

Current bugs and quirks in MultiSearch

Not everything is working perfectly in MultiSearch yet. There are a few problems that you will want to be aware of until we get them straightened out. Note that some minor things will continue to be tweaked until we are completely satisfied with MultiSearch's functionality. NOTE: These are all issues with the live version of MultiSearch and do not discuss issues or quirks with the administrator console and set-up options.

- ComAbstracts is available on the database list; however it does not return results.
- The Open URL button does not work for the Literature Resource Center or the Gale Virtual Reference Library. Luckily, the [View] button should work in these databases and should bring up the full-text.
- Some databases on the results page such as the Literature Resource Center will provide links of a variety of headings such as **[Biographies]**. These links match tabs in the native database, and should take you to different types of articles in that database; however they are not currently working. The databases that provide links that do not work all seem to be Gale databases. Links in Access Science for example (a McGraw-Hill product) seem to work appropriately. UPDATE: WebFeat's workaround for this issue was to create new database options that match the individual headings. In other words, rather than have a single database option for the Literature Resource Center, there is now an option for Literature Resource Center – Literary Criticism, Literature Resource Center – Biographies, and so on and so forth. This could potentially dramatically increase the number of databases to choose from. We decided to simply choose the headings that we believe get the most use in these databases and just use those.
- You will notice that we provide 2 versions of WorldCat. This is intentional. Since they rank their results differently, they will both bring back different results.
- Many of the databases will time out on you if you do not use it within a given amount of time. This amount of time varies from database to database. Simply refresh your search to be able to enter a database that has timed out.
- The Relevancy and Clustered options on the Results page will only conduct a relevancy or a clustered search for the resources that are in the initial grouped search. For example, JStor returns 3000 results but only lets you view 25 at a time. Those 25 results will be the only ones included in a Relevancy or Clustered search.

- The Print Results screen through MultiSearch does not tell you which database the results came from. If you print the results from the Web Browser, you will see which database the results come from.
- The E-mail Results page does not provide you with a link to the article or the record. You will have to recreate your search in MultiSearch to be able to view the record again.
- When you click on a category title, it will take you to a list of the databases available on that subject, however they will not all be checked by default. Only the results that are checked for the default search on the main advanced search page will be checked for a default search on the separate category pages. UPDATE: We worked around this issue by simply removing the link to the subject areas.
- Occasionally a search in many databases will only return results in a few of those databases rather than all of them. We are aware of this bug but do not currently have an explanation for it. More often than not, simply recreating your search will solve the problem.
- LexisNexis Academic will return 0 results if the search produces more than 1000 results. Simply narrowing the search terms so that fewer than 1000 results return will allow you to view the results.
- Conducting a Keyword Search in some databases will actually conduct a Full-text search in the native database. Similarly Subject Searches in some databases will conduct a keyword/abstract search. This is more noticeable in databases that do not natively provide a Keyword or Subject search option.
- Some databases return 10 results, some 20, some 25 and some 100. This is more of an inconvenience than anything else. We were told that changing the number of results in the native database would change the number provided by MultiSearch, however some databases will not let you change the number of results natively. Furthermore, for the ones we did change the number of results natively, the number of results did not change in MultiSearch.
- Different databases provide different button links in their records. This is also more of an inconvenience than anything else. FirstSearch databases for example provide a [Libraries Worldwide] button in their records. This button does no harm, but for the vast majority of users isn't needed either. Some databases provide links for [PDF] and [HTML] versions of the article and others will offer buttons that say [Abstract]. It should be noted that more often than not this information

is available through the [View] button or through the Open URL button. There is no way to remove undesired buttons.

- The Peer-Reviewed checkbox will only return Peer-reviewed articles if the native database provides the option to return Peer-Reviewed articles. If it does not, MultiSearch will ignore this limiter, meaning databases without a Peer-Reviewed limiter will simply return all results. UPDATE: To work around this we decided to remove the Peer-Reviewed checkbox.
- The Full-Text checkbox seems to work appropriately, however it should be noted that the Open URL button makes it so easy to find some resources that are not available in the native database that this checkbox does not seem necessary.
- The Title does not appear in the record for the library catalog (GLOCAT). Furthermore the Source lists the item availability instead of the Publisher. UPDATE: The title now appears, the Source still does not work however.