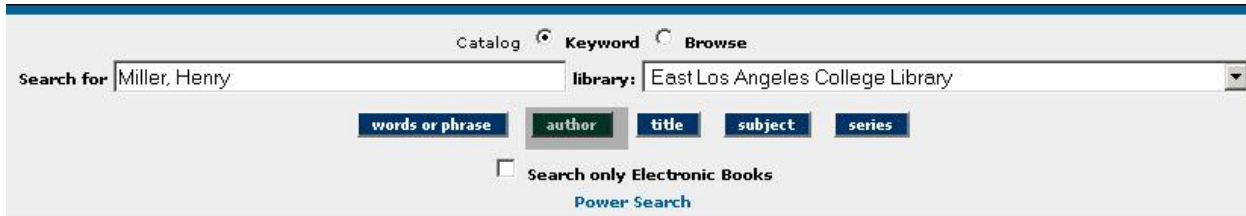


East Los Angeles College Library Workshops Online Library Catalogs

Use the ELAC online library catalog to find books and audiovisual materials. The online catalog gives you different ways to search.

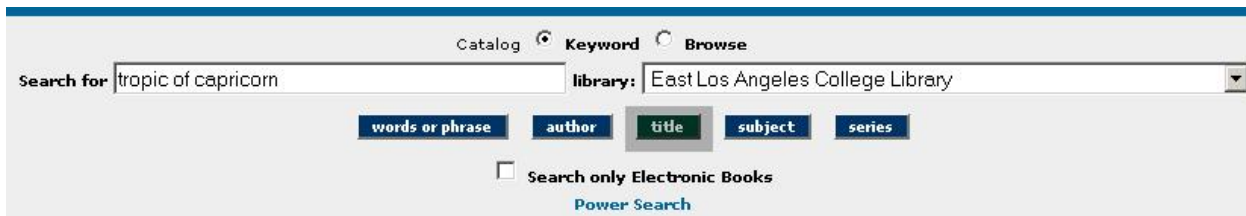
Use the “Author” search when you want to find works by a certain author:



The screenshot shows the search interface with the following elements:

- Radio buttons for "Catalog" (selected), "Keyword", and "Browse".
- Search input field containing "Miller, Henry".
- Library dropdown menu set to "East Los Angeles College Library".
- Search type buttons: "words or phrase", "author" (highlighted), "title", "subject", and "series".
- Checkbox for "Search only Electronic Books" (unchecked).
- "Power Search" link.

Use the “Title” search when you know the name of a particular work you’re looking for:



The screenshot shows the search interface with the following elements:

- Radio buttons for "Catalog" (selected), "Keyword", and "Browse".
- Search input field containing "tropic of capricorn".
- Library dropdown menu set to "East Los Angeles College Library".
- Search type buttons: "words or phrase", "author", "title" (highlighted), "subject", and "series".
- Checkbox for "Search only Electronic Books" (unchecked).
- "Power Search" link.

Use the “Words or Phrase” search to find works with your keywords:



The screenshot shows the search interface with the following elements:

- Radio buttons for "Catalog" (selected), "Keyword", and "Browse".
- Search input field containing "movies".
- Library dropdown menu set to "East Los Angeles College Library".
- Search type buttons: "words or phrase" (highlighted), "author", "title", "subject", and "series".
- Checkbox for "Search only Electronic Books" (unchecked).
- "Power Search" link.

Use the “Subject” search to find works on your topic. This is a more precise search than “Words or Phrase,” but you need to know the official Library of Congress Subject Heading for a successful search:



The screenshot shows the search interface with the following elements:

- Radio buttons for "Catalog" (selected), "Keyword", and "Browse".
- Search input field containing "motion pictures".
- Library dropdown menu set to "East Los Angeles College Library".
- Search type buttons: "words or phrase", "author", "title", "subject" (highlighted), and "series".
- Checkbox for "Search only Electronic Books" (unchecked).
- "Power Search" link.

East Los Angeles College Library Workshops Online Library Catalogs

Use "Power Search" to focus your topic by adding more information to your search statement:

words or phrase	child development	And
words or phrase	infants	And
title		And
subject		And
series		

You can also use Power Search to set limits. For example, below you'll see a limit to search only for reference books:

library:	East Los Angeles College Library
language:	ANY
format:	ANY
type:	ANY
location:	Reference
item category 1:	ANY
item category 2:	ANY
match on:	Keywords
pubyear:	
sort by:	New to Old

East Los Angeles College Library Workshops

Online Library Catalogs

Exercise 1

Use the ELAC Library Online Catalog to answer the questions below. Be prepared to discuss your findings with the class.

A. Your instructor told you that your midterm exam will be about a play written by Harold Pinter. You don't remember the title of the book, but you think it had the word "hothouse" in it.

- If you found the book in the catalog, what is its title? _____
- What is its call number? _____
- How many copies of this book does the library have? _____
- What kind of search did you use to look for this book (e.g., Author, Title, Subject, Words or Phrase)? _____
- Where in the library would you look for this book? _____

B. You need to find books about World War II for your history class.

- What kind of search did you use to look for books (e.g., Author, Title, Subject, Words or Phrase)? _____
- What words did you type in the search box? _____
- List a couple of titles and call numbers of books you thought would be useful

- What is the official subject term for this topic called? _____

C. You need to find books about the octopus for your biology class.

- Does the library have any books on this topic? _____
 - What kind of search did you use to look for this book (e.g., Author, Title, Subject, Words or Phrase)? _____
 - Explain what you found and if it was useful _____
-

East Los Angeles College Library Workshops

Online Library Catalogs

Exercise 2

Use either the CSU Los Angeles (www.calstatela.edu/library/opac/catalog.html), or the Los Angeles Public Library's Online Catalog (www.lapl.org/catalog) to answer the questions below. Be prepared to discuss your findings with the class.

A. Your instructor told your midterm exam will be about a play written by Harold Pinter. You don't remember the title of the book, but you think it had the word "hothouse" in it.

- What kind of search did you use to look for this book (e.g., Author, Title, Subject, Words or Phrase)? _____
- What is the book's call number? _____
- Is the call number similar to or different from the number in the ELAC Library? _____
- How many copies of this book does the library have? _____
- Is this more or less than the number that the ELAC Library has? _____

B. You need to find books about World War II for your history class.

- What kind of search did you use to look for books (e.g., Author, Title, Subject, Words or Phrase)? _____
- What words did you type in the search box? _____
- Did you remember that you could use the same official subject term that you found in Exercise 1 for this topic? _____
- List a couple of titles and call numbers of books you thought would be useful
1. _____ 2. _____
- Did the ELAC library have more books or fewer books on this topic? _____

C. You need to find books about the octopus for your biology class.

- Does the library have any books on this topic? _____
- What kind of search did you use to look for this book (e.g., Author, Title, Subject, Words or Phrase)? _____
- Explain what you found and if it was useful _____