

19th Century British Library Newspapers: A basic guide to searching

What is 19th Century British Library Newspapers?

The 19th Century British Library Newspapers collection contains full runs of 48 national and regional newspapers published in Great Britain in between 1800-1900.

Accessing 19th Century British Library Newspapers

The Wellcome Library offers free access to all registered Readers in the Library from any public PC within the Library. Just log-in with your card number and follow this link:

<http://catalogue.wellcome.ac.uk/record=e1000560~S8>

Searching 19th Century British Library Newspapers

Basic search

Type your keywords into the main entry box. This automatically searches in entire content of all articles. You can also add some search limiters.

Limiting your search

Too many results – try to use **AND**. This option retrieves only those articles that contain both keywords you specify.

e.g. morphine AND hydrophobia

No results - broaden your results – try to use **OR** – retrieves all articles that contain any of the words you specify.

e.g. morphine OR hydrophobia

NOT – excludes the word(s) you specify.

e.g. morphine NOT hydrophobia.

This is particularly useful if you do not want a keyword *hydrophobia* to be included in your search on *morphine*.

If you do not want to use exact matches to your keyword you can use **wildcards**, symbols that substitute one or more letters. This option is useful if you want to find singular and plural forms of a certain keyword, words with the same root and keywords that can be spelled in different ways.

Use an **asterisk (*)** to substitute any number of letters in a keyword. This will retrieve all words that share the same root.

e.g. midwi matches midwife, midwives, midwifery*

Use an **exclamation point (!)** after a word to retrieve singular and plural versions of a word.

e.g. product! matches product or products but not productive or productivity.

Use a **question mark (?)** to replace exactly one letter inside a keyword to search for cases where you are unsure of a spelling inside a keyword.

e.g. defen?e or psych????y

You can also select one of the following search limits:

- Search only for words in the title
- Limit by date of publication
- Limit by the theme of the piece, such as *people* category in advanced search.



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Viewing your results

- The results are again summarised at the top of the screen by category, followed by a citations list – sorted by the time of publishing
- You can sort your results by date, title and relevance
- Click on *Page* to view an article in context of other material from a page
 - It can be unclear from the title attached to the citation why the article has been included. Click into the article to find out. Your keywords are highlighted in green.
 - Occasionally during the OCR processing some of the words were recognized incorrectly. This is particularly true for the older issues where the quality of print and paper is poor.

Still too many results?

Try to refine your search by clicking *Previous Results* and *Revise* or you can select *Publication section* to narrow the results down.

Relevance search

Ranks articles by the number of times the keywords appear.

Advanced search

Combines earlier limits with a greater breakdown by categorisation, such as language or publication frequency. Try to select fuzzy search to avoid mistakes caused by misspelling or OCR scanning.

Browse by date

If you know which issue you need, go to *Publication Search* and enter relevant words from a title. Then you can browse the whole run.

History

Your search history can be displayed by clicking on *Previous Searches* at the top of the screen

Printing

Articles can be printed by clicking on *Print* at the top of the screen and you can choose two format options – HTML or PDF

E-mailing

Citations, not whole articles, can be emailed to your personal account. You will need to mark the records first and then go to *Marked Items*. Then you are able to type in your email address.

On some occasions the citations fail to arrive in your e-mail account. Please check your junk folder, as the email may have been blocked by your spam filter.

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Other resources available in the Wellcome Library

British Newspapers 1600-1900, including 17-18th Century Burney Collection Newspapers

ProQuest UK Newsstand – <http://catalogue.wellcome.ac.uk/record=e1000096~S8>

Eighteenth Century Collections Online - <http://catalogue.wellcome.ac.uk/record=e1000335~S8>

The Lancet – <http://catalogue.wellcome.ac.uk/record=b1310681~S7>

Further help

Click Help - Search or Help index in the blue margin on the left side of all the screens for further guidance.

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