

Refining Searches in EBSCO

This handout assumes that you know how to get into the EBSCO collection, choose databases, and perform simple searches. If you need instruction in these areas please refer to the previous handouts.

We will use vampires as an example topic. Pull up the EBSCO collection and choose the database *Academic Search Premier*. Type in the word *vampires* in the Search field and hit the ENTER key. You should see the following screen.*

The screenshot shows the EBSCO search interface. At the top, the search bar contains the word "vampires" and the search button is highlighted. Below the search bar, the results are displayed in a list format. The first result is titled "Actualité psychiatrique sur les vampires. Vampire : un mythe contemporain ? (French)" and is from the "Academic Search Premier" database. The second result is "Blood Ties: The Vampire Lover in the Popular Romance" and the third is "Sins of the flesh: anorexia, eroticism and the female vampire in Bram Stoker's Dracula". On the left side of the screen, there is a "Refine your results" section with various filters. The "Full Text" filter is currently unchecked.

Wow! 4200 articles! 4200 articles are a lot of articles, even if you are just scanning the titles. Let's make this list smaller.

Many of the article titles in the list are not **full text** (i.e. the complete articles cannot be pulled up and read on the screen.) Limiting to **Full Text** is one way to reduce the number of results.

Go to the left side of the screen and click in the box next to the words **Full Text**. A small window appears with a green **Update** button. Click on Update...

EBSCO
Searching: **Specific Databases**, Show all | Choose Databases by Subject >
vampires Search Clear

Basic Search | Advanced Search | Visual Search | Search History

Page: 1 2 3 4 5 >

4220 Results for...

Refine your results

- Full Text
- References Available
- Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals

1899 Publication Date 2011

Update Show More >

Source Types

- All Results
- Academic Journals
- Magazines
- Newspapers

Update

Subject: Thesaurus Term

1. **Actualité psychiatrique sur les vampires. Vampire : un mythe**
/ Current psychiatric events concerning vampires. Vampire: A contemporary myth Issue 6, p416-421, 6p; Language: French; DOI: 10.1016/j.amp.2009.04.014
Subjects: **VAMPIRES**; MYTH; **VAMPIRE** films; PSYCHOLOGY, Pathological; FAMIL
Database: Academic Search Premier
Add to folder | Relevancy: ●●●●●●●●
2. **Blood Ties: The Vampire Lover in the Popular Romance.**
By: Balle, Helen T., *Journal of American Culture*, Jun2011, Vol. 34 Issue 2, p141-1
Subjects: ROMANCE fiction; **VAMPIRES**; FICTION; HEROES in literature; PARANOR
Database: Academic Search Premier
Add to folder | Relevancy: ●●●●●●●●
HTML Full Text PDF Full Text (73KB)
3. **Sins of the flesh: anorexia, eroticism and the female vampire in**
By: Domínguez-Rue, Emma, *Journal of Gender Studies*, Sep2010, Vol. 19 Issue 3, 1
Subjects: ANOREXIA; APPETITE disorders; ENGLISH literature -- 19th century; VAL
Database: Academic Search Premier

Refine your results

- Full Text
- References Available
- Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals

1899 Publication Date 2011

Update Cancel | Show More >

This window appears after you click in one of the **Refine Your Results** boxes.

Click on the Update button

- The following screen appears. Notice how the number of results goes down from 4220 entries to 2576 entries.*

EBSCO
Searching: **Specific Databases**, Show all | Choose Databases by Subject >
vampires Search Clear

Basic Search | Advanced Search | Visual Search | Search History

Page: 1 2 3 4 5 >

2576 Results for...

Boolean/Phrase: vampires

Limiters

- Full Text

Refine your results

- Full Text
- References Available
- Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals

1929 Publication Date 2011

Update Show More >

1. **Blood Ties: The Vampire Lover in the Popular Romance.**
By: Balle, Helen T., *Journal of American Culture*, Jun2011, Vol. 34 Issue 2, p141-148, 8p; DOI: 10.1111/j.1542-734X.2011.00771
Subjects: ROMANCE fiction; **VAMPIRES**; FICTION; HEROES in literature; PARANORMAL romance stories; **VAMPIRES** in literature;
Database: Academic Search Premier
Add to folder | Relevancy: ●●●●●●●●
HTML Full Text PDF Full Text (73KB)
2. **Sins of the flesh: anorexia, eroticism and the female vampire in Bram Stoker's Dracula.**
By: Domínguez-Rue, Emma, *Journal of Gender Studies*, Sep2010, Vol. 19 Issue 3, p297-308, 12p; DOI: 10.1080/09589236.2010
Subjects: ANOREXIA; APPETITE disorders; ENGLISH literature -- 19th century; **VAMPIRES**; FICTION; WOMEN & literature; STOK
Database: Academic Search Premier
Add to folder | Relevancy: ●●●●●●●●
PDF Full Text (94KB)

- Let us suppose that your instructor wants at least one source to be a scholarly (peer-reviewed) article.

