

CANADIAN REFERENCE CENTER

The Canadian Reference Centre (CRC) is a database containing international and Canadian magazines, newspapers and newswires, reference books, and company information. It provides full-text coverage of over 150 Canadian periodicals and over 400 international periodicals, containing over 30 Canadian and international newspapers including the Toronto Star. In addition, this database provides over 20 Canadian reference books, 100 international reference books, biographies, an image collection of over 100,000 pictures, and a Canadian Dictionary. The database also includes a small selection of French-language newspapers and periodicals such as the Canadian Presse.

The more specific your search terms are, the more precise your results will be. For example, if you are looking for information on your cat which happens to be a Siamese, you will get more relevant results if you type in Siamese cat rather than just cat.

You can quickly skim an article by looking for search terms which are italicized in the body of the article. This makes it easier to judge how appropriate the article is to your needs.

When viewing the lists of results, another quick way to judge if an article is relevant is to click on the blue title, which will give you a short abstract, or summary of the article. If you already know it's an article you want, you can click on the phrase Full Text, which will bring you immediately to the body of the article.

In contrast with the Gale Virtual Reference Library, you need to be very specific in your choice of search terms when using the Canadian Reference Centre or you will be overwhelmed with irrelevant results. You can connect the terms using Boolean commands (AND, OR, NOT) to make even more precise searches. CRC also uses the asterix (*) as a truncator.

You can reach the Canadian Reference Centre by going to the MLS database webpage at

<http://www.mississauga.ca/portal/residents/databasesbr>

The list is arranged alphabetically, so scroll down until you find Canadian Reference Centre and click the link. (A customer searching from home would be prompted for their library card number at this point.)

BASIC SEARCH

CRC's default search mode is keyword search. Below is a list of the search features we are most likely to use at the Reference desk. It is not a complete list, but it includes the features you will most likely need.

- Click the full text box to filter out any articles that are not available in full text.
- Use the Peer Reviewed box to look for scholarly sources.
- Use the Published Date feature to find articles written during a specific period. For example, someone interested in a news article written during the time of the Ipperwash standoff might want to specify a range of 1995 to 1996.
- You can also limit to articles from a particular publication by putting the title in the Publication box (e.g., a review from Consumer Reports)
- You can specify a type of publication (e.g., search strictly newspaper articles or look for a biography)

The screenshot shows the EBSCO Research Databases interface. At the top, there are links for Sign In, Folder, Preferences, and New Features. Below this is a navigation bar with tabs for Basic Search, Advanced Search, Visual Search, and Choose Databases. The main search area has a 'Find:' box with a 'Search' button and a 'Clear' button. Below the search bar, there are tabs for 'Refine Search' and 'Results'. The 'Refine Search' section is titled 'Limit your results:' and contains several filters: 'Full Text' (checkbox), 'Peer Reviewed' (checkbox), 'Published Date from' (Month/Year range), 'Publication' (text box), 'Publication Type' (dropdown menu with options: All, Periodical, Newspaper, Biography), 'Number Of Pages' (All), 'Articles With Images' (All, PDF, Text with Graphic), and 'Language' (All, English, French). At the bottom, there is an 'Expand your search to:' section with checkboxes for 'Apply additional terms to query', 'Also search within the full text of the articles', and 'Automatically "And" search terms'. A 'Search' button is at the bottom left. A box on the right side of the image lists the components with arrows pointing to them: Search box, Full Text check box, Peer Reviewed check box, Date range, Publication title box, Publication Type box, and Language Limiter.

Keyword Search

Let's start with a simple question to show how the keyword search works. A customer comes up to the desk and says, "I'd like to know where they teach a class on Satanism. I'm a researcher, not a practitioner of the dark arts!"

- Click on the search box (It says Find)
- Enter "Satanism and class" (without quote marks)
- You'll find the following articles that relate to the topic
 - "Satan 101: Course has Vatican's Blessing; Italy By N.A. Hamilton Spectator, The (ON), 10/15/2005; (AN Q4K24883380405)
 - "Syllabus." By: Bollag, Burton. Chronicle of Higher Education, 6/2/2006, Vol. 52 Issue 39, pA8-A8, 1/5p; (AN 21116383)
 - "Vatican-recognized university offering a course on exorcism". By: N.A.. Guelph Mercury (ON), 10/15/2005; (AN Q4K215158516405)

Publication Search

The CRC can be searched by keyword, or you can look up a particular magazine or newspaper in the database. For example, if you want to look up the latest news in Guelph, follow these steps:

1. Click the Publications link.
2. Type in Guelph Mercury or click the G link
3. Select Guelph Mercury
4. Go to February 2008, then click on any edition for that month (e.g., February 26)
- 5.

Date Range searches

You can also look for an article published in a particular time period. For example, someone looking for the results of the Ipperwash report may want to limit to articles from the last few years. Someone interested in a news article written during the time of the Ipperwash standoff might want to specify a range of 1995 to 1996.

