

EXPLORE THE BRITISH LIBRARY: HOW DO I SEARCH FOR...?

<http://explore.bl.uk>

How do I search for..?

[People's names](#)

[Dewey numbers](#)

[Shelfmarks](#)

[One word titles](#)

[ISBN / ISSN / ISMN / BNB numbers](#)

[Hyphenated words](#)

[An item published in a specific year or range of years](#)

[Newspaper editions](#)

[Articles](#)

[Archived websites](#)

People's names

Enter them either as first name last name, or last name first name (with or without commas separating the names) for example, **Henry James**.

The results of this search will include items about Henry James as well as items by Henry James. To select the subset of items by Henry James, Refine by the author's name:

Main catalogue
Our website
Explore Further

Everything in this catalogue

[Advanced search](#)

[rss](#)
[Add results page to My workspace](#)

Refine my results

Access Options

[Request to Reading Room](#) (12,820)

[Purchase a copy](#) (4,816)

[Online: Reading Room only](#) (896)

[Online](#) (513)

[Shelved in Reading Room](#) (71)

[Refine further](#)

Material type

[Books](#) (10,363)

[Articles](#) (1,741)

[Audio](#) (1,206)

[Scores](#) (656)

[Thesis](#) (153)

[Show 8 more](#)

[Refine further](#)

Author/Contributor

[James, Henry, 1843-1916](#) (765)

[Byron, Henry J. \(Henry James\), 1835-1884.](#) (150)

[Wilson, Henry James Lane](#) (82)

[Coleridge, Henry James, 1822-](#)

Results 1 - 10 of 14,603 for Everything in this catalogue Sort by: [relevance](#)

1 [Henry James / Harry T. Moore.](#)
 Harry T. Moore, (Harry Thornton), 1908-1981.
 London : Thames & Hudson, 1999, c1974.
 Book [Details](#) [I want this](#) [Notes & Tags](#)

2 [Henry James / Adrian Poole.](#)
 Adrian Poole
 New York ; London : Harvester, 1991.
 Book [Details](#) [I want this](#) [Notes & Tags](#)

3 [Henry James / di Donatella Izzo.](#)
 Donatella Izzo
 Firenze : La nuova Italia, 1981.
 Book [Details](#) [I want this](#) [Notes & Tags](#)

4 [Henry James / Leon Edel.](#)
 Leon Edel, 1907-1997
 New York : Avon Books, 1978.
 Book [Details](#) [I want this](#) [Notes & Tags](#)

5 [Henry James / Marc Saporta \[et al.\].](#)
 Le Revest-Saint-Martin : Éditions Le Jas, 1983.
 Book [Details](#) [I want this](#) [Notes & Tags](#)

6 [Henry James / Jeremy Tambling.](#)
 Jeremy Tambling
 London : Macmillan, 2000.
 Book [Details](#) [I want this](#) [Notes & Tags](#)

To restrict your search to items **by** an author, carry out an Advanced search and choose Author and 'contains', not 'is exact', from the drop-down menus. You can enter the author's names either as first name last name, or last name first name (with or without commas separating the names). If the name is a common one you may also need still to Refine by Author:

Advanced search Note: Search terms must be in lower case

Author contains Anywhere contains Anywhere contains

Material type:

Start Date:

End Date:

Search scope:

Date range searching is available only for Newspapers.

[rss](#)

[Add results page to My workspace](#)

Refine my results

Access Options

- [Request to Reading Room \(7,608\)](#)
- [Purchase a copy \(1,842\)](#)
- [Online: Reading Room only \(362\)](#)
- [Online \(280\)](#)
- [Shelved in Reading Room \(49\)](#)
- [Refine further ▾](#)

Material type

- [Books \(6,902\)](#)
- [Audio \(744\)](#)
- [Scores \(533\)](#)
- [Articles \(119\)](#)
- [Journals \(62\)](#)
- [Show 6 more ▾](#)
- [Refine further ▾](#)

Author/Contributor

- [James, Henry, 1843-1916 \(765\)](#)
- [Byron, Henry J. \(Henry James\), 1835-1884 \(112\)](#)

