

MLA International Bibliography – the basics

- **What is it?**
 - Produced by the Modern Language Association, provides citations to critical documents.
 - Covers literature, linguistics and folklore.
 - Covers around 4,400 refereed journals, also monographs and collections including working papers and conference proceedings from 1926.
- **Access?**
 - Visit list of databases on the Library's "**Finding resources**" web page or search **DiscoverEd**
 - EASE/MyEd login for on- and off-campus access.
- **Search**
 - **EBSCOhost Advanced Search** is the default screen seen on the opening page.
 - **Apply equivalent subjects** is the default option, this can be deselected for keyword searches.
 - Choose to search only **author**, **article title** or **journal name** fields.
 - Use **truncation** for more accurate keyword searching "*" "#" or "?"
- **Limiting the results**
 - Refine searches, for example by publication date using **Limit your results**.
 - Limits can be used to isolate a subset of records from a completed subject search.

The screenshot displays the EBSCOhost Advanced Search interface for the MLA International Bibliography. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'New Search', 'MLA Thesaurus', 'Recent Works', 'Recent Authors', 'Recent Publications', and 'Home'. The main search area includes a search box, a 'Search' button, and three 'Add' buttons for adding more search terms. Below the search area, there are 'Search Options' and 'Limit your results' sections. The 'Search Options' section includes 'Search Modes and Expanders' with radio buttons for 'Boolean/Phrase', 'Find all my search terms', 'Find any of my search terms', and 'SmartText searching'. There are also checkboxes for 'Apply related words' and 'Apply equivalent subjects'. The 'Limit your results' section includes a 'Linked Full Text' checkbox, a 'Publication Date' range selector, and a 'Language' dropdown menu. The 'Language' dropdown is currently set to 'All'.

- **Expanding the results**
 - Select **Apply related words** to include synonyms and plurals.
 - **Apply equivalent subjects** to use mapped vocabulary terms to add precision. Uncheck if you wish to only use keywords in your search.
 - **SmartText** allows you to copy and paste large amounts of text to search for results.

- **Thesaurus**
 - MLA Thesaurus subject terms are used to link records by subject matter.
 - Enter search terms in **browse** field and select from **term begins with, term contains and relevancy ranked**.
 - Mark headings you wish to use and combine with **AND, OR, NOT**.
 - **Explode** will retrieve additional references indexed to narrower subject terms.

- **Other Screen Searches.**
 - **Basic Search and Advanced Search** provide different numbers of search boxes and options for those parts of the record you wish to search for example author, abstract, document type.
 - **Names as Subject** browses search terms by a work's title or author.
 - **Search History** allows searches to be combined using **AND, OR, NOT**.
 - Find **Cited References Search** under **More**.

- **Help**
 - Select **Help** from the top right of the screen.
 - Click  for help specific to the screen you are on.

- **Truncation and Wildcard symbols**
 - * **Asterisk** can be used to include various suffix variations of a root word.
For example **"child*"** will also retrieve records for child's, children, childhood etc.
 - **# Hash** can be used to substitute for one or no characters. This is useful for searching words with variant spellings for example **"colo#r"** will find colour and color.
 - **? Question mark** may be used for terms with an unknown character ne?t will find neat, nest, next.

- **Boolean Searching**
 - Use Boolean operators in the Search boxes, Search modes and in Search History to link concepts.
 - **AND** to find records which include both words.
 - **OR** to find records which contain similar terms.
 - **NOT** to find records which include one term but not the other.

- **Keeping Records**
 - Select  to the right of the record to **Show detailed record** or **Add to folder** which creates a marked list.
 - Viewing the detailed record also shows further tools for **print, email, save** and **export** options.

- **Find the full-text**

findit@edinburgh

findit@edinburgh links to the full-text article, if available.

 - If findit@edinburgh does not produce full-text, the information in the **source field** will take you to the relevant catalogue entry showing its location.