

# Historical Abstracts: quick start guide

This database is very good for finding journal articles on world history (not US or Canada) from the 15<sup>th</sup> Century onwards.

## Getting started

1. Go to the library homepage at <http://library.leeds.ac.uk> or to the **Learn** tab in Minerva.
2. Type **historical abstracts** in the Library search box.
3. Select **Historical abstracts** from the results list.
4. Click on the link **Historical abstracts -- EBSCO Databases** to enter the database.

## Searching Historical Abstracts

The screenshot shows the EBSCO Historical Abstracts search interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the text "Searching: Historical Abstracts" and a "Choose Databases" link. Below the search bar, there are three search boxes with the following text: "second world war\* or world war II", "form\* or welfare", and "brit\* or engl\* or united kingdom". Each search box has a dropdown menu for "Select a Field (optional)". There are "Search" and "Clear" buttons. Below the search bar, there are links for "Basic Search", "Advanced Search", "Visual Search", and "Search History".

The interface is divided into several sections:

- Search Options:** Includes "Search modes" with radio buttons for "Boolean/Phrase" (selected), "Find all my search terms", "Find any of my search terms", and "SmartText Searching". There is also an "Apply related words" checkbox.
- Limit your results:** Includes checkboxes for "Linked Full Text", "Peer Reviewed", "References Available", and "Historical Period from". The "Historical Period from" section has dropdown menus for "Year" and "Era" with an example: "example: 400 b.c.e. to 200 c.e.". There is also a "Publication" field.

Four callout boxes provide instructions:

1. Combine keywords with AND / OR. (Points to the AND/OR dropdown menus in the search boxes.)
2. Type your keywords into the search boxes. It is possible to combine terms with OR in a single box. (Points to the search boxes.)
3. Many different search options, All text, Author, Title, Journal Source. (Points to the "Search Options" section.)
4. Limit your search by type of document, date published and many more. (Points to the "Limit your results" section.)



## Combining keywords

- Use AND to search for both the words and narrow the search, eg Britain AND reforms
- Use OR to search for either of your terms and broaden your search, eg Britain OR UK

## Understanding your results and finding the full text

2. Narrow your search by using limits in the left hand column.

1. Add to folder to save, email, print or export references to Endnote.

3. Links take you to more details, often a summary (abstract) of the article.

1. To find the full text, click on [check@leeds](#). It will try and link you directly to the full text.

2. If it can't find a direct link it will try and find a link to our print copies of the journal  
Or a link to the library catalogue to search for the title of the journal.

Results from Check@Leeds

**World War II, Post-war Reconstruction and British Women Chemists.**  
Author: Horrocks. Published in: AMBIX, v. 58 no. 2, pp. 150-170 Date: 20110701

**On-line full text articles**  
Read *this article* at [Ingenta Connect](#)

HOLDINGS 01-01-2005 -

Leeds holds some volumes of this title in print format  
Search [Leeds University Library Catalogue](#) to view details

Try the catalogue  
Sometimes direct linking fails - click here to search for the journal in [Leeds University Library Catalogue](#)

## Cited References

If you click the **Cited References** link on a result, a new screen presents a list of records/references which have been cited/used in your article.

## Getting help

- Click on **Help** in the top right corner of the database search screen.
- Contact Library enquiries: <https://library.leeds.ac.uk/contact/enquiries>