Searching: **Specific Databases**, Show all | Choose Databases by Subject »

vampires ?

Basic Search | Advanced Search | Visual Search | Search History

Page: 1 2 3 4 5 »

2576 Results for...
Boolean/Phrase: vampires

Limiters
Full Text

Refine your results
 Full Text
 References Available
 Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals

1929 Publication Date 2011

Update Show More »

- Blood Ties: The Vampire Lover in the Popular Romance.**

By: Baile, Helen T.. *Journal of American Culture*, Jun2011, Vol. 34 Issue 2, p141-148, 8p; DOI: 10.1111/j.1542-734X.2011.00771

Subjects: ROMANCE fiction; **VAMPIRES**; FICTION; HEROES in literature; PARANORMAL romance stories; **VAMPIRES** in literature;

Database: Academic Search Premier

Add to folder | Relevancy: ██████████

HTML Full Text PDF Full Text (73KB)
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By: Domínguez-Rue, Emma. *Journal of Gender Studies*, Sep2010, Vol. 19 Issue 3, p297-308, 12p; DOI: 10.1080/09589236.2010

Subjects: ANOREXIA; APPETITE disorders; ENGLISH literature -- 19th century; **VAMPIRES**; FICTION; WOMEN & literature; STOK

Database: Academic Search Premier

Add to folder | Relevancy: ██████████

PDF Full Text (94KB)

- Click on the green UPDATE button and the following screen appears

Searching: **Specific Databases**, Show all | Choose Databases by Subject »

vampires ?

Basic Search | Advanced Search | Visual Search | Search History

Page: 1 2 3 4 5 »

297 Results for...
Boolean/Phrase: vampires

Limiters
Full Text
Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals

Refine your results
 Full Text
 References Available
 Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals

1964 Publication Date 2011

Update Show More »

- Blood Ties: The Vampire Lover in the Popular Romance.**

By: Baile, Helen T.. *Journal of American Culture*, Jun2011, Vol. 34 Issue 2, p141-148, 8p; DOI: 10.1111/j.1542-734X.2011.00770.x

Subjects: ROMANCE fiction; **VAMPIRES**; FICTION; HEROES in literature; PARANORMAL romance stories; **VAMPIRES** in literature; BLOOD Red (Book); KISS o

Database: Academic Search Premier

Add to folder | Relevancy: ██████████

HTML Full Text PDF Full Text (73KB)
- Sins of the flesh: anorexia, eroticism and the female vampire in Bram Stoker's Dracula.**

By: Domínguez-Rue, Emma. *Journal of Gender Studies*, Sep2010, Vol. 19 Issue 3, p297-308, 12p; DOI: 10.1080/09589236.2010.494346

Subjects: ANOREXIA; APPETITE disorders; ENGLISH literature -- 19th century; **VAMPIRES**; FICTION; WOMEN & literature; STOKER, Bram, 1847-1912

Database: Academic Search Premier

Add to folder | Relevancy: ██████████

PDF Full Text (94KB)

The total number of results drops from 2576 to 297

- Let us say you want to reduce the number even further. You are really looking for articles in popular culture. Type in the search phrase “vampires AND popular culture”

Searching: **Specific Databases**, Show all | Choose Databases by Subject »

vampires AND popular culture ?

Basic Search | Advanced Search | Visual Search | Search History

- Click on the SEARCH button or hit the ENTER key and you should see the following screen...

The screenshot shows the EBSCO search interface. At the top, the search bar contains the query "vampires AND popular culture". Below the search bar are navigation options: "Basic Search", "Advanced Search", "Visual Search", and "Search History". The search results are displayed in a list format. The first result is titled "Cult TV, Hip Hop, Shape-Shifters, and Vampire Slayers: A Review of the Literature at the Inter..." and is from the journal "Adult Education Quarterly". The second result is titled "Teaching the Social Construction of Regions in Regional Geography Courses; or, Why Do Vamp..." and is from the journal "Journal of Geography in Higher Education". The left sidebar shows 30 results for the search, with filters for "Full Text" and "Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals".

- Now try another search. Perhaps you are really looking for information on the portrayal of vampires in current television. Try the search terms **Vampires AND television**. You have pulled up 28 titles – all of them full text and originally published in scholarly journals.

