

NoveList Search Aid: Which Search Should I Use?



When: *NoveList* provides several different ways to search its database of fiction book records. What you are interested in finding AND your style of reading/browsing determine which search is right for you.

How:

Search Selection:	What will I get:
Find a Favorite Author	A list of titles by the author whose name you entered. <i>You can select one of your favorite titles from this list and use it as a template to find other books like the ones this author writes.</i>
Find a Favorite Title	A link to the title record matching the words you entered (or a list of title links, if more than one title meets your search criteria). <i>Clicking the link for the title lets you learn more about the book. At the title record, you can click "Find Similar Books" to find additional similar titles.</i>
Find a Series Name	A list of titles associated with the series name/information entered in series order.
Describe a Plot	A list of titles that contain all or some of the words you entered, ordered with the strongest matches at the top of the list. Describe a plot searches all subject headings, reviews, and descriptions for the words you entered. <i>You can browse through the relevancy ranked list (ordered with the books that have the most matches at the top of the list) and click the links of any titles that look interesting to you.</i>
Boolean Search	A list of titles that have the criteria you typed in the fields you defined (subject, title, etc.) based on the Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT) you assigned.
Freehand Boolean Search <i>(Available from the Boolean Search page)</i>	For those who are comfortable creating and using Boolean expressions, <i>NoveList</i> provides an edit field to enter a Boolean expression directly. A link with Field Codes is also provided. <i>You can browse through the list and click the links of any titles that look interesting to you.</i>
Article and List Search	A list of related <i>NoveList</i> content (not title records of books) for the name, title or theme that you entered. Content can include awards or genre lists, other theme-oriented annotated lists, author read-alikes, book discussion guides, booktalks or curricular related articles.



NoveList Search Aid: Using a Favorite Author to Find New Books to Read

When: If you have a favorite author, use these steps in *NoveList* to find out if there are any of other titles you haven't read. You can also select one title from the list this search generates and use that title to find new books like it.

How:

1. Click the "Search Our Database" tab.
2. Select the "Find a favorite author" link.
3. At the Author Search page, enter the author's name. *If you click the SEARCH button at this point, NoveList will search all reading levels (Adult, Young Adult, Children's, Easy). To narrow your search, click one or more levels and/or set any other limiters (page range, Lexile rating, publication year or format).* When desired limiters are set, click SEARCH.

TIPS: Entering the Author's Name:

- You can use either upper or lower case letters.
- You don't need to spell the entire name - enter a few letters followed by an asterisk (*). For example, *tolk** retrieves titles by Tolkien.

What You See (the search results):

NoveList displays all the titles by the author(s) you entered.

4. At the Search Results page, select a favorite title from the list by clicking on its title link.

What You See (the title record):

The title record for the book displays. This is what *NoveList* "knows" about your title. Note that the subject headings for the title are "clickable".

You can:

Or you can:

<p>Select the subject headings that interest you and then click the Subject Search button.</p> <p><i>NoveList</i> will search the database for books that have all of the subject headings you have selected.</p>	<p>Click on the Find Similar Books button to further narrow your subject searching by using the "Required" and "Desired" columns*.</p> <p>*If you check one or more subject headings in the Required column, only titles with ALL these subject headings will be retrieved. Additional headings checked in the Desired column ("nice to have") will further order your list by placing titles with the Desired subject headings at the top of the retrieved list.</p>
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What You See (the new search results):

A list of books with the subject heading(s) you selected is displayed. Browse the results list to find additional titles of interest!

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***NoveList* Search Aid:  
Using a Favorite Title to Find New Books to Read**



**When:** If you enjoyed a particular book and would like to find another like it, use these steps in *NoveList*.

**How:**

1. Click the "Search Our Database" tab.
2. Select the "Find a Favorite Title" link.
3. At the Title Search page, enter the book's title. *If you click the SEARCH button at this point, NoveList will search all reading levels (Adult, Young Adult, Children's, Easy). To narrow your search, click one or more levels and/or set any other limiters (page range, Lexile rating, publication year or format). When desired limiters are set, click SEARCH.*

**TIPS: Entering a Title:**

- You can use either upper or lower case letters.
- You do not have to type "A", "An" or "The" at the beginning.
- You do not have to include small common words such as "for" or "and."