Results 1 - 10 of **8,638** for **Everything in this catalogue** Sort by: **relevance** ▾

- 1 [★ Substance and Shadow: or Morality and Religion in their relation to life, etc.](#)
Henry James, 1811-1882.
Boston [Mass.], 1863.
[Book](#) [Details](#) [I want this](#) [Notes & Tags](#)
- 2 [★ Psalms and Hymns for the use of Rugby School Chapel. \[Compiled by Henry J. Buckoll.\]](#)
pp. v. 4-95. Crossley & Billington: Rugby, 1850. 1850
[Book](#) [Details](#) [I want this](#) [Notes & Tags](#)
- 3 [★ Adelaide, a tragedy in five acts \[and in verse\].](#)
Henry James PYE
London, 1800.
[Book](#) [Details](#) [I want this](#) [Notes & Tags](#)
- 4 [★ Amusement; a poetical essay.](#)
Henry James PYE
London, 1790.
[Book](#) [Details](#) [I want this](#) [Notes & Tags](#)
- 5 [★ The Place British Americans have won in History. A lecture, etc.](#)
Henry James MORGAN
Ottawa : Hunter, Rose & Co., 1866.
[Book](#) [Details](#) [I want this](#) [Notes & Tags](#)
- 6 [★ Railway Curves ... With plates, etc. \[Extracted from the 1845 edition of "A Treatise on Land Surveying and Levelling."\]](#)
Henry James CASTLE

Note: Whilst punctuation and the order of terms have no effect on the number of results found spacing between initials does affect the results found. For example a Basic or Advanced search for 'Stubbes, EH', 'Stubbes, E.H.', 'EH Stubbes' and 'E.H. Stubbes' will find one set of results whereas a search for 'Stubbes, E H', 'Stubbes, E. H.', 'E H Stubbes' and 'E. H. Stubbes' will return a larger set of results.

Dewey numbers

In the 'Main catalogue', you can search for Dewey numbers in Simple search – there is no separate index for Dewey numbers.

Enter the number directly into the search box, and click **Search**.

Note: Make sure that you include the decimal point after the third digit.

The Dewey number is displayed in the subject field on the Details panel for an item:

Book

Whispers of ghosts / Ron McLachlan.
Ron McLachlan
Wigan : BeWrite Books, c2004.

Details | I want this | Notes & Tags

Title: Whispers of ghosts / Ron McLachlan.
Author: Ron McLachlan
Subjects: Dewey: 823.92
Publication Details: Wigan : BeWrite Books, c2004.
Language: English
Identifier: ISBN: 9781904492627 (pbk.); ISBN: 1904492622 (pbk.); BNB: GBA864904; System number: 014588628
Physical Description: 293 p. : 1 ill. ; 21 cm.
Shelfmark(s): General Reference Collection H.2008/1888

Links

- > Additional Information
- > This record in Copac
- > This record in WorldCat@
- > This item in Amazon.co.uk

Shelfmarks

In the 'Main catalogue', you can search for British Library shelfmarks in Simple search – there is no separate index for shelfmarks.

If you are sure of the punctuation used, you can include it in your search:

X989/5108

YK.2003.b.4785

If you're not sure, exclude all punctuation:

X9895108

YK2003b4785

EWM2748

NB: This does not work if the shelfmark contains [brackets and hyphens](#).

Don't "mix and match" punctuation and spaces as no results will be found; e.g. do not enter X 989/5108 or YK 2003.b4785. If in doubt, truncate the shelfmark and use the wildcards ? or *.

Shelfmarks with spaces

If the shelfmark includes a space and too many results are returned as for example with the shelfmark Hirsh 5, enclose the shelfmark in quotes:

"Hirsch 5"

Shelfmarks with brackets and hyphens

You should exclude all brackets and hyphens but keep all of the spaces. For example to find: (P) BW 77 -E(22)

Search for **P BW 77 -E22**

Or if you are sure of the punctuation, enclose the shelfmark in quotes:

"(P) BW 77 -E(22)"

Science shelfmarks in the Dewey sequence

Include the initial brackets, the spaces and the decimal point in the number:

(B) 666.893 001

Note: Many items will be returned but the one you require will be the first displayed.

