Advanced Searching in *EBSCO* Journal Databases

The default search box in *EBSCO* is the advanced search. There are several rows allowing you to build a search in multiple ways.

1: Drop-Down Menus

**Drop-down menu for search fields**

Choose to search abstract, author, subject, text, or title. A text search (TX) will search more broadly, and an abstract (AB) search will be more focused.

![Drop-down menu with search fields]

**Drop-down menu for Boolean searching**

With Boolean searching, bring terms together with AND, select optional keywords with OR, or exclude a term with NOT.

![Drop-down menu with Boolean operators]
2: Finding the Help pages in the EBSCO Databases

The Help pages are found in the upper right-hand side of the screen.

3: Proximity Searches

Proximity Searches bring terms closer together using a “Near” (near within words) operator. The relevancy of the specific search increases when two desired terms are closer in proximity.

Use the text field for proximity searches

The number is a random choice. Tighten up your results using N10 or N15. Get more results using N30, N45, N50. Experiment with the search.
**4: Nesting**

Nesting or stringing search terms involves the use of parentheses to clarify the relationship of a set of terms. The parentheses signify that a set of terms will be considered first and are normally used with the term Boolean “OR.” Search the text field in a nested search.

**ProTip:** Nesting is very helpful in academic databases with only one search box.

**5: Truncation**

In the **EBSCO Journal Databases**, truncation is represented by an asterisk (*). If a productive search could include variations on a root word, truncate the word to widen your search.

In this example, nav* was used to find the terms navy, navies, and naval. It will also find the terms navigate, and navigation.
6: Varied Searches Strategies

In a proximity search, the terms will appear closer together in the content.

```
Search: International Security & Counter Terrorism Reference Center | Choose Databases
drone N15 warfare
```

Using the Boolean operator “AND,” with the text field can result in these terms being close together as well as spread further apart. This will greatly vary the relevance of the results.

```
drone and warfare
```

You could do the search in both the abstract and the text field, or try just the abstract field.

```
Search: International Security & Counter Terrorism Reference Center | Choose Databases
drone and warfare
or drone and warfare
```

A search using quotation marks to create a phrase, done from the text field

```
Search: International Security & Counter Terrorism Reference Center | Choose Databases
"drone warfare"
```

A search using quotation marks done in the abstract field

```
Search: International Security & Counter Terrorism Reference Center | Choose Databases
"drone warfare"
```

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