

Using BCC's Databases

FAQ'S (Frequently Asked Questions)

What are EBSCOhost and ProQuest?

EBSCOhost and ProQuest are databases used to find periodical articles. (You won't find BOOKS in EBSCOhost and ProQuest.) They are put together by different companies, but function in the same way.

What is a periodical?

A periodical is a magazine or journal or newspaper; they are all published periodically or in regular intervals, such as every day, every week, every month, or four times a year.

Is search EBSCOhost or ProQuest the same as searching the Web?

No! You just use the Web to get to the database. The library pays for your access to the database. Almost everything in EBSCOhost or ProQuest was originally published in print.

Can I use EBSCOhost or ProQuest from home?

Yes! All staff, faculty and currently enrolled students at BCC can use these databases from home. The only difference is that you will have to enter your student ID number and last name to access the databases.

Can I use EBSCOhost and ProQuest from home when the library is closed?

Yes. We want the databases to be as convenient as possible to use, so they are available 24/7, EXCEPT from 12:30 a.m. – 3:30 a.m. when the system is down for backups.

How to get to EBSCOhost or ProQuest:

1. Go to the Library home page @ <http://www.bcc.ctc.edu/lmc/>
2. Click on **Periodicals /Databases**
3. Click on the  or  icon.
4. Begin searching. If you are off-campus, at this point you will be prompted to enter your **student ID** and **last name** before you can begin searching.

BCC Student ID Number:

Last Name:

For most searches in EBSCOhost, Academic Search Premier will provide plenty of information. ProQuest is a good choice if you need local information since it contains articles from Washington State Newspapers.

If you have problems, you can contact the reference desk. Our phone number is (425) 564-6161 and email address is bccref@bcc.ctc.edu.

Database Search Tips

The databases that you will be using are very large and require that you come up with sophisticated search statements. You can search by a simple keyword or phrase, but you will often find way too many results. Use the following tips to create precise searches.

Boolean Operators – Combine search terms with Boolean operators	
Use AND to combine two or more words to narrow your search	diabetes AND obesity
Use OR to find synonyms; this widens your search	bipolar disorder OR manic-depression
Use NOT to narrow your search by excluding your terms. Use this with caution!	AIDS NOT Africa
You can combine AND , OR and NOT searches into one search statement. Always use parenthesis to separate the different parts of the search statement	drug abuse AND (teens OR adolescents)

Truncation - Find variations of words that begin with the same root with a truncation symbol	
treat*	Finds treat, treated, treating, treatment , etc. This also finds treaty , so be careful!

Proximity Operators - To reduce the number of false hits, you can ask the database to search for words/phrases that are close to each other.		
EBSCOhost	mental illness n5 alcohol	This will find "mental illness" and "alcohol" within 5 words of each other, regardless of the word order.
ProQuest	mental illness w/5 alcohol	

Locating and Saving your Database Findings

Full-text Articles: Some of the articles that you find in the database you will be in an electronic full-text version. You've got the entire text and there is no need to look further. Emailing articles to yourself is the easiest way to keep track of what you have found.

Articles the Library Owns: EBSCOhost tells you whether or not this library owns a particular article in the "Note" field, but ProQuest does not. To determine whether or not the BCC library owns the periodical that you need, consult the BCC Library Catalog.