

advanced searching with Athena online



With advanced searching, you can combine search terms, search specific fields and use more sophisticated techniques. To switch to advanced searching just click on button in the upper right hand toolbar. Instead of only one search box, as in the quick search, there are now three.

Indexes

Next to each search box, you'll notice a drop-down menu that reads "All Indexes." An index is information that is used to describe an item in Athena. Indexes include Author, Title, Subject, as well as other items like Publisher, Series, or Call Number. Using indexes allows you to search Athena with more flexibility. For example, you want all the films in the History Channel's *Modern Marvels* series. Type "modern marvels" and select the index Series. This will return a list of films in this series.

You can also use Indexes to combine terms in different indexes.

For example,

you want to find a movie someone mentioned in class. You know that the title has "amy" in it and that the director's last name is Smith. You could do a Quick Search for just "amy" or "smith" and sort through all the results. Or, you can combine these terms in an index search. Simply type "amy" into the first box, and then pull down the index menu and select, "Title Words." Then type "Smith" into the second box, pull down the menu and select "Author Words." This search reveals the film *Chasing Amy* by Kevin Smith. Combining the two terms creates a more accurate and more efficient search. This same method can be applied with as many as three different terms.

A screenshot of the Athena search interface. At the top, it says "Enter a word or phrase and press a search button". Below this are two search boxes. The first box contains the text "amy" and has a "Browse" button with three colored dots (red, purple, green) to its right. Between the two search boxes is a dropdown menu showing "AND". The second search box contains the text "smith" and also has a "Browse" button with three colored dots to its right. To the right of the search boxes is a large dropdown menu titled "All Indexes" which is currently open, showing a list of index options: "All Indexes", "Title Words", "Author Words", "Subject Words", "Notes Words", "Title Index", "Author Index", "Subject Index", and "Publisher".

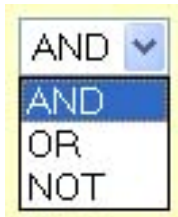
Format

A screenshot of the Athena search interface showing a "Format:" label followed by a dropdown menu. The dropdown menu is currently set to "All Formats".

You can also use advanced searching to restrict the type of item for which you search. For example, you want to watch the DVD of *Fantasia*. You know the library has lots of books about Fantasia so just regular keyword searching will take too long. You could limit it to just title, but that also returns numerous items. You can limit this search by clicking on the "format" drop-down menu at the bottom of the search screen. Just pull down the menu, scroll to the appropriate format and click on it; in this case DVD. Now, your search results will only include items in that format.

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Combining Terms With AND, OR, NOT



We have seen how combining multiple search terms together gets more accurate results. However, we have only looked at one part of this powerful tool. Between each search box you'll see a drop-down menu that reads "AND." When you pull this menu down you can select one of three operators: AND, OR, NOT. An operator lets you control how the computer searches for multiple terms and can dramatically alter the results.

AND

When you select AND you are telling Athena that the terms in both search boxes must be present in all the records. For example, you are searching for photographs of landscapes. Try searching for "landscapes" AND "photography." You will only get items that have BOTH "landscapes" and "photography" somewhere in the record.

AND requires more terms in each record, making it harder to find matches; AND makes a search more specific, or narrower. Athena will automatically use the AND operator if you do not specify otherwise.

OR

When you select OR, only one of the search terms you specified must be in the record. Using the example above, by searching for "landscapes" OR "photography," returns items that have EITHER "landscapes" or "photography" somewhere in the record. You will get any item that has the term "photography" in the record. You will ALSO get any item that has the term "landscapes" in it.

Use OR when you want to expand your search, as when you are searching for subject or keywords. It makes it easier to find matches by making search terms optional. OR is the standard operator in web search engines, like Google.

NOT

NOT is the hardest operator to use. When you select not, the second search term cannot be in the records. Using our example above, you need to find information about landscape painting. When you use the search term "landscapes," you get a lot of results about landscape photography. Changing your search to "landscapes" NOT "photography" will EXCLUDE any item with the term "photography" in it.

NOT can be difficult to use and can exclude a lot of applicable results. For example, any book about the history of landscapes that included a chapter on photography would be excluded.