

Starter provides a simple search interface through the search box in the page header.



It allows you to search for the entered search term in all descriptive metadata fields and the full text of any documents.

The search system uses something called the Solr search engine that has its own syntax and the following are some hints and tips to help you search within the Starter system;

- The case of the search term is not important, all searches are converted to lowercase.
- “Stop words” are removed from the search term, these are very common words such as “a” and “the” that appear in a large number of search terms and result in excessively large numbers of results.
- The search engine uses a concept called stemming, where common words are reduced to their basic root level, i.e. run, running, and ran will all be treated as run, and child and children will both be treated as child.
- The wildcards: * = any number of characters, and ? = one character are supported. However, using wildcards in a search means that stemming cannot be used.
- Trailing wildcards (e.g. LAND*) are necessary in the default Solr configuration.
- Search terms cannot start with a wildcard.
- In general the search terms are split into individual words by using white space, punctuation and numbers.
- Boolean operators (OR, AND, NOT - note the use of capital letters) can be used to join search terms. Unless otherwise specified all terms are treated as if they have been joined by AND.
- Since the default behaviour is to join terms together with the AND operator, if you enter multiple search terms, results will only be returned for items that contain all the search terms.

For example, entering ‘Darth Vader’ will cause the system to search for text (metadata or full text) containing both ‘Darth’ and ‘Vader’.

- If you wish to enter multiple search terms and have the system search for any of the terms, you must use an explicit OR operator.

For example, entering ‘Darth OR Vader’ will cause the system to search for text (metadata or full text) containing either ‘Darth’ or ‘Vader’ (ignoring case) or both; the search results will prioritise those results that contain both terms.

- The hyphen character is a special character that is interpreted as the end of a word.

Therefore, searching for ‘THX’ will match ‘THX-1138.068/0100-DSK/2005’. However, searching for ‘THX-’

will search for the term ‘thx’, while searching for ‘THX-*’ will search for the term ‘thx-’ as the wildcard is forcing the search to interpret the ‘-’ as a normal character.

- Enclosing a multi-word search term in double quotes "..." will cause the search engine to treat it as a single term.
- This ensures that the words in the phrase appear in the required order and with no intervening words in any results found.
- The full term (all the words) must appear in any results found.

Typically this will reduce the number of results significantly; if quotes are not used, then the results will include all items which contain ANY of the words in the phrase.

- The use of quotes does NOT prevent the stemming of words, so running will still be stemmed to 'run and the results returned will be based on this term.
- A field specific search can be performed for specific index terms by using the special character combination :=

For example, to restrict the search to the title field use **title:=xwing.jpg**.

- Use of the : alone will give a 'Something went wrong' error.