

Public Library Market: Demo Searches for NoveList

There are six demonstration searches as well as key points on other content available in NoveList. Note that the below scenarios are covered in the NoveList Learning Center with step-by-step solutions and highlighted screen shots of NoveList for each step. To view the sample searches in the Learning Center: Access NoveList; select the "Learning Center" link from the left hand margin of any page in NoveList. At the homepage of the Learning Center, select the Sample Searches.

NOTE: All searches below assume that you have accessed NoveList, clicked on the START button at the "Welcome to NoveList" page, and are at the Search Selection page.

SEARCH #1:

Scenario: I love John Grisham's books like *The Brethren* or *The Client*. I've read all of his works and want to find some more books like my favorites.

Steps:

Search: Find a Favorite Author

Enter: grisham

Set Limiters: Adult level

Results and Comments: NoveList displays all the titles by the author you entered at the level(s) selected. At this time, you can select a favorite title from the list by clicking on the title link (select *Brethren*). The title record for the book displays. This is what NoveList "knows" about your title. Click "Find Similar Books" button. Click on the CLEAR button (optional) and then select 'legal thrillers' as a Required heading. Click SEARCH. A list of books with the subject heading you selected is displayed. Patrons can browse the results list to find the next book to read.

SEARCH #2:

Scenario: A friend of yours has told you about a romance author that she really enjoyed. The author wrote a series of titles that involved time travel in Scotland. The author's first name is Diana and the last name is Gaba something. Your friend said the books came out about 10 years ago.

Steps:

Search: Find a Favorite Author

Enter: gaba*

Set Limiters: Adult level

Results and Comments: NoveList displays titles by Diana Gabaldon. Select a favorite title (*Outlander*) from the list by clicking on the title link. The title record for the book displays. This is what NoveList "knows" about your title. If you want to demonstrate how to find additional titles like *Outlander*, click the "Find Similar Books" button. Point out how many subject headings there are and click on the CLEAR button to remove the

checkmarks. Select 'love stories' and 'Scotland' as **required** fields and 'time travel (past)' as **desired** headings you want to search on. Click SEARCH. A list of books that have 'love stories' and 'Scotland' somewhere in the record will be retrieved. The titles retrieved may or may not also include time travel (since that was a desired heading).

SEARCH #3:

Scenario: A reader has come in looking for a mystery that she read last year. It was by a woman author and she thinks the title was *Track of the Storm* or at least had some of those words in the title. She would like to read the book again and also find some other similar titles.

Steps:

Search: Find a Favorite Title

Enter: track storm

Set Limiters: Adult level

Results and Comments: The title *Storm Track* is displayed. Select the link to view the title record. This is what NoveList "knows" about your title. If your patron was only trying to find this title, the search is complete. If they wanted to find other titles like this title, you can select "Find Similar Books" and use 'mystery stories' and 'women detectives' as required fields and 'North Carolina' as a desired heading. Click the SEARCH button and NoveList will retrieve titles that have BOTH 'mystery stories' and 'women detectives' as heading and may or may not have 'North Carolina' as a subject heading.

SEARCH #4:

Scenario: A friend has heard about a series of books called the House of Niccolo. The books are set in Europe during the 15th century. You read the series a while ago and do not remember all the titles in it (and there may be additional titles that you have not read). You would like a list of the series titles in publication order, if possible.

Steps:

Search: Find a Series Name

Enter: house of nic*

(in case you can't remember how to spell Niccolo)

Set Limiters: Adult level

Results and Comments: The titles linked to the House of Niccolo series name are displayed. The titles are listed in publication date order, latest date first. We realize this is not quite the same as series order but we are working to improve this listing. Point out that if the user doesn't know the series name, they can enter a series' character name to find a series (examples: Stephanie Plum, Alex Delaware, Kay Scarpetta, Nate the Great).

SEARCH #5:

Scenario: A teacher in the local elementary school wants some recent books that she can read aloud to her class on the subject of seasons.

Steps:

Search: Describe a Plot

Enter: 'read aloud seasons'

Set Limiters: select Easy and Children's levels, 2000 to 2002 in Publication Date range

Results and Comments: A relevancy ranked list of titles whose title record contains all or some of the words you entered. Note: Based on the information entered at the search page, NoveList retrieved titles that were Easy or Children's levels with publication dates between 2000 and 2002 (recent titles requested in the scenario).

SEARCH #6:

Scenario: An adult reader who enjoys books by John Irving is looking for additional titles with characteristics similar to those of Irving's works.

