EBL Searching guide

EBL’s LibCentral, Patron Interface and Online Reader support the complex search features described below.

*Note: These search features can be used in Quick Search, Full Text search and within a book in the Online Reader, but not in Advanced search. The Advanced search form overrides many of these operators so they will not work as uniformly or effectively.*

**Phrase searching**
EBL supports phrase searching. A phrase is a group of words surrounded by double quotation marks, such as "Medieval Iceland". Phrase searching will narrow the results of the search.

Multiple phrases can be combined together with Boolean operators to form a more complex query.

"Medieval Iceland" NOT "Reykjavik Iceland"

**Boolean Operators**
Boolean operators allow terms to be combined through logic operators. EBL supports AND, "+", OR, NOT and "-" as Boolean operators.

*Note: Boolean operators must be entered in capitals – AND, OR, NOT.*

**OR**
The OR operator is the default operator. This means that if there is no Boolean operator between two terms, the OR operator is used. The OR operator links two terms and finds a match if either of the terms exist in a record. The symbol || can be used in place of the word OR.

**AND**
The AND operator finds records where both terms exist anywhere in the record. The symbol && can be used in place of the word AND.

To search for titles that contain "ancient" and "sacred" use the query:

ancient AND sacred

**NOT**
The NOT operator excludes records that contain the term after NOT. The symbol ! can be used in place of the word NOT.

To search for records that contain "ancient" but not "sacred" use the query:

ancient NOT sacred
+ *(Required)*
The "+" or required operator requires that the term after the "+" symbol exist somewhere in the record.

To search for record that must contain "ancient" and may contain "sacred" use the query:

```
+ancient sacred
```

- *(Prohibit)*
The "-" or prohibit operator excludes records that contain the term after the "-" symbol.

To search for records that contain "ancient" but not "sacred" use the query:

```
-sacred ancient
```

**Grouping**
EBL supports using parentheses to group clauses to form sub queries. This can be very useful if you want to control the boolean logic for a query.

To search for either "ancient" or "sacred" and "Greece" use the query:

```
(ancient OR sacred) AND Greece
```

This returns records that contain “Greece” and either “ancient” or “sacred”.

**Wildcard Searches**
EBL supports single and multiple character wildcard searches within single terms (not within phrase queries).

To perform a single character wildcard search use the ? symbol.

To perform a multiple character wildcard search use the * symbol.

*Note: You cannot use a * or ? symbol as the first character of a search.*

The single character wildcard search looks for terms that match that with the single character replaced. For example, to search for "text" or "test" you can use the search:

```
te?t
```

Multiple character wildcard searches looks for 0 or more characters. For example, to search for test, tests or tester, you can use the search:

```
test*
```

You can also use the wildcard searches in the middle of a term.

```
te*t
```
Fuzzy Searches
To do a fuzzy search, use the tilde, "~", symbol at the end of a single word. For example to search for a term similar in spelling to "roam" use the fuzzy search:

    roam~

This search will find terms like foam and roams.

Proximity Searches
EBL supports finding words are a within a specific distance away.

To do a proximity search, use the tilde ~ symbol at the end of a phrase in quotation marks.

For example to search for "ancient" and "sacred" within 3 words of each other in a record use the search:

    "ancient sacred"~3