

American Antiquarian Society
Searching the AAS Catalog: Foundations
May 7, 2020

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85982603076?pwd=SUdtbGtDUEk4QTM1c012UEg1MDdSQ09>

Password: 245368

Link to reference sheet: <https://bit.ly/FoundationsMay7>

The AAS Catalog

- <http://catalog.mwa.org>
- Successor to the card catalog (<http://bit.ly/AASCatalogCards>)
- Searches exactly for what you tell it to
- Searches the information the cataloger gave it

Search results

Search: Sally Smith

Default is to show 10 records per page; can also show 25, 50, or 75

Can order search results by:

- Default (relevancy ranked, based on backend decisions)
- Author
 - o Titles without an identified author will be first, followed by titles with an author, A-Z
- Title
 - o Alphabetical by title
 - o Disregards articles (A, An, The)
 - Result 2: The American lady's pocket book, for the year 1817
- Publication date
 - o Titles from earliest to most recent
- Publication date descending
 - o Titles from most recent to earliest

If there are undated titles:

Search: Bailey

- Publication date
 - o Undated titles will be first, followed by titles from earliest to most recent
- Publication date descending
 - o Titles from most recent to earliest, followed by undated titles

Call number: Missing

- We use this when we can't locate an item
- 25 miles of shelving – sometimes items are misplaced
 - o When we find it, we take the Missing call number off and put in the call number

Note: use navigation buttons and links at the top of the search results: “Prev”, “Next”, “Edit search”, and “Back To Titles”.

In the record

Search: Sally Smith

Result 2: Pretty Sally.

Bibliographic information

- Taken from the item
- If in square brackets [], information was supplied by the cataloger

More About This Item

- Notes about the item that were made by the cataloger

Find Similar Items

- Hyperlinks that you can follow to find materials that have the same terms in them

Box on the right:

- Online version
 - o A lock indicates that it's to a website that require a subscription
- Action
- Page Display
 - o Display with Static URL (permalink)
 - o Record View (default)
 - o MARC View (behind the scenes; this is the cataloger's view)

Keyword searching

Keyword anywhere – searches for your search terms anywhere in the record

All of these (default search)

- Sally Smith, all of these, keyword anywhere
 - o 23 results
 - o Result 2: Pretty Sally.
 - Sally is in title
 - Smith is in Notes
 - o Result 5: Bardwell, David McGee. Letter
 - Smith and Sally are in Historical Background

Any of these

- Sally Smith, any of these, keyword anywhere
 - o >10000 search results, so search truncated
 - o Result 1: 100 years of diversified manufacture ...
 - Smith in title and in subjects
 - No Sally
 - o Result 37: An Acrostic on Sally Brewer Taylor
 - Sally in title and Notes
 - No Smith

As a phrase

- Use instead of quotation marks
- Sally Smith, as a phrase, keyword anywhere
 - o 4 results
 - o Result 2: Hung, strung & potted
 - By Sally Smith Booth

Title keyword

- Searches in titles
- Sally Smith, as a phrase, title keyword
 - o 1 result
 - A sermon, preached at the funeral of Miss Sally Smith

Name keyword

- Searches for people in creator roles and in provenance roles
 - o Sally Smith, all of these, name keyword
 - Result 4
 - Carol Goodspeed Smith as a donor
 - Sally Shurtleff as a former owner

Subject keyword

- Searches what a cataloger has identified a title as being about
 - o Sally Smith, any of these, subject keyword
 - Result 1: 100 years of diversified manufacture
 - Subject: Thomas Smith Company
 - Result 5: An Acrostic on Sally Brewer Taylor
 - Subject: Taylor, Sally Brewer, 1803-
 - o Cats, any of these, subject keyword

Note: capitalization, punctuation, and accents do not have to be included in the search

- Sally Smith has the same search results as sally smith
- children's has the same search results as childrens
- générale has the same search results as generale

Quick search bar

Available from:

- <https://catalog.mwa.org>
- On the navigation bar when you're in the catalog
- On the website – search bar in upper right, click Catalog tab

This is an “all of these, keyword anywhere” search

Quick search: Sally Smith

- 23 results

Searching for something I know

Title keyword

Cherokee hymn book (1866) (<https://bit.ly/CherokeeHymnBook>)

Cherokee hymn book, as a phrase, Title keyword

- 3 results

The best results are when you search for what's exactly on the title page.

Reynolds pamphlet (<https://bit.ly/ReynoldsPamphlet>)

- Reynolds pamphlet, all of these, Title keyword
 - o 0 results
- Reynolds pamphlet, all of these, Subject keyword
 - o 0 results
- Wikipedia – Hamilton-Reynolds affair
- The title is:
 - o Observations on certain documents contained in no. V & VI of "The history of the United States for the year 1796," in which the charge of speculation against Alexander Hamilton, late secretary of the Treasury, is fully refuted. Written by himself.
- Observations on Certain Documents Contained in No, as a phrase, title keyword
 - o 2 results

Tip: search just enough in a Title keyword to get what you need

Tip: if searching for a longer title, use “all of these” instead of “as a phrase”

- Observations on certain documents contained in no. V & VI of "The history of the United States for the year 1796," in which the charge of speculation against Alexander Hamilton, late secretary of the Treasury, is fully refuted, as a phrase, title keyword
 - o 0 results
- Observations on certain documents contained in no. V & VI of "The history of the United States for the year 1796," in which the charge of speculation against Alexander Hamilton, late secretary of the Treasury, is fully refuted, all of these, title keyword

- 2 results
- Why?
 - The information is entered in the catalog as Title : Subtitle / Authorship statement. An 'as a phrase' search doesn't search across the different sections – it searches for the phrase in the Title or the Subtitle, but not from the Title into the Subtitle.

Searching for something yet unknown to me

Links in records:

- Authors in the bibliographic information area
- Subjects, contributors, and provenance in the Find Similar Items area

In Observations on certain documents contained in no. V & VI

- Hamilton, Alexander, 1757-1804
 - To the alphabetical index of contributors in the catalog
 - Click to get other titles where Hamilton is a contributor
- United States—Politics and government—1781-1797
 - To the alphabetical index of subjects in the catalog
 - Click to get other titles where US Politics, 1789-1797 are the subjects

Find something like what you're interested in using a keyword anywhere search, and then use the hyperlinks

- Great Chicago, all of these, keyword anywhere
 - Result 3: The Chicago fire and the fire insurance companies
 - Subject: Great Fire, Chicago, Ill., 1871

MARC View

Tip: If you're getting a puzzling search result, look at MARC view.

Sally Smith, all of these, keyword anywhere

- Result 1: The American lady's pocket book, for the year 1817
 - MARC view
 - At bottom, Sally Smith

Robert Gordon, all of these, keyword anywhere

- Result 1: Address and reply, on the presentation of a testimonial ...
 - MARC view
 - At the bottom, a note about Robert Gordon