Steps:

Search: Boolean

Enter: *john irving* in **Reviews** (drop down menu at right end of line) in first line;
not as the operator (drop down box at left end of second line); *irving* and
Author in second line

Set Limits: Adult level

Results and Comments: Style related questions are difficult. This search draws on the information contained in some reviews to help you address them. A list of titles is retrieved where Irving appears in the review ("reads like a John Irving novel" for example) but Irving is not the author of the novel. Browse the results list to find your next book to read.

More information on searching reviews in NoveList is contained in the January 2002 NoveList Note ("Using Reviews to Find New Titles") available by clicking on the NoveList Notes link on the NoveList homepage.

OTHER CONTENT TO DEMONSTRATE:

Best Fiction – Point out that there are over 200 awards tracked and kept up to date by NoveList. Select Adult or Young Adult and then select Literary to get a list of the Literary awards tracked by NoveList. Select any of the award titles to show the listing of books available for that list.

Explore Fiction – There are over 1200 pre-defined lists by genre or topic at all four of the reading levels. Most genres are broken into subgenres (For example, Science Fiction is sub-divided into over 50 sub-genres including Cyberpunk and Aliens Among Us).

Author Read-alikes – Make sure that you demonstrate this extremely popular new feature of NoveList. Begun in the Spring of 2002, there are already over 40 read-likes with more added monthly. These read-likes are like no other lists because they provide a detailed description of the appeal factors of the author and then build a list based on the defined factors. Select this link and browse through the list of authors and make sure you show at least one.

Book Discussion Guides - Guides for selected titles at both the Adult and Young Adult levels. They include everything a book discussion leader needs; author bio, summary of the book, discussion provoking questions with suggested answers and additional titles like the book being reviewed. If you have time, page through a guide.

BookTalks – Provided for both children’s and young adult titles, book talks are short enticing descriptions of books designed to capture the interest of young readers. Booktalking is a popular strategy for interesting young adults in reading. Other uses for book talks include printing them out to use as shelf-talkers, as part of a bulletin board or to make a book display more informative and visually interesting.

Feature Articles – An eclectic mix of short articles, author interviews, activities, and thematic lists. Organized by genre, level and theme, Feature Articles provide another way to explore fiction.

Note: Research shows that bibliographies and booklists increase circulation but you might not have time to make as many of these as you or your patrons want. NoveList’s feature articles are a source of ready-made bibliographies and booklists. NoveList’s editors write fiction related material **just for our users**. Our articles are based on popular topics or trends in fiction. If you see “NoveList/EBSCO Publishing @ 2002” (or any other date) information listed in the top right hand corner of the article, you can print these out and use them in your library.

For Staff Only – Provided for both the public library and school personnel, these links access tools and training material on specific topics of interest developed by experts for our customers. Much of the material is downloadable and free to our customers.

As the LJ article points out, training is the key to doing a better job of serving our fiction readers. NoveList’s staff in cooperation with several library partners has developed a variety of training materials for you to use to expand your knowledge of books, and to assist you in serving readers. If you have time to demonstrate:

- -Click on “For Staff Only – Resources for Public Library Staff” *Point out that the materials are divided into materials for libraries and materials for schools.*
- Show the list and ask if there is any topic in particular that anyone wants to see. Otherwise show a couple.

- CLICK: “Booktalking: Selling Books to Teenagers” *Point out that this and any materials in these sections showing “NoveList/EBSCO Publishing ©” can be printed out and used for training or enrichment.*

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Note: If you have any questions on NoveList features, use the Site Map in the NoveList Learning Center (<http://novelist.epnet.com/nlc/home.htm>) where there is detailed information on the following topics and more. (The Learning Center link is on the left hand margin of every page of NoveList.)

- Alerts
- Alphabetical Lists for Authors, Titles, Series, and Subjects used in NoveList
- Boolean Operators
- Boolean Searches (Freehand Boolean, Guided Boolean)
- Constructing a Search
- Data Entering Tips for Author, Title, Series, Describe or Boolean
- Desired and Required Fields - Find Similar Books
- Key Word List for Authors, Titles, Series, and Subjects used in NoveList
- Lexiles
- Limit Your Results (Reading Level, Lexiles, Publisher Date, Number of Pages)
- Margins in NoveList (Feedback, Options, Links, Personal List, etc.)
- Minimizing or Closing the NLC window
- Personal List
- Personal Login (how to)
- Personal Login - Using as part of your Readers' Advisory Services
- Personalization
- Printable Search Aids
- Proximity
- Quiz
- Reading Level Default
- Related Terms
- Relevancy Ranking
- Sample Searches - NLC
- Sample Searches - Schools
- Saved Lists
- Saved Searches
- Search History
- Subject Headings
- Troubleshooting Tips for Author, Title, Series, Describe
- Truncation (Wild cards)