One word titles

Enter the word in the Simple search box and click **Search**. One word titles should be listed at the top of your results

If your one word title is prefixed with the, include in your search and enclose in quotation marks, e.g. **"the Adelphi"**, **"the lancet"**.

ISBN / ISSN / ISMN / BNB numbers

Enter the number directly into the Simple search box, and click **Search**.

To search for an **ISBN** enter the number **without** hyphens.

To search for an **ISSN** enter the number **with** the hyphen.

Note: When searching by ISSN, if you omit the hyphen you will find journal records that match the ISSN but you will not find matching article records.

Hyphenated words

Replace the hyphen with an em dash:

Wide—awake instead of wide-awake.

Item published in a specific year or range of years

If searching the 'Main catalogue, click on **Advanced search** and combine your search term with **Publication Year**. You can enter the exact year of publication, or you can use a wildcard to search for a decade or century:

Enter 1760	to search for items published in that year
Enter 176?	To search for items published between 1760 and 1769
Enter 17??	To search for items published between 1700 and 1799

To search for items published between a range of years spanning more than a decade, search for each decade within the range you require and combine with decades with **OR**:

Enter 176? OR 177? OR 178?	To search for items published between 1760 and 1789 (OR must be entered in capital letters; you need to search for each decade within the range you require)
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e.g. to restrict to items on 'global warming' published between 2000-2009:

Advanced search Note: Search terms must be in lower case

Anywhere global warming
Publication Year 200?
Anywhere

Material type:
Start Date:
End Date:
Search scope:

Date range searching is available only for Newspapers.

e.g. to restrict to items on 'newton' published between e.g. 1770 - 1799:

Advanced search Note: Search terms must be in lower case

Anywhere newton
Publication Year 177? OR 178? OR 179?
Anywhere

Material type:
Start Date:
End Date:
Search scope:

Date range searching is available only for Newspapers.

Note: Entering a date range in the format 1770-1800 or 1770->1800 will NOT work.

Note: Do not use the Publication Year index if searching 'Explore further'. To restrict items by publication, refine your results by 'creation date.'

Newspaper editions

If searching the 'Main catalogue' for records of the Library's newspaper collection, you should not that you cannot restrict a search to the newspaper editions field only.

Instead carry out an Advanced search combining the name of the newspaper with the name of the edition:

Advanced search Note: Search terms must be in lower case

Anywhere jewish telegraph
Anywhere scottish ed|
Anywhere

Material type:
Start Date:
End Date:
Search scope:

Date range searching is available only for Newspapers.

Articles

You will find article records in the 'Main catalogue' tab and in 'Explore further'.

The 'Main catalogue' contains records for:

- Articles found in the top 20,000 journal/books-in-series/conference papers requested via our document supply service (there are circa 42M records of these articles)
- Articles for non-print legal deposit content (there are just fewer than 200,000 records for these non-print legal deposit articles).

Note: The Library does not have records in the 'Main catalogue' for every article in every journal. If you can't find an article record, try searching for the journal title instead records.

'Explore further' is the British Library's name for Primo Central. Primo Central indexes online scholarly materials, including articles, provided by publishers and aggregators.

If you know the title of the article, you can search for that – enclose it in inverted commas so that the search is on exact phrase:

The screenshot shows a search engine interface with the following elements:

- Navigation tabs: **Main catalogue**, **Our website**, **Explore Further**
- Search input: "artificial rainmaking by laser system"
- Search scope: Everything in this catalogue
- Search button: **Search**
- Advanced search link: [Advanced search](#)
- Left sidebar:
 - rss icon
 - Add results page to My workspace
 - Try a new search
 - by this Author/Contributor: [Sonbawne, S.M.](#)
- Results section:
 - 1 results for Everything in this catalogue
 - Sort by: **relevance**
 - Result 1: **Artificial Rainmaking By Laser System** by Shivshankar, K. et al. from *The international journal of meteorology*. VOL 35; NUMB 355, ; 2010, 363-370 -- ARTETECH PUBLISHING COMPANY, UK -- 2010
 - Options: [Details](#), [I want this](#), [Notes & Tags](#)