**What You See (the search results):**

Your title OR a list of titles that contain the words you typed in the find box.

4. Select your title by clicking on its title link.

**What You See (the title record):**

The title record for the book displays. This is what *NoveList* "knows" about your title. Note that the subject headings for the title are "clickable".

You can:

Select the subject headings that interest you and then click the Search Subject button.

*NoveList* will search the database for books that have all of the subject headings you have selected.

Or you can:

Click on the Find Similar Books button to further narrow your subject searching by using the "Required" and "Desired" columns\*.

\*If you check one or more subject headings in the **Required** column, only titles with ALL these subject headings will be retrieved. Additional headings checked in the **Desired** column ("nice to have") will further order your list by placing titles with the Desired subject headings at the top of the retrieved list.

**What You See (the new search results):**

A list of books with the subject heading(s) you selected is displayed. Browse the results list to find additional titles for you or your class!

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***NoveList* Search Aid:** **Using a Series Name to Find Other Books in the Series**



When: You want to look up all the titles in a series and/or view the titles in series order.

How:

1. Click the "Search Our Database" tab.
2. Select the "Find a Series Name" link.
3. At the Series Search page, enter information about the series you are searching for. *If you click the SEARCH button at this point, NoveList will search all reading levels (Adult, Young Adult, Children's, Easy). To narrow your search, click one or more levels and/or set any other limiters (page range, Lexile rating, publication year or format). When desired limiters are set, click SEARCH.*

TIPS: Entering Series Information:

- Not Case Sensitive - You can use either upper or lower case letters.
- Partial Titles Acceptable - You do not have to type the complete title (ex. "rising dark" will retrieve the titles for Susan Cooper's young adult series, The Dark is Rising series).
- Key Words from Title Acceptable - You do not have to enter all of the words in a title (ex. "niccolo" will retrieve Dorothy Dunnett's The House of Niccolo series).
- Primary Characters can be Entered - If you don't know the series name try entering the main character's name (ex. "Kay Scarpetta" will retrieve Patricia Cornwell's series featuring that popular character).
- Leading Articles Unnecessary - You do not have to type "A," "An," or "The" at the beginning.

What You See (the search results):

NoveList displays a list of titles linked to the series name you entered in series order.

4. View your results. You can print or e-mail this list.

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## ***NoveList* Search Aid: Using Describe a Plot to Find Books**



**When:** If you don't have an author or title in mind, use this search and describe the kind of book you want to read in your own words (as if you might if you were using a web search engine). This search matches the words you enter to *NoveList's* over 36,000 different subject headings, as well as to the text of reviews and descriptions. You can find books by searching for words that describe the genre, character(s), time periods, events, or settings you want to read about.

### **How:**

1. Click the "Search Our Database" tab.
2. Select the "Describe a Plot" link.
3. At the Describe a Plot Search page, enter words that describe the type of book you are looking for.

### **TIPS: Entering Descriptive Words:**

- You can use either upper or lower case letters (france OR France).
- *Many small words are STOP words (words that we do not search on) and are unneeded as part of the words you enter. Examples include "a," "an," and "the."*
- Identify words that describe the type of book you enjoy:
  - ◆ **Genre:** mystery, adventure, westerns, love stories, fantasy
  - ◆ **Character:** Indians, eleven year old boys, brothers, African-Americans
  - ◆ **Time Periods:** sixteenth century, Victorian, colonial, roman, prehistoric
  - ◆ **Events:** civil war, world war II, depression, gold rush
  - ◆ **Themes/Subjects:** courage, moving, survival, bible, wilderness, animals, awards (Newbery, YALSA, etc.)
  - ◆ **Setting:** south, Ohio, England, Boston, Africa, northwest

4. Set your limiters, including the reading levels that you want to search (or leave the default of no checks and *NoveList* will search ALL levels). Click SEARCH to begin the search.

