

## Advanced Searching in Academic Search Complete

We have used the EBSCOHost basic Boolean/phrase search to look for articles on the effects of age on second language acquisition and have retrieved a pretty good list of results. We noted that the results page included options for narrowing our search using subject terms in the panel to the left of the citation list, so let's take a closer look at how that could help us focus our results.

We see that Second Language Acquisition is actually a recognized subject term in this database. Checking that option will pull out of our results list only those articles that actually have this subject term assigned to them.

Another way to retrieve the articles classified under a particular subject heading is to click on the title of an article and then on the subject heading in the record. This instigates a new search for all of the articles with the subject term of "Second language acquisition." You see that search now appears in the search box preceded by "DE" which stands for "descriptor." We actually retrieve over 2000 articles with that subject term assigned to them.

We added the keyword "age" before to narrow our search, but other keywords could be useful, too. Using the link under the search box, let's switch to the advanced search screen and add the keywords "age [with an asterisk]," "youth" and "child [with an asterisk]." The asterisk directs the search to retrieve the root words with any endings. This search technique is called "truncation." Click the button on the screen for more information on truncation, or click "continue."

[Truncation allows us to search for varied endings of a keyword by typing in only the root of the word and a symbol, usually as asterisk, which acts as a wildcard. In our search, "child" with an asterisk, will retrieve articles with the words "child's," "children," or "childhood" and "age" with an asterisk, will retrieve articles with the words "aged," "ages," or "ageless." Click continue when you are ready to go on with the tutorial.]

Typing these keywords on the second line of the search box with the "or" operator between them directs the search engine to retrieve articles with the descriptor above along with any of these additional terms. Grouping terms together in a search is called "nesting." Click the button on the screen for more information on nesting, or click "continue."

[Alternative terms can be nested by typing them together on a separate line, as we did in the advanced search screen, or by grouping them within parentheses. This search will find any articles with the words teen, teens, or adolescent, singular or plural, together with any form of either the word "spend" or the word "buy." Click continue when you are ready to go on.]

We will again limit to full text, peer-reviewed journal articles in English so that we can see how our results compare to our initial search.

We get many more articles! This search can be focused a little more by selecting from the drop down menu one of the options for limiting the keyword search to a specific field of the article records, such as title, subject term, abstract or author supplied keywords, to ensure that the results truly reflect the topic. We will choose “author-supplied” keywords to see how that affects our results. And it dramatically shortens our list. So, let’s now remove the “full-text” limiter we have in place, which will increase the number of items, and enable us to look at the options we have for obtaining articles not available in full text in the database.

Item number three in the results list does not have a full-text link. Click the “Find It” button to open a window with information on other options for obtaining the article. Here we see that this journal is held in the UCO print collection. Clicking the Find It in Print link will open the catalog record for the journal. The location and call number will lead you to the journal on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the library.

The library does have a copy service. Go to Library Services from the library’s home screen and click on Copy Requests to see the pricing schedule and place an order online.

Returning to the results list, we will look at the options available for obtaining article number four. The library does not own this journal in print, but we can order the article through Interlibrary Loan. If you have not yet set up a free account with ILL, click the link for First Time Users Info & Registration to set up your account and choose your password. Once you have set up your account, when you log in to ILL from the link in the database, the request form will be automatically populated with the information about the article you need. Be sure to scroll to the bottom of the screen to click submit to send your request. Chambers Library’s interlibrary loan department is able to get electronic copies of most articles that we do not own within a matter of days, and you will be notified by e-mail when the article is available.

All EBSCOHost databases operate similarly, and the principles of keyword and subject searching will apply when searching databases provided by other vendors as well, even though the interface will look different. Be sure to experiment with your keywords and types of searches to retrieve all of the results that will be useful to you.

Should you have any questions or difficulties, we are always available to help you at the library! Just Ask!