Or you can enter the ISSN of the journal in which the article was published:

The screenshot shows a search engine interface with the following elements:

- Navigation tabs: **Main catalogue**, **Our website**, **Explore Further**
- Search input: 0278-6915
- Search scope: Everything in this catalogue
- Search button: **Search**
- Advanced search link: [Advanced search](#)
- Left sidebar:
 - rss icon
 - Add results page to My workspace
 - Refine my results
 - Access Options
 - Purchase a copy (6,629)
 - Request to Reading Room (6,629)
 - Online: Reading Room only (4,785)
 - Refine further
 - Material type
 - Articles (6,622)
- Results section:
 - Results 1 - 10 of 6,630 for Everything in this catalogue
 - Sort by: **relevance**
 - Result 1: **Estrogenic followed by anti-estrogenic effects of PCBs exposure in juvenil fish (Saurus aurata)** by Calo, M. et al. from *Food and chemical toxicology* : an international journal published for the British Industrial Biological Research Association. VOL 48; NUMBER 8-9, ; 2010, 2458-2463 - Elsevier Science B.V., Amsterdam. -- 2010
 - Options: [Details](#), [I want this](#), [Notes & Tags](#)
 - Result 2: **Column solid phase extraction of iron(III), copper(II), manganese(II) and lead(II) ions food and water samples on multi-walled carbon nanotubes** by Ozcan, S. G.; Satiroglu, N.; Soyлак, M. from *Food and chemical toxicology* : an international journal published for the British Industrial Biological Research Association. VOL 48; NUMBER 8-9, ; 2010, 2401-2406 - Elsevier Science B.V., Amsterdam. -- 2010
 - Options: [Details](#), [I want this](#), [Notes & Tags](#)

Note: You **MUST** enter the ISSN with the hyphen, e.g. **008-6145**.
If searching the 'Main catalogue' and you omit the hyphen you will retrieve the journal record but no article records.
If searching 'Explore further' and you omit the hyphen you may exclude some relevant records from your result set.

If your search returns a lot of results, you can refine by **Material type Articles**:

[Main catalogue](#) | [Our website](#) | [Explore Further](#)

[Advanced search](#)

[rss](#)

[Add results page to My workspace](#)

Refine my results

Access Options

[Request to Reading Room \(2,683,251\)](#)

[Purchase a copy \(2,664,460\)](#)

[Online: Reading Room only \(742,506\)](#)

[Online \(10,304\)](#)

[Shelved in Reading Room \(472\)](#)

[Refine further](#)

Material type

[Articles \(2,623,462\)](#)

[BOOKS \(71,674\)](#)

[Archived Websites \(7,615\)](#)

[Thesis \(5,897\)](#)

[Journals \(4,630\)](#)

[Show 11 more](#)

[Refine further](#)

Results 1 - 10 of 2,715,802 for Everything in this catalogue

 Sort by: [relevance](#)

- Environment.**
 [Washington, etc. : Helen Dwight Reid Educational Foundation] Philadelphia, Pa. : Taylor & Francis 1969
 Journal
 [Details](#)
[I want this](#)
[Notes & Tags](#)
- Environment**
 Barman, N. C.; Devi, S.
 ; Global environmental education: visions of 2001; New Delhi, 1993; Dec, 0, 296-301 -- Indian Institute of Ecology and **Environment**; 1993 -- 1993
 Article
 [Details](#)
[I want this](#)
[Notes & Tags](#)
- Environment / edited by Jules Pretty.**
 London : SAGE, 2006.
 Book
 [Details](#)
[I want this](#)
[Notes & Tags](#)
- Environment.**
 Bramhall, Cheshire: Europress, 19??-
 Journal
 [Details](#)
[I want this](#)
[Notes & Tags](#)
- Environment.**
 Manchester : British Council, c1992.
 Journal
 [Details](#)
[I want this](#)
[Notes & Tags](#)

Alternatively, if searching the 'Main catalogue', carry out an Advanced search and specify **Material type Articles** at the start of the search:

Advanced search

contains

 contains

 contains

Material type:

 Search scope:

[Simple search](#)

Did you mean environment AND gang?