The screenshot shows the EBSCO search interface with the query "Vampires and television". The search results are displayed in a list format. The first result is titled "Adolescent television viewing and belief in vampires." and is from the journal "Journal of Beliefs & Values: Studies in Religion & Education". The second result is titled "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: From Buffy the Vampire Slayer to Dr. 90210." and is from the journal "Camera Obscura". The left sidebar shows 28 results for the search, with filters for "Full Text" and "Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals".

In order to search databases effectively you may have to try different search terms and different combinations of search terms.

What if you want to find information on fashions used in vampire-themed television programs. Try the following search...

EBSCO
Searching: **Specific Databases**, Show all | Choose Databases by Subject >
Vampires and television and fashion Search Clear ?
Basic Search | Advanced Search | Visual Search | Search History

Page: 1

1 Results for...
Boolean/Phrase: Vampires and television and fashion
Limiters
 Full Text
 Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals

Refine your results
 Full Text
 References Available
 Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals

1. **The Clothes Make the Fan: Fashion and Online Fandom when Buffy the Vampire Slayer Goes to**
By: Stenger, Josh. *Cinema Journal*, Summer2006, Vol. 45 Issue 4, p26-44, 19p
Subjects: TELEVISION; COSTUME; AUCTIONS; ELECTRONIC commerce; FANS (Persons); TELEVISION series; EBAY Inc.; Bust of; BUFFY the Vampire Slayer (TV program)
Database: Academic Search Premier
Add to folder | Relevancy: ██████████
PDF Full Text (5.8MB)

Only one item appears.

- Try expanding your search by taking out the word *television*. The same single item appears.

EBSCO
Searching: **Specific Databases**, Show all | Choose Databases by Subject >
Vampires and fashion Search Clear ?
Basic Search | Advanced Search | Visual Search | Search History

Page: 1

1 Results for...
Boolean/Phrase: Vampires and fashion
Limiters
 Full Text
 Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals

Refine your results
 Full Text
 References Available
 Scholarly (Peer Reviewed)

1. **The Clothes Make the Fan: Fashion and Online Fandom when Buffy the Vampire Slayer Goes to eBay.**
By: Stenger, Josh. *Cinema Journal*, Summer2006, Vol. 45 Issue 4, p26-44, 19p
Subjects: TELEVISION; COSTUME; AUCTIONS; ELECTRONIC commerce; FANS (Persons); TELEVISION series; EBAY Inc.; Business to Bus BUFFY the Vampire Slayer (TV program)
Database: Academic Search Premier
Add to folder | Relevancy: ██████████
PDF Full Text (5.8MB)

- Try taking off the **Full Text** and **Scholarly** limiters. Click in the boxes under **Refine Your Results** that have the check marks in them. Clicking in these boxes will remove the check marks. Click on the green **UPDATE** button that appears. You will see the following screen...



Searching: **Specific Databases**, Show all | Choose Databases by Subject >

vampires and fashion

Search

Clear



Basic Search | Advanced Search | Visual Search | Search History

Page: 1 2 3 4 5 > Relevance Sort Page Opt

49 Results for...

Refine your results

- Full Text
- References Available
- Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals

1985 Publication Date 2011

Update Show More >

Source Types

- All Results
- Academic Journals
- Magazines

- Actualité psychiatrique sur les vampires. Vampire : un mythe contemporain ? (French)**
/ Current psychiatric events concerning **vampires**. **Vampire**: A contemporary myth? (English) By: Saint-André, S.; Richard, Y.; Lazartigues, A.. *Annales Medico Psycholo* Issue 6, p416-421, 6p; Language: French; DOI: 10.1016/j.amp.2009.04.014
Subjects: **VAMPIRES**; MYTH; **VAMPIRE** films; PSYCHOLOGY, Pathological; FAMILY values (Concept); HEDONISM; NARCISSISM; ADOLESCENT psychology; **VAMPIRES**
Database: Academic Search Premier
 Add to folder | Relevancy: ██████████
- The Clothes Make the Fan: Fashion and Online Fandom when Buffy the Vampire Slayer Goes to eBay.**
By: Stenger, Josh. *Cinema Journal*, Summer2006, Vol. 45 Issue 4, p26-44, 19p
Subjects: TELEVISION; COSTUME; AUCTIONS; ELECTRONIC commerce; FANS (Persons); TELEVISION series; EBAY Inc.; Business to Business Electronic Markets; Electr
BUFFY the **Vampire** Slayer (TV program)
Database: Academic Search Premier
 Add to folder | Relevancy: ██████████
 PDF Full Text (5.8MB)

**Actual numbers will vary because EBSCO updates its collection constantly, adding new articles on a daily basis. In addition, it renegotiates licenses every year and may drop and/or add journal and magazine titles.*