

The Literature Resource Center-Advanced Searching Eastern Oregon University- Pierce Library

Advanced searching is a strategy that helps us narrow down a topic beyond the author's name or title. It involves Boolean logic- the use of terms to glean more precise search results.

1. To begin an Advanced Search, we return to the Home page of the Literature Resource Center and choose Advanced.

Other Searches:		
Title	Advanced	Keyword
Authors by Type	Literary-Historical Timeline	

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2. We are presented with this first set of options for search terms.

Advanced Search

Enter search term(s) and select index type.
Indicate choice of Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT).

<input type="text"/>	in	Author-name contains	AND
<input type="text"/>	in	Author-name contains	AND
<input type="text"/>	in	Author-name contains	

[Search](#) [Clear Form](#)

3. Each line in the search has a pull down-menu that reveals other choices for our search terms. Since we know the exact name of our author Barbara Kingsolver and the exact title we are interested in from her writings, we will key that into the search option boxes.

in

 in

 in

- To the right-side of the search option boxes, we see pull-down menus to change the Boolean logic terms we will employ in this search. By choosing AND as our Boolean strategy we are forcing a search that will return only the articles that have the author's name AND mention of this particular title.
- Before we ask the search engine to work for us, we must also choose what type of document we are looking for and the database we want to search in. Some libraries buy more titles to be included in the Literature Resource Center so those will be reflected in the Database list. For this search, we will not limit the type of document nor limit our search to a particular database.

Limit the current search (optional)

Document Type:

Database:

Our search yields the following results:

Page: **1**
 Below are items 1-3 of 3 found.

Kingsolver, Barbara
["Barbara Kingsolver," in Contemporary Literary Criticism-Select. \(A brief review of the author's life, works, and critical reception\)](#)

Kingsolver, Barbara
["Barbara Kingsolver," in Dictionary of Literary Biography. Volume 206: Twentieth-Century American Western Writers, First Series. A Brucoli Clark Layman Book. Edited by Richard H. Cracoft, Brigham Young University. The Gale Group, 1999, pp. 180-190.](#)

Kingsolver, Barbara
["Barbara Kingsolver," in Contemporary Literary Criticism-Select. \(A brief review of the author's life, works, and critical reception\)](#)

Page: **1**

6. Returning to our original search strategy of the author and title, let's see what results occur when we change our Boolean operator to OR. Our search boxes will look like this:

Kingsolver, Barbara	in	Author-exactly	OR
the poisonwood bible	in	Title-exact match	AND
	in	Author-name contains	

Search **Clear Form**

In this search, we are asking the search engine to pull out all of the articles that have either the author OR the title. The search should yield a larger result list.

After clicking on Search, we did pick up another article using this search strategy. You would want to examine each article to determine if the strategy you are employing is in actuality helping you satisfy your research goals. More is not better...necessarily.

Page: 1

Below are items 1-4 of 4 found.

[Update Mark List](#)

Kingsolver, Barbara
["Barbara Kingsolver," in Contemporary Authors. \(A profile of the author's life and works\)](#)

Kingsolver, Barbara
["Barbara Kingsolver," in Contemporary Literary Criticism-Select. \(A brief review of the author's life, works, and critical reception\)](#)

Kingsolver, Barbara
["Barbara Kingsolver," in Dictionary of Literary Biography, Volume 206: Twentieth-Century American Western Writers, First Series. A Brucoli Clark Layman Book, Edited by Richard H. Cracroft, Brigham Young University. The Gale Group, 1999, pp. 180-190.](#)

Kingsolver, Barbara
["Barbara Kingsolver," in Contemporary Literary Criticism-Select. \(A brief review of the author's life, works, and critical reception\)](#)

[Update Mark List](#)

7. The last strategy we will employ is using the NOT operator. Going back to our original search, we will change the operator to NOT and seek articles about the author that excludes the specific title *The Poisonwood Bible*.

in

in

in

After clicking on Search, we get the following results list:

Page: 1
 Below are items 1-1 of 1 found.

Kingsolver, Barbara
["Barbara Kingsolver," in Contemporary Authors. \(A profile of the author's life and works\)](#)

Page: 1

We have narrowed the search by excluding references to the author's most celebrated work and received just one article.

For more information about Boolean searching, an excellent guide can be found at the [Ithaca College Library help page](#).

8. A broad search strategy is the use of keywords. That search option is found off the Home page:

Keyword Search

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In the search box, let's key in "Belgian Congo," the setting of *The Poisonwood Bible* to find other articles not necessarily focusing on Kingsolver's work. The keyword search will cast a wide net as it will return every article with "Belgian Congo" in it. You will notice that quotation marks are used around the two words to search for them together as a keyword rather than gathering articles that separately contained the words Belgian and Congo. This search is not intended to be precise but may yield some information that may help connect the author to other authors' work or provide some background for the setting of *The Poisonwood Bible*.

Keyword Search

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Fifty-seven articles were found and the search engine shows you the first page of six. Here is the list of results from our keyword search:

Page: **1** - [2](#) - [3](#) - [4](#) - [5](#) - [6](#)

Below are items 1-10 of 57 found.

Cuthbertson, Ken
["Ken Cuthbertson", in Contemporary Authors Online. \(A profile of the author's life and works\)](#)

Hahn, Emily
["Emily Hahn", in Contemporary Authors Online. \(A profile of the author's life and works\)](#)

Hillerman, Tony
["Tony Hillerman." in Dictionary of Literary Biography, Volume 306: American Mystery and Detective Writers. A Brucoli Clark Layman Book. Edited by George Parker Anderson, University of South Carolina. Gale, 2005, pp. 162-173.](#)

Mason, F. van Wyck
["F. van Wyck Mason," in Dicionary of Literary Biography, Volume 306: American Mystery and Detective Writers. A Brucoli Clark Layman Book. Edited by George Parker Anderson, Univerity of South Carolina. Gale, 2005, pp. 241-252.](#)

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