

Search Strategies and Tips

Search tips are found on the website:

Searching for words is not case sensitive
Searching for word1 word2 is assumed to be a Boolean "and" search, locating both words in one article.
Searching for "word1 word2" finds all results that contain that exact phrase.
Wild Cards are valid: wor* finds all words that begin with wor
Searching is not done on most common words, such as "the," or "all"
Be aware of historical vs. modern language and usage, for example: Indians vs. native Americans, medicine vs. medication vs. remedy, Indian schools vs. boarding schools

Keyword searching:

Keyword searching allows the researcher to choose to search articles, pictures or advertisements from the entire archive, or from a specific publication and a specific date range.

Search results can be sorted by a "score," (computer generated, as an attempt to prioritize the results of the search), by date ascending or descending, publication title, or word count.

After searching the entire archive, the researcher can note publication titles that appear routinely, and then search an individual publication for more specific information.

Searching individual newspapers:

This option allows the researcher to focus on a specific location and/or date range, as not all papers had a long publication run.

Searching by specific date:

Researchers may choose to search a specific date range, either with the entire archive, or within a specific publication title.

The date search option allows a researcher to view an entire issue of a specific publication; this option is helpful for the researcher in building **background knowledge** of an era, as you can see the topics of interest for a date, as well as the advertisements, all of which reveal a bit of the cultural milieu of an era.