<https://beta.biodiversitylibrary.org/>

Persona: Birder, historian, and blogger specializing in Birds. Regular user of BHL.

**Search**

**Conduct a few searches on your own**

**It can be for a species, or a common name, or an ornithologist**

Safari

**Search 1**

Basic search: Emberiza shattucki

Lots of titles, appears to be some duplication

Some of these matches are plausible so would say as expected

**Search 2**

Basic search: Missouri River

43,276

Noted that in Authors tab there is 1 match

Filtered to Type 🡪 Book

Selected second result (v 4)

Search inside: Missouri River

1 match (didn’t use quotes, not retrieved as a single string)

As expected

**Search 3**

For a moment, couldn’t find the basic search box and kept clicked on search inside box but knew it wasn’t the right one

Scrolled up and found it

Basic search = Antilocapra

1930 matches, none under authors tab

Looking at facets, notices matches in several different languages – “cool!”

Selected [16. REMARKS UPON THE AFFINITIES OF THE PRONGBUCK (ANTILOCAPRA AMERICANA)](https://beta.biodiversitylibrary.org/part/73958)

View Article

Searched inside

* Nebraska – no matches
* Pronghorn – got a match, working as expected.

**Scripted**

1. Do a basic search for “Transactions of the Linnean Society of London”

Volumes presented individually, not sequentially

Noted that it was unclear what the order is, if any

I explained how it’s listed by frequency of term matches; he stated would prefer presented sequentially

* 1. Limit your results to ‘Serials’ and author ‘William Curtis’. Are the results as expected?

Authors aren’t listed alphabetically?

Found Curtis and limited results to those

Unclear why these were all retrieved; none appear to be associated with the Linnean Society of London.

* 1. Uncheck those selections and then limit the results to those authored by Charles Darwin. Are the results as expected?

No, still no transactions of Linnean Society of London.

* 1. For the Transactions of the Linnean Soceity of London, what’s the earliest volume you can find?

1600 – not clear why pre-Linnean publications are retrieved with this search.

Explained use of quotations and that searching is performed over text and metadata; with that information, felt results were expected.

1791 v.1

* 1. Was that easy or hard?

Yes, it helps that once limit by date facet to have them presented chronologically. If wasn’t familiar with the work, it could have taken more trial and error to locate the earliest one.

* 1. Are there times when you think you would want to find the earliest relevant match within a particular journal run?

More so for names, scientific or place names, than for titles

1. Do a basic search for "linnean", and then view the results for the first alternate ("Search instead for") term.
   1. What is the first item found? Would you consider this to be an expected result for this search term?

Searched for linneaen – related terms pretty much as expected

Searched again for linnean – not as useful. The three in the middle are nonsense

Tried chelidoptera – no search instead terms

Tried Iceland Gull – none of these results are of interest; too many terns

Tried Ireland Gull to see what search instead would be; fairly useless – it didn’t suggest Iceland

1. Search for " "temple of flora" "(use quotes) . Examine the details of the first result.
   1. Why do think this first result was included?

Phrase is in title of first few

Further down, less clear why retrieved

* 1. Examine one of the results further down. Why do you think this one was included?

Didn’t notice the ‘Details +’ until pointed out

Expanded detais on ‘The Intellectual and Moral Resources of Horticulture’

Noted that makes sense

* 1. Was this easy or hard?  Explain.

Easy. Noted ‘Details +’ not visibly obvious but useful

1. Do a basic search for "strix var\*".  Examine the details of the first result.
   1. What are some of the words that matched the wildcard term ("var\*")?

Varia and variegated

* 1. Is this what you expected?

This is great!

1. ~~Do an advanced search for the scientific name "strix varia".~~
   1. ~~How many were found?~~
   2. ~~Do the first few results look like what you would expect? Why or why not?~~
   3. ~~Was this easy or hard?  Explain.~~
2. Do a basic search for "barred AND owl".  Note the number of publications, authors, and subjects returned.  Then do a basic search for "barred OR owl".  Note the number of publications, authors, and subjects returned.
   1. Which search returned more results?

At first the number of results were very close because didn’t capitalize ‘or’. When capitalized, as expected

* 1. Is this what you expected?

1. Search for the book "10.5962/bhl.title.98662".  Navigate to the book viewer and search within it for "galapagos tortoise"
   1. How many pages were found?

2

* 1. Was this easy or hard?  Explain. Any other comments?

Very easy

1. ~~Navigate to https://beta.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/122307 and search within that book for " "great britain" " (use quotes).  Navigate to the second page returned by the search.~~
   1. ~~On what line of text does "great britain" appear?~~
   2. ~~Was this easy or hard?  Explain.~~
2. ~~Do an advanced search for the author "darw\*".~~
   1. ~~Is "Darwin, Charles," in the results?~~
   2. ~~Was this easy or hard?  Explain.~~
3. Search for "origin of species"
   1. What is the first title on the second page of search results.

Searched without quotes, results were as expected

* 1. Was this easy or hard?  Explain.

1. Now that you have a sense of what’s possible, let’s try a few more searches of your own. Perform your own basic searches for publications, authors, subjects, and names (at least 3 of each).
   1. Were you able to find what you searched for?

Caspian gull

Search instead – not helpful

Caspian tern

Search instead – not helpful

“Caspian gull” – much more sensible results than “Caspian tern”

1. Perform your own advanced searches for publications, authors, subjects, and names (at least 3 of each).
   1. Were you able to find what you searched for?

Advance search Author = vieillot (noted, wow, only one form of this name)

That all looks as expected and appears to be in line with current functionality

Basic search = vieillot , author of a great many names, way too many results. Not an especially useful search or one that would perform in real life.

Picked one regardless, searched inside for passerina

Results as expected

1. ~~Perform your own searches within a book (at least 3).~~
   1. ~~Were you able to find what you searched for?~~

**General Questions:**

1. Were you satisfied with the overall experience / performance of the site?  Explain.

Speed was noticeably slower than regular site

Happy with the results

Search instead was not very useful

1. Were you satisfied with the overall search navigation?  Explain.

Overall navigation was different but was able to catch on pretty quickly. Don’t consider myself that technologically adept but was easy to pick up on how to use this

1. Any other feedback or suggestions on the search experience?

Are you bringing back user comments? Loved that!