

PITTCat+ Search Tips pittcatplus.pitt.edu

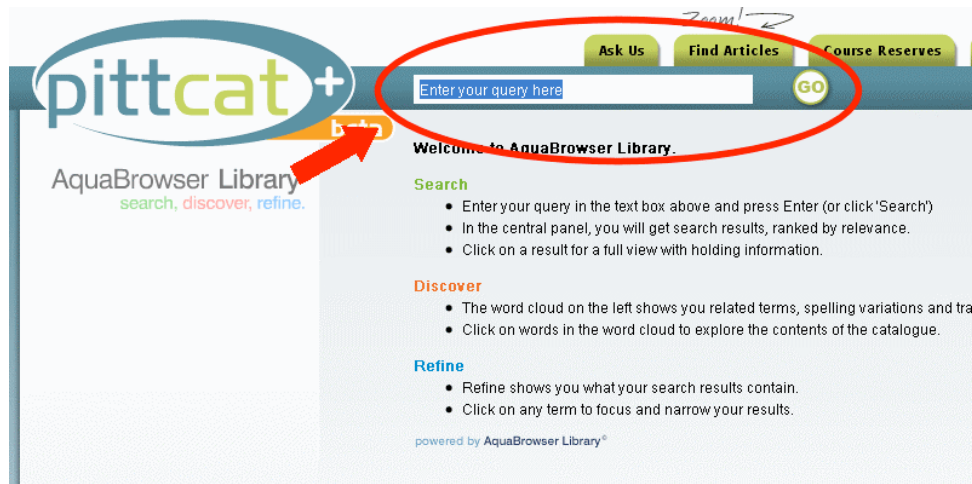
Searching

Searching Basics

To begin a search, type one or more words in the search box and press ENTER or click the GO button.

Capitalization

Pittcat+ searches are not case-specific.



Searching for *e. e. cummings* and searching for *E. E. Cummings* will provide the same results.

Multiple Search Words

When given more than one search term, Pittcat+ searches for all of the terms.

Searching *University Pittsburgh* will give results only if they include both terms.

The order of the terms in a multiple-term search does not matter. In addition, Pittcat+ does not recognize phrases, even with the use of quotation marks.

Term Expansion and Variation

Pittcat+ gives preference to the term as it is typed in the search box. However, it also expands the search to include possible synonyms, alternate spellings, plurals, and stem variations.

Searching for *education* will provide results not only for the term 'education' but also 'educational.'

If you do not want Pittcat+ to expand your term, use quotation marks.

Searching "*education*" will provide results only for the term 'education.'



results lists.

Results

Word Cloud

What It Is

On the left side of the window, you will see a word cloud developed from your search. This word cloud displays associations, translations, spelling variations, and synonyms of your search terms. Pittcat+ does not make up these connections; anything Pittcat+ shows you is taken from reliable sources like the Library of Congress or from something Pittcat+ has indexed.

The size of each term in the word cloud indicates how relevant the term is to your search. The distance and direction of the term from the center of the word cloud, however, does not have any significance.

How To Use It

Often, when you perform a search you may not be able to think of the best term to use, and the word cloud may help to jog your memory. In addition, it may correct a possible spelling or typographical error in your search term. If your current search does not give you the results you want, the word cloud may provide other similar terms to search for new results.

Another use of the word cloud is the discovery trail. If you click a word within the word cloud, Pittcat+ will perform a new search using the clicked word. The new search does not combine your original word and the clicked word in the new search; instead, Pittcat+ ranks the results of the new search based on the significance between the terms.

Although you can create quite a long discovery trail in this fashion by continuing to click words in the word cloud and executing new searches, only the most recent four or five clicked words have any significance in the ranked

Refine Options

What They Are

On the right side of the page, you will see a list of refinements, also called facets. These are categories that you can use to narrow your search results.

Pittcat+ will only display categories that will help narrow a search; if all the results are in English, for instance, Pittcat+ will not display the language facet.

How To Use Them

Simply clicking on a facet will display only those results that fit the facet you clicked.

As you click facets, Pittcat+ will display the trail you took at the top of the page. These breadcrumbs allow you to see quickly the limits you've placed on your search.

In addition, the breadcrumbs allow you to go back one or several steps in your refinements. Simply clicking on one of the facets in the breadcrumbs will remove all the facets you placed

Refine

Show Results From

All locations

Availability

- > On the shelf (17,202)
- > Online (8,419)

Format

- > Articles (Zoom)
- > Books (25,053)
- > Microfilm (2,277)
- > Map (908)
- > Online (518)
- > Music (408)
- > 7 more...

after the one you clicked. To remove all facets in play, simply click on the first item in the breadcrumbs, which is the search term you entered.

The screenshot shows a search interface with a search bar containing the word "road". Above the search bar are buttons for "Ask Us" and "Find Articles". Below the search bar, the results are displayed as "Results 1 to 1 of 1 for road, sorted by: Relevance". A breadcrumb trail is shown below the results: "road » Books » English » Fiction » In the last 3 years". A red arrow points to the search bar, and a red circle highlights the breadcrumb trail. Below the breadcrumb trail, the first result is displayed: "The road / by Cormac McCarthy. McCarthy, Cormac, 1933-". The result details include: "Imprint: New York : Alfred A. Knopf, 2006." and "Subject: Fathers and sons Fiction., Voyages and travels Fiction., United States, Regression (Civilization) Fiction., Survival skills Fiction."