USING PRIMO

Use The Library Discovery Tool for Finding Books and Articles
Primo: the Library Catalog and Discovery Tool

Primo searches for books & more!
- GMU library catalog (books and journal titles) for Law and all other libraries
- Resources drawn from all university subscription databases (including full text journal articles)
- Electronic journals
- Newspapers
- Legal documents
- Other scholarly content

Sign in to Primo for these benefits...
- View your search history!
- Create favorites list
- Export citation to Zotero
- View full search results. (Some databases only show results if you are signed in.)
The Basics

There are a number of access points for Primo. From the Law Library’s main page and elsewhere on the website, look for the search box. Running a search within the box will query all available libraries and content.

Note, in some instances this may generate a considerable number of results.

The filters on the left column of the results page may help with narrowing large lists.
Searching: What to plug in?

You can search Primo the same way that you search most search engines and other online tools by entering the key words.

Type one or more keywords and then click the Search button. The system will automatically look for all terms entered.

Adding terms will narrow the focus, unless the search is formatted as noted below.
Searching with more control

The following search methods work in Primo:

- Gain control of your search by using Boolean connectors. Primo understands **AND, OR, and NOT**.

- Connectors must be in Capital letters to be understood. Searching *(pattern OR model) "jury instructions"* will find both pattern jury instructions and model jury instructions.

- Primo assumes user intends **AND** if no operators are included.

- Use parentheses to group terms. Search **contract (void OR breach)** to find results with contract and either void or breach.

- Put quotation marks around words meant to be searched as a phrase, e.g., **“state jurisdiction”**.

- Wildcards can be used to replace a character or find multiple variations of a specified root word:
  - Use ? for a single character, e.g., **wom?n** to search for strings woman or women.
  - Use * for multiple characters, e.g., **liab*** finds liable or liability.
Advanced search

To access the advanced search template, click on the Advanced Search link that is listed below the search box or use this link:

https://wrlc-gm.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01WRLC_GML:01WRLC_GML&search_scope=MyInst_and_CI&mode=advanced

The Advanced form is easy to use, though it has a number of options.
Advanced search (cont.)

A. Choose the collection to search:
- Mason Catalog limits the search to GMU books, e-books and media in our collections.
- Mason Catalog + Articles and More expands this search to other online sources like JSTOR, Medline and others.
- WRLC Catalogs covers all of the libraries of the Washington Research Library Consortium.

B. Select specific fields to focus the results. Explore the different options to see how much control you have over the search.

C. Use the search type dropdown to choose how your terms appear in the results. They can appear as the first words, as a phrase, or as words anywhere in the specified field(s).

D. Combine more than one term or search string to generate a more precise list.
Searching for a journal?
There are a couple of different ways to search for a journal title.

Entering the journal name in the search box works, but it may also pull up extra results.

The main search box has a link marked e-journals which pulls up the journal finder tool.

You will find links to online full text sources within the Primo records, where applicable.

The advanced search template has a tab marked journal search, which also lands at the journal finding tool. The link is near the top and center.
Need additional help?

For help using Primo, doing research or questions about library resources and services, you can:

- Drop by the Reference office on the first floor of the Library.
- Call the Reference hotline, (703)993-8076.
- Email the librarians at lawref@gmu.edu.