How to search the English Short Title Catalogue (ESTC)

This guide outlines the different ways ESTC can be searched. It also describes how to create bookmarks and how to download records.

You don't need to login to search ESTC. The Login button is for ESTC editors and contributors.

Contents

Basic Search

Enter keywords into the basic search box on the main page. This will search **all** indexes. Searches are not case sensitive.

Basic Search searches the record **and** the holdings. A basic search for "Shakespeare" will include all records with a holding for the Folger Shakespeare Library.

It is possible to use the Boolean operators **NOT** and **OR** in a basic search but bear in mind that basic search is not limited to any index so it will include/exclude terms found anywhere in the record or the holdings.

Search Tips

- Use right truncation * to broaden your search:
  Novel* will find all instances of novel, novels, novella, novelist etc.

- Use double quotation marks (") to search for a phrase:
  "Angel and Crown"

- Apostrophes (') within a search need to have a backslash (\) inserted in front of them:
  "Sermon preach\'d before the Honourable House of Commons, at S. Margaret\'s, Westminster"

Refinement by Facets

Refine your search results by using the Facets on the right-hand side of the results page:

- Digital Reproduction Available

- Holding Institution

- Place of Publication

- Genre/Form

- ESTC Subsets

- Decade

- Record Type

ESTC comprises five subsets:

- 3 chronological subsets: (STC Imprints 1473-1640; Wing Imprints 1641-1700; 18th Century Imprints 1701-1800)

- 1 geographic subset: (North American Imprints 1635-1800)

- 1 format subset: (Serial Imprints 1603-1800)

These five subsets are mutually exclusive.

Advanced Search

Advanced Seach can be accessed from the main ESTC webpage

Use Advanced Search to search one or more indexes. Searches are not case sensitive. Searches are combined with the default Boolean operator **AND**.

Result

Search Tips

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  Novel* will find all instances of novel, novels, novella, novelist etc.

- Use double quotation marks (") to search for a phrase:
  "Angel and Crown"

- Apostrophes (') within a search need to have a backslash (\\) inserted in front of them:
  "Sermon preach\\'d before the Honourable House of Commons, at S. Margaret\\'s, Westminster"

Advanced Search: Publisher/Printer

Some initials found in imprints have been expanded to the full names of the publishers/printers in ESTC records. These expanded names will include square brackets, e.g.

London : Printed by T. H[odgkin]. for Richard Chiswell, at the Rose and Crown in St. Paul's Church-yard, 1685.

To find all instances where the initials have been expanded search for the name with the square brackets within double quotation marks ("), e.g. "T. H[odgkin]":

Publisher/Printer ▾	"T. H[odgkin]"	5 ▸

Searching without brackets will **not** find this expanded name.

Advanced Search: Format (Bibliographical format e.g. 8°)

Search with or without superscript (º): 2 or 2º

- A search for "2": Finds 2º and 1/2º formats
- A search for "1": Finds all single sheet formats (whole or part) 1º and 1/2º and 1/4º etc.
- A search for "½" : Finds 1/2º format only

Note: Some records have dimensions instead of a format in the physical description. Format search includes these e.g.

- A search for "12": Finds 12º and 1/12º formats and 12 cm dimensions

Advanced Search: Holding institution

Search by Library ID or Library name.

Check the *ESTC Contributing Libraries database* to find the Library ID and the correct form of the Library name.

Library ID search will always give the correct result, e.g. **bL** *[for British Library]*; **nDFo** *[for Folger Shakespeare Library]*

If searching by library name, use the correct form of the name (as found in the Contributing Libraries database) within double quotation marks ("):

> **"Oxford University, Bodleian Library"** returns the correct result

> **Oxford University, Bodleian Library** without quotation marks is a broader search and returns results for the Bodleian Library <u>and </u>the Bodleian Law Library. See results below

146223 Hits

⇅ Sort alphabetically ⇅ Sort chronologically ascending ⇅ Sort chronologically descending

⬇ download

Digital Reproduction Available

Digital copy present (123001)

1   Lefèvre, Raoul, active 1460.
     hEre begynneth the volume intituled and named the recuyell of the historyes of Troye, composed and drawen out of dyuerce bookes of latyn in to frensshe by the ryght venerable persone and worshipfull man. Raoul le ffeure. preest and

Holding Institution

Oxford University, Bodleian Library (145727)

Tip: Check the Holding Institution facet on the results page. If the first library listed (the one you searched for) is showing fewer results than the search returned, your search was broader than just one library.

