, click on the Title List link.
Access: Humanities International Complete

3. Select Advanced Search

4. Enter your search terms, select the required field limiters and other search parameters as necessary: peer-reviewed only; language; search within full-text... etc.

Assistance

For help with identifying relevant databases and constructing efficient and effective searches, please email your School librarian:

Fraser Nicolaides
nf02@gre.ac.uk

If you encounter problems accessing LibrarySearch or any of its constituent databases, especially from off campus, first consult the supplementary login instructions at:

http://libguides.gre.ac.uk/e-resources/offcampus

Otherwise, please email the technical support team:

librarysearch@gre.ac.uk