### **What You See (the search results):**

*NoveList* displays a list of books whose title records contain all or some of the words you entered. The list is relevancy ranked, which means that the titles with the best match to all your search terms are at the beginning of the list. In other words, a large number of titles may be displayed, but the ones most likely to interest you will appear on the first page or two of results (similar to results from a web search engine).

Please note that re-sorting a relevancy ranked list may bring titles where the match is weak to the top of the list.

5. Browse through the list and read about the books by clicking on their links.

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**NoveList Search Aid:  
Using the Boolean Search to Find New Books to Read**



**When:** If you prefer Boolean logic as a searching method or would like to narrow your searching, use these steps in *NoveList*.

**How:**

1. Click the "Search Our Database" tab.
2. Select the "Boolean Search" link.
3. At the Guided Boolean Search page, in the first edit box, enter a descriptive word for a book you would like to read.

**TIPS: Using the Boolean Search:**

- You can use either upper or lower case letters (france OR France).
- *Many small words are STOP words (words that we do not search on) and are unneeded as part of the words you enter. Examples include "a," "an," and "the."*
- Use the "Review" field (see step 4 below) to search on reviews. You can search through reviews for "fast paced," "read aloud", or "starred reviews" as a few examples.
- Identify words that describe the type of book you enjoy:
  - ◆ **Genre:** mystery, adventure, westerns, science fiction, fantasy
  - ◆ **Character:** Indians, eleven year old boys, African-Americans
  - ◆ **Time Periods:** sixteenth century, Victorian, colonial, roman, prehistoric
  - ◆ **Events:** civil war, world war II, depression, gold rush
  - ◆ **Themes/Subjects:** courage, moving, survival, bible, wilderness, animals, awards (Newbery, YALSA, etc.)
  - ◆ **Setting:** south, Ohio, England, Boston, Africa, northwest

4. Using the drop down box, select the field you would like to search for the word entered in step 3 (or search all fields by using the default).

You can:

Or you can:

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                     |
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| <p>Drop down to the next line and add more descriptors by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Selecting the Boolean operator you would like to use in this search by using the drop down box.</li> <li>▪ Entering a descriptive word in the second edit box and choosing the field to be searched.</li> </ul> <p><i>(repeat the above steps, as needed)</i></p> | <p>Use only the top line and proceed to step 5.</p> |
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5. Set any desired limiters (reading level, page range, etc.).
6. Click SEARCH to begin the search.

**What You See (the search results):**

A list of books with title records matching your search criteria. Browse the results list to find your next book to read!

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***NoveList* Search Aid: Using the Article and List Search to Find Related Content**



When: In addition to *NoveList*'s rich database, *NoveList* has an abundance of content for readers, librarians, media specialists and teachers. What began as small projects to enhance our readers' experiences has developed into a large reservoir of material that is now sometimes hard to navigate due to its volume. *NoveList* offers a way to search all of its articles and lists including: Author Read-alikes, Book Discussion Guides, BookTalks, Feature Articles, School Curricular Materials, Readers' Advisory materials, Explore (genre) lists and Awards lists.

How:

1. Click the "Search Our Database" tab.
2. Select the "Article and List Search" link.
3. At the Article and List Search page, enter a theme, title or author for which you would like more information.

TIPS: Using the Article and List Search:

- You can use either upper or lower case letters (france OR France).
- You can enter any theme, name or title such as bullying, winter, Harry Potter, Lemony Snicket, Poisonwood Bible, Robert Courmier, etc. *NoveList* will retrieve any related content that contains what you entered.

Note that you can select the type of article or list that you want to search OR leave the default of "All Types" to search through all the content.

4. Click SEARCH to begin the search.

What You See (the search results):

A list of articles or lists that contain the search criteria that you entered in the find box. Note that the type of article is shown on the right hand side of the list. Browse the results list for articles or lists of interest. Remember that all lists and articles can be e-mailed and printed.

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