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# Informit Search

## Advanced Search Guide

Version 3.1  
September 2021

# Informit Search



**Enriching knowledge** with authoritative and relevant research

Our powerful Informit Search platform enables searches across our databases and quickly delivers accurate results to support reliable research and learning.

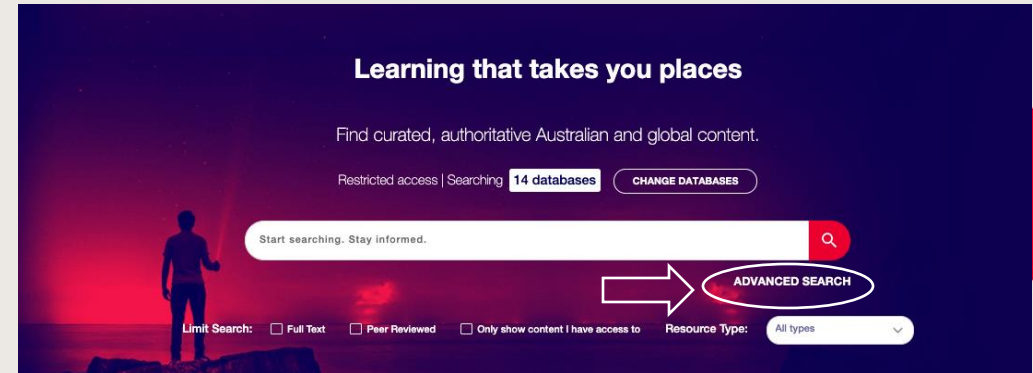
- Millions of full-text records with more than 40,000 added annually
- Recommendations and research trends analysis powered by artificial intelligence and machine learning
- Powerful filtering for more refined, relevant searches
- Reputable sources for reliable fact-finding
- Exclusive Australasian content from international researchers and publishers

**Now...** Learn more about **Advanced Search** to optimise your research effectiveness >>>

# Start Searching

Click Advanced Search >

The screenshot shows the Informit Advanced Search interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'HOME', 'ADVANCED SEARCH', 'SEARCH HISTORY', and 'OUR COLLECTIONS'. Below this, the 'Advanced Search' section is highlighted. The main search area includes a search bar with the placeholder 'Enter Search term' and a dropdown for 'All Fields'. Below the search bar, there are options for 'Limit Search' (Full Text, Open Access, Peer Reviewed) and 'Resource Type' (Match Any, Select all/Clear all). The 'Resource Type' section lists various categories like Journal, Database, Image, Book, Report, Video and Sound, Digital Object, and Conference. There are also sections for 'Language' and 'Media Genre' with similar dropdowns and checkboxes. At the bottom, there's an 'Access Type' section with 'Only show content I have access to' and a 'Publication Date' section with 'All Dates', 'Last', and 'Custom Range' options. A 'CLEAR SEARCH' button and a 'SEARCH' button are at the bottom right.



Advanced Search provides a range of options

# Advanced Search Options



The screenshot shows the 'Advanced Search' interface with the following elements:

- Navigation tabs: **ADVANCED SEARCH** (active), CITATION SEARCH, SEARCH HISTORY, SAVED SEARCH
- Status: Access to **81 databases** | Searching **14 databases** | [CHANGE DATABASES](#)
- Search input:  |  (dropdown)
- Boolean operator:  |  |  (dropdown) |
- Limit Search:  Full Text |  Open Access |  Peer Reviewed
- Resource Type:  (dropdown) | [Select all/Clear all](#)
- Resource Type checkboxes:  Journal |  Database |  Image |  Book |  Report |  Video and Sound |  Digital Object |  Conference

## Resource Type

- > Check types to search **within Resource Type** field

Match Any = Boolean OR search

Match All = Boolean AND search

Match None = Boolean NOT search

- > Click **Select all** for every type
- > Uncheck any unwanted types

**Note:** Resource Type combines with AND for fielded search boxes

## Fielded search

- > Select a field option from drop-down list
- > To find all records in a field, enter **a\***
- > Combine search fields with AND | OR | NOT
- > Click **+** to add more search boxes
- > **Limit Search:** Check boxes to select