[rss](#)

1 results for All Content

 Sorted by: [relevance](#)

- Environment hazard mitigation of waste gypsum and chalk: Use in construction materials**
 Garg, M. et al.
 CONSTRUCTION AND BUILDING MATERIALS VOL 25; NUMBER 2, ; 2011, 944-949 -- Elsevier Science B.V., Amsterdam. -- 2011
 Article
 [Details](#)
[I want this](#)
[Notes & Tags](#)

1 results for All Content

 Sorted by: [relevance](#)

Note: Not all of the Advanced search options are valid for the records in 'Explore further'. Even if you specify **Material type Articles** at the start of your search your results may include records of items other than articles.

Archived websites

The 'Main catalogue' tab of Explore the British Library includes records for two collections of archived websites:

- The Legal Deposit UK Web Archive, archived through legal deposit regulations introduced in 2013
- The Open UK Web Archive, archived and made accessible by permission of the owner

Note: This means that you may see two records for the same website, each with different access rights.

You can either do a simple search, using **Refine** to display **Archived Websites**:

The screenshot shows a search interface with the following elements:

- Navigation tabs: **Main catalogue** (highlighted with a red box), **Our website**, **Explore Further**.
- Search bar: **nhs tayside** (highlighted with a red box), **Everything in this catalogue** dropdown, **Search** button, **Advanced search** link.
- Left sidebar:
 - rss icon, **Add results page to My workspace**
 - Refine my results** section:
 - Access Options**: Request to Reading Room (34), Purchase a copy (27), Online: Reading Room only (25), Online (8), **Refine further** dropdown.
 - Material type** (highlighted with a red box): Articles (29), **Archived Websites (28)**, Thesis (7).
- Results area:
 - Header: **Results 1 - 10 of 73 for Everything in this catalogue**, Sort by: **relevance** dropdown.
 - Item 1: **NHS Tayside**, 2010-06-25, *****Free access**, **Archived Website**. Links: **Details**, **I want this**, **Notes & Tags**.
 - Item 2: **[Annual reports etc.] / Tayside Primary Care NHS Trust**, Tayside Primary Care NHS Trust, Dundee : Tayside Primary Care NHS Trust, 2000-. **Journal**. Links: **Details**, **I want this**, **Notes & Tags**.
 - Item 3: **[Purchasing plans etc.] / Tayside Primary Care NHS Trust**, Tayside Primary Care NHS Trust, Dundee : Tayside Primary Care NHS Trust, 2000-. **Journal**. Links: **Details**, **I want this**, **Notes & Tags**.

Or you can use **Advanced search** and specify **Material type: Archived Websites**

The screenshot shows an advanced search interface with the following elements:

- Navigation tabs: **Main catalogue**, **Our website**, **Explore Further**.
- Advanced search section:
 - Note: Search terms must be in lower case
 - Search criteria: **Anywhere** dropdown, **contains** dropdown, **nhs tayside** input field.
 - Material type:** **Archived Websites** dropdown (highlighted with a red box).
 - Start Date: **Year** dropdown.
 - End Date: **Year** dropdown.
 - Search scope: **Everything in this catalogue** dropdown.
 - Text: **Date range searching is available only for Newspapers.**
- Buttons: **Search**, **Simple search**.
- Left sidebar:
 - rss icon, **Add results page to My workspace**
 - on this subject:** **Health Organisations and Services**
- Results area:
 - Header: **Results 1 - 10 of 28 for Everything in this catalogue**, Sort by: **relevance** dropdown.
 - Item 1: **NHS Tayside**, 2010-06-25, *****Free access**, **Archived Website**. Links: **Details**, **I want this**, **Notes & Tags**.
 - Item 2: **IMPROVING NHS TAYSIDE**, 2013-04-08T17:05Z, *****Available only in our Reading Rooms**, **Archived Website**. Links: **Details**, **I want this**, **Notes & Tags**.