Advanced Search: Shelfmark

If the shelfmark contains full stops, enclose it in double quotation marks (") to return the correct result.

Examples:

> **"167.c.26"**

> **"RB.31.c.941.(1)"**

Tip: To see related shelfmarks (e.g. items in a tract volume) use Browse instead

1	RB.31.c.941.(13)
1	RB.31.c.941.(14)
1	RB.31.c.941.(15)

Right truncation * can be used without double quotation marks ("). The full stop at the end of the truncated shelfmark can be included or omitted:

RB.31.c.941* returns 30 results, i.e. the 30 items bound together in this volume.

Refinement by Facets

Further refine Advanced Search results using the Facets on the right-hand side of the results page:

- Digital Reproduction Available
- Holding Institution
- Place of Publication
- Genre/Form

- ESTC Subsets
- Decade
- Record Type

ESTC comprises five subsets:

- 3 chronological subsets: (STC Imprints 1473-1640; Wing Imprints 1641-1700; 18th Century Imprints 1701-1800)
- 1 geographic subset: (North American Imprints 1635-1800)
- 1 format subset: (Serial Imprints 1603-1800)

These five subsets are mutually exclusive.

Complex Search

Combine indexes with Boolean operators **AND, OR, NOT.** Searches are not case sensitive, but the Boolean operators must be upper case.

Start with an Advanced search and click on your results:

Author	swift	830 ▸
Title	tub	53 ▸
Country of publication	england	37 ▸

The advanced search string will appear in the basic search box:

author:(swift) AND title:(tub) AND cop:(england)   ✕

You can then use other Boolean operators to create a complex search

author:(swift) AND title:(tub) NOT cop:(england)   ✕

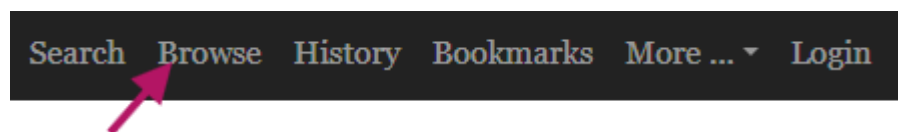Further indexes can be added from the list below.

Copy the 'Search text' and replace X with your search term

Index Name	Search text
Words anywhere	(X)
ESTC No.	(estc_id: (X) OR _id: (X))
Author	author: (X)

Title	title: (X)
Uniform Title	uniform_heading: (X)
Place of publication	place: (X)
Publisher/Printer	imprint_name: (X)
Date	date: (X)
Printed before	comparison_date:< X
Not printed before	comparison_date:[X TO *]
Printed between	comparison_date:[X TO X]
Printed after	comparison_date:> X
Not printed after	comparison_date:[* TO X]
Notes	note: (X)
Citation/References	reference: (X)
Subject	subject: (X)
Genre/Form	genre: (X)
Names	(author: (X) OR name: (X))
Country of Publication	cop: (X)
Language	data.language: (X) Use the **code** from MARC Code List for Languages: Name Sequence (Library of Congress) Do not use the full word, e.g. use **fre** not French
Format	format:(X)
Holding institution	(holdinst_name:(X) OR holdinst_code.orig:(X))
Shelfmark	smk: (X) OR smk.orig: (X) See above for guidance on shelfmark searching
Copy specific notes	csn: (X)
Digital copy present **Digital copy not present**	Use the strings below. No search term needed data.sections.841-88x__holdings_location_alternate_graphics_etc_fields.856.subfields.u:* **NOT** data.sections.841-88x__holdings_location_alternate_graphics_etc_fields.856.subfields.u:*

Browse

The Browse button is on the menu at the top right of the screen

Five indexes can be browsed

- Holding institution
- Name
- Shelfmark
- Subject
- Title

The number of results displayed per page can be customised:

Browse tips

Browse is not case sensitive.