**Full Text | Open Access | Peer Reviewed**

Leave unchecked for no limits

... more fields next page

# Advanced Search Options ... continued



Language:

Match Any

## Language

**Match Any** combines terms with OR  
**Match All** combines terms with AND  
**Match None** eliminates a term

Media Genre:

Match Any

Select all/Clear all

## Media Genre

- > Check types to search
- > Click **Select All** for every type
- > Uncheck any unwanted types

- News and Current Affairs  Fiction  Children  Variety  Lifestyle and Infotainment  Poetry  L  
 Reality  Interview  Drama  Educational  Comedy  Documentary  Animation  Sport

Access Type:

Only show content I have access to

## Access Type

- > Select to limit to available content

Publication Date

All Dates

Last

Select

Custom Range

Month

Year

To

Month

Year

## Publication Year

- > Click **All Dates** for complete coverage
- > Click **Last** and select from drop-down options
- > Click **Custom Range** and enter your chosen dates

CLEAR SEARCH

# Build a Complex Search – Boolean Operators

- Use **AND**, **OR** and **NOT** between search terms in search fields
- **AND** is default relationship – AND is assumed between search terms if no other operator is specified
- To group **AND** and **OR** searches, use multiple search boxes or longer search strings with a single box

## Example

Access to **81 databases** | Searching 14 databases

coronavirus OR covid-19

AND

treatment OR prevention

Limit Search:  Full Text  Open Access  Peer Reviewed

SEARCH

- Finds records containing **coronavirus OR covid-19** in an article title **AND** **treatment or prevention** in any field in those records

# Build a Complex Search – More Operators



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- **Truncation** [\*] – to match any set of zero or more characters, **substitute with \***  
**manage\*** > matches include manage, manages, manager, management etc.

**fav\*rite** > matches include favourite, favorite

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- **Wildcard** [?] – to match any single character, **substitute with ?**

**l?st** > matches last, lest, list, lost, lust etc.

**200?** > in a Publication Year field matches publication years 2000 through 2009

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- **Proximity** [~x] – to find content with terms near each other, **use "terms"~number**

**"debt recovery"~5** > finds content with **debt** and **recovery** within five words of each other

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- **Relevance** [^x] – to boost retrieval of preferred terms, **use term^(caret) number**

**nutrition^3 food** > **nutrition** is 3 times more important than **food**

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# Build a Complex Search – Nested terms

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- **Nesting**

- Use brackets to construct a more precise search strategy
- Terms within brackets are evaluated first

## Examples

1. marijuana AND cannabis OR therap\* (*no nesting*)  
Result set retrieves records with both marijuana and cannabis, then adds records containing therap\* with or without marijuana and cannabis
2. marijuana AND (cannabis OR therap\*)  
Result set retrieves records with marijuana that also contain either or both of cannabis and therap\*
3. marijuana OR (cannabis AND therap\*)  
Result set retrieves records with both cannabis and therap\*, then adds records containing marijuana regardless of presence/absence of cannabis or therap\*
4. (marijuana OR cannabis) AND therap\*  
Result set retrieves all records containing marijuana or cannabis then selects records FROM THAT SET also containing therap\*



# Search Behaviour – Stemming

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## What is **stemming**?

- Stemming is the process of reducing a word to its word stem.

## Why is **stemming** used?

- Stemming is important in natural language understanding and natural language processing.
- Recognizing, searching and retrieving more forms of words returns more results.
- When a form of a word is recognized it can make it possible to return search results that otherwise might have been missed.

Source: [Whatls.com](https://www.whatls.com)

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## Stemming on Informit Search

- **By default**, search is configured to use plurals and stemming automatically
- **Stemming is enabled** for publication text fields such as full-text and abstract content
- **To disable stemming for a search term**, surround it with double quotation marks to create a literal term or phrase



# Need more information?

We're here to help you

Please get in touch with any queries you may have

Informit Customer Support Team

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