



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.

- **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 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.