



MountainLynx: The WVU Library Online Catalog

MountainLynx is a web-based catalog of books, periodicals and other materials owned by the WVU Libraries. It may be accessed from any computer that has an Internet connection and a web browser. Go to <http://mountainlynx.lib.wvu.edu> to start a search.

BASIC SEARCH

Type in your search terms and select the type of search you want to perform.

Searching by Title or Journal/Magazine/Newspaper Title:

- Omit initial articles (a, an, the). To search for the title *The Joy of Being Human* you may type in *joy of being human*
- Enter the exact title or the first few words in the exact order
- To find only the electronic version of a journal, select *Electronic Journals* under **Quick Limit**

Searching by Author:

- Enter last name first for personal authors. For example: *dickinson emily*
- When the author is a corporation, organization or institution, type in the complete or partial name. For example: *American Cancer Society*
- You may truncate a name by just typing in as much as you know. For example, typing in *nichol* will retrieve *nicholas, nichols, nicholson*

Searching by Subject:

- Use the subject headings determined by the Library of Congress. Usually you can find a few sets of **Library of Congress Subject Headings** in the libraries. Using the appropriate subject headings will generally retrieve the most precise results.

Searching by Keyword:

- **Do not use** Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT)
- Use quotes to search phrases: *"gun control"*
- Use + to mark essential terms: *"gun control" +schools*
- Use ? as the truncation symbol to find words with variant endings: *school?* will retrieve *school, schools, schooling, etc.*
- Results are ranked by relevance, with the most relevant listed first.

Advanced Search:

- All the terms must be combined using Boolean operators (and, or, not). For example: *television and violence and children*
 - and -- both terms must appear in the same record. *diet and nutrition*

- or -- one word must appear in the record. *cats or dogs*
- not -- the first but not the second word must appear in the record. *aids NOT hiv*
- Use parentheses to group search terms. For example: *(online or web) and shopping*
- Use quotes to indicate phrases *"television violence" and children*
- Use ? as the truncation symbol: *child?* will retrieve *child* and *children*

Searching by Call Number:

- Enter the call number with punctuation and spaces: *bf789.d4 c67 1997*

ASSISTED SEARCH

- Fill in the blanks on the search form
- Select from the drop-down menu to search a particular field: author, title, subject, publisher, series, date, ISBN or ISSN
- Combine terms by choosing the appropriate Boolean operators (and, or, not)

SPECIAL FEATURES

Set Limits:

- Only works for title and keyword searches
- You may limit by language, types of material, library location, publication date, etc.

Quick Limit:

- Only works for title and keyword searches
- Limit your search by a certain library location or publication date of the last ten years

Limit Results:

- Allows you to set limits after the search results are displayed for most any type of search. For example, when the results of a subject heading search under “capital punishment” are displayed, click “Limit Results” button and select under Location “Law Library,” you can thus limit the results to materials at that particular library.

Request:

- You may view the list of books you have checked out, recall a book that is checked out, renew books, see your pending requests and fines by clicking the **Request** or **Patron** button.
- Enter your WVU ID number and your last name to log in.

Search Tips:

- Examples of most searches appear on the search screen.
- For personal assistance ask a Reference Librarian.