

Savvy Searching in

The CAT

Refine your search. Get better results.

Libraries Home Page: www.libraries.psu.edu

The CAT: cat.libraries.psu.edu

The CAT is Penn State's online catalog of library materials.

Browse

What it does: Quickly finds an item when you know the title or author

How to do it: Select the "Begins with (Browse)" radio button, pick title, author etc. from the drop-down box and type in your info

Example: Freakonomics (title); Wilde, Oscar (author)

Search using AND

What it does: Narrows your search

How to do it: Combine terms by typing 'AND' between them

Example: history AND telecommunications

Search using OR

What it does: Expands your search

How to do it: Combine terms by typing 'OR' between them

Example: Persia OR Iran

Truncation:

\$

What it does: Searches for variations on a word. Use when you need to do a broader search

How to do it: The CAT uses a \$ as a "wildcard" to stand in for one or more letters. Place the \$ at the end of the letters that are common to each word

Example: Typing fem\$ will search female, feminine, feminism, femininity, feminist

Phrase Searching

' '

What it does: Searches for an exact phrase

How to do it: Enclose the phrase you want to search for in **single quote marks**

Example: 'binge drinking'

Advanced Search

What it does: Lets you get fancy with your search—limit or combine the language, format, date, and more

How to do it: From the CAT, click on the "Advanced Search" link and choose your options

Example: Choose "Video Material" from Material Type box and search by keywords for DVDs

My Library Account

What it does: Lets you manage all your checked-out items, holds, and due dates

How to do it: Select the link "My Library Account"

Example: Renew your items (up to 2 times) online before you leave for break!

I Want It

What it does: Lets you place a hold on an item that is not available or at another PSU location

How to do it: When you find an item you want, just click the "I Want It" button and select your pick up location.

Example: You will receive an email notification when your item is ready to pick up—bring your PSU ID!

PENNSTATE



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