- Enter "Ipperwash and standoff" (no quote marks) into the search box
- Specify a date range September 1995 to September 1996

You get newspaper and magazine articles from the time period discussing events as they happened. These sources might be useful to someone researching events as they happened.

- Deadly confrontation on an Ontario reserve. By: Fennell, Tom. Maclean's, 9/18/95, Vol. 108 Issue 38, p22, 2p, 2c.
- Death ignites Indian protests in Canada. By: Clayton, Mark. Christian Science Monitor, 9/11/95, Vol. 87 Issue 200, p7, 1c

Subject search

The CRC also has the option of searching by subject heading. In this case, let's say a customer has an inquiring about satanic rituals. You can try looking for the topic using a keyword search, but in this case try looking for articles using the Subjects Search

- Click the Subjects link and type "Satanism" (no quote marks) into the search box

The screenshot shows the EBSCO Research Databases interface. At the top, there are links for Sign In, Folder, Preferences, New Features!, Help, and Exit. Below these are buttons for Basic Search, Advanced Search, Visual Search, and Choose Databases. A red arrow points to the 'Subjects' link in the navigation bar. The 'Subjects' link is highlighted, and the 'Database: Subjects--Canadian Reference Centre' is displayed. Below the navigation bar, there is a search box with the text 'Browse for:' and a 'Browse' button. The search results are displayed in a table with columns for Page, Previous, Next, and Browse. The search results are sorted by Alphabetical or Relevancy Ranked.

- Look through the list of subject headings related to Satanism.
- Select "Satanism – Rituals" and hit the search button.
- You get eight articles dealing with the topic
- Note: you can the same results with DE "SATANISM -- Rituals"

Advanced Search

You will not likely be using this feature. There are no real difference between Advanced and Keyword searching. The only difference is there is a Field Codes link that displays searching in specific fields. For example, you use SO to look for articles in a particular journal or AU to look for articles written by a particular author. You can search for an article on binge drinking in the journal *New Scientist* by typing "SO New

TX All Text
AU Author
TI Title
SU Subject Terms
GE Geographic Terms
AB Abstract or Author-Supplied
Abstract
IS ISSN
IB ISBN
SO Journal name
AN Accession Number

Scientist and binge drinking” (no quote marks) in the search box and you will get seven articles. But you can repeat the same search using a simple Keyword search by typing Binge drinking in the search box and typing New Scientist in the Publication search box.

Visual Searching

This search option requires Java to run. It won't run on library computers.

Dictionary

EbscoHost also has a built-in dictionary and thesaurus. The sources are the *Gage Canadian Dictionary* and the *Gage Canadian Thesaurus*, so you will need to use the Canadian spelling of words. To access the dictionary, click on the Dictionary link and type the term in the search box to look up the definition of a term. You repeat the same process for using the thesaurus.

Here's a couple of practice questions

- What's the definition of forlorn?
- What's another word for svelte?

Image Searching

EbscoHost also has a searchable image Collection of 235,186 photos, maps and flags. Simply type the subject term into box and hit ENTER. If you are after something more specific (e.g., a flag or a historic place), click on the appropriate check box.

- Can I get a map and flag of Micronesia?
- Can I get a picture of actor Dennis Weaver in his prime?

Searching for Articles in French

The CRC also includes some French-language newspapers and periodicals. To search for articles in French you need to use the French language limiter (See diagram on page 2). Remember that you will be searching articles in the French language, so you have to use French search terms.

For example, don't search for Montreal Canadians and expect to find much in the way of relevant search results. Instead, use the "Montreal Canadiens" as the search term. You will end up with results about the hockey team.

- My French teacher says I need an article on Lucien Bouchard in French. Any article.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. I'd like an article on the use of emergency contraceptives in Canada
2. I'm interested in learning about Canada's water exports to the USA. The prof tells me not to use newspaper or magazine articles.
3. Can I get a biography of Michael Collins? The recent Irish writer.
4. CBC Radio had a news series on Canada's military exports. Can you get me the transcript?
5. My old furnace just quite. I'd like a review to see which furnaces break down least.
6. What's the latest news in Toronto?
7. There was a recent report about the Ipperwash standoff. I'd like some articles summarizing the report.
8. I'd like the latest economic conditions in Canada
9. I need articles about Louis Riel and the Metis rebellions in Batoche.
10. I'm researching the Alberta oil sands for a project. I haven't decided on a topic. I just want an idea of what kind of articles are out there so I can decide what to focus on.
11. I was watching *Law and Order* last night. What does *Ex post facto* mean?
12. The crossword says I need a twelve-letter word for crotchety.
13. I'm doing a project on South Africa for my fourth grade project. I need a map, a flag, and some pictures of places and wildlife.
14. I have an investor interested in the Quebec-based Laurentian Bank of Canada. She's from Quebec and doesn't read a word of English. (HINT: *Banque Laurentienne du Canada*)