Whole phrase search

Discover how to perform a whole phrase search when searching WorldCat indexes. Note: Whole phrase searching is not available in WorldCat Discovery or WorldShare.

Definition

The system searches for complete data in indexed field, across all indexed subfields.

Index label format

`xxw=` (where `x` represents an alphanumeric character)

Examples

- **Connexion**
  - Personal name whole phrase — `pnw=james, henry 1843-1916`
  - Subject whole phrase — `suw=library science computer network resources`
- **FirstSearch**
  - Subject whole phrase — `sa=library science computer network resources`

Notes

- FirstSearch WorldCat indexes do not include `w`.
- Most whole phrase (or mapped phrase) indexes are usually only available in Connexion and not available for searching WorldCat in WorldShare, WorldCat Discovery, and FirstSearch. In FirstSearch, the `Subject` whole phrase index label `sa=` functions in the same way as the `suw=` index label in Connexion.
- Enter all field data, or truncate using an asterisk (*).
  - **Example**: `suw=library science comput*` (Connexion)
  - **Example**: `sa=library science comput*` (FirstSearch)
  - **Alternative**: Browse for the whole phrase. In Connexion, enter `sca suw=library science computer`. Use the `Scan` (`sca`) command in Connexion only. In FirstSearch WorldCat, click the browse button (raud) and enter `sa=library science computer`. Browsing automatically truncates a phrase.
- Omit initial articles in titles.
- Retain the first comma for personal name indexes if it is not the last element in the subfield.
- Retain hyphens in dates.
- Include parentheses when present in a whole phrase search term, but enclose the entire search term in quotation marks (") so that the system dose not interpret the parentheses as a nested search.
• Combine word, phrase, or whole phrase searches in more than one index with Boolean operator.