Holding institution browse

Use the form of the name given in the ESTC Contributing Libraries database

Example:

Oxford University, Bodleian Library

NOT

Bodleian Library

Shelfmark browse

Punctuation within the shelfmark should be included.

Examples:

11774.aaa.20.(1)

A.c.1.12/5

Subject browse

Use double dashes within Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH). You can look up LCSH in the Authorities Search.

Example:

Great Britain--Politics and government--1642-1649

NOT

Great Britain Politics and government 1642-1649

Names as subjects should also be searched this way.
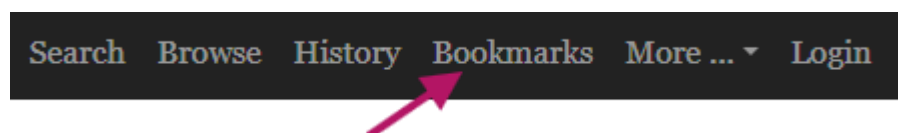
Example:

Charles--II,--King of England,--1630-1685

NOT

Charles II King of England 1630-1685

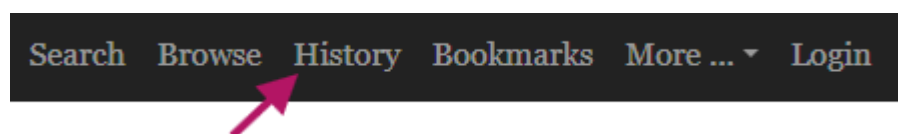Using double dashes only applies to names used as subjects. Browse the Name index without double dashes.

Bookmarks and Search History

You can bookmark records by clicking the bookmark icon on the top right of a record (both in the result set and in a record's full display). To view your bookmarks, click **Bookmarks** on the menu at the top right of the screen

The system keeps a log of your last 20 searches.

To view your history, click **History** on the menu at the top right of the screen

Downloading Records

The download limit is 1000 records.

Downloading a set of records

To download a set of results (one or more records) in MARC21 format, **click on the download** icon at the top of the results list:
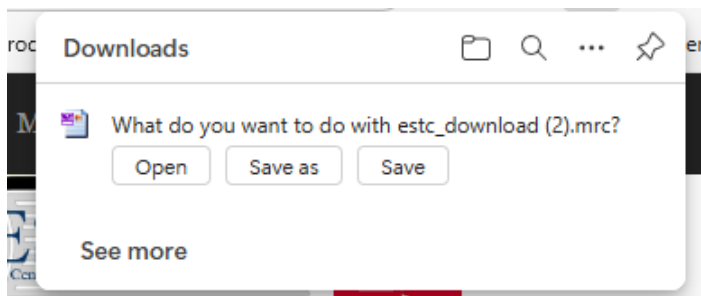
Click on **Marc 21 (ISO 2709)** to download:

Click on the link to save the records:

Your download is available at https://datb.cerl.org/estc/_download/90BCBCEC-D758-11F0-BC62-9D9E99D181D5.mrc

Downloading a single record

To download a single record from the record display in MARC21 format, click on the MARC 21 (Download) link to the right of the record:
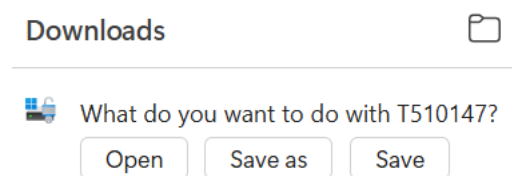
MARC 21 Formatted (Display)

MARC 21 (Download) ←

JSON

YAML

In the Downloads pop-up window, choose "Save as"

Downloads

What do you want to do with T510147?

Open   Save as   Save

and add the extension ".mrc" to save it as a MARC21 record:

File name: T510147.mrc

Save as type: All files