

Because DELCAT Discovery is designed to expose researchers to related content that might be helpful, and because it searches items owned by libraries around the world, finding a specific item can sometimes be tricky. This video will show you some tricks that you can use when searching for known items. Giving DELCAT Discovery very specific directions by using search commands, is the key to getting specific results.

In the following search, notice the many different results that come up when searching for a title without using any search command. However, when adding in commands such as quotation marks, which tell the system to search for this as an exact phrase, more specific - and sometimes more relevant - items can be found.

The book version of "A Game of Thrones" rises to the top of our results, and there are many related items displayed here, including television series, graphic novels, and more, which have the same - or similar - titles. If you only wish to see one type of format, use the format options to limit your results to just one type of resource. Notice how our search has been entered at the top of the screen. When we selected "Title" at the beginning of our search, TI: was entered into the system, which commands DELCAT Discovery to search for these words as keywords within the title first, and then search for keywords in other areas of the record, such as the table of contents.

Because we are not only searching words in the title, this means we may occasionally see puzzling results like this one, [The Life of Thomas More book is on display] in which the title does not match, but keywords are present somewhere in the record. [The words "Games" and "Throne" are circled in the record's "Contents" section.]

Consult the search tips section of the DELCAT Discovery guide, for more search commands that can help you to search for specific authors and subject keywords. If you find that using TI: to search for keywords within the title field isn't working for you, you can also try to search an exact title by using the TI= command. This will search for content only in the title field. Note how this small change to the search command has changed your results. Now everything that is included has "Game of Thrones" in the title field.

In all of the previous examples, the desired item has been returned as the first record within many other results, but what if you don't see the item that you're looking for at all? Let's say you want to see if the Library has this book [Ian Stewart's "Nature's Numbers" book is displayed]. First, make sure you have typed in the whole title, without spelling errors. It sometimes happens that items share part, or all of their titles, so try to be specific.

Another snag that you may run into is that you may not see the book that you are seeking in the results at all. In this case, try re-sorting your results. DELCAT Discovery preferences items held here at UD, so if you do not see your item at first, check to see if it is held at another library, by switching the drop-down sort menu to "Relevance Only". If you still do not see your book, try Google or Amazon to verify that you have the correct title, spelling or author name--if you are searching by author.

There are many other ways to make DELCAT Discovery work for you. If you're having trouble finding what you need, please contact a Librarian for help by clicking on "Ask the Library" on the home page, or by visiting us at the Reference Desk.