PRIMO: the Basics of finding electronic materials on the UCT Catalogue

PRIMO is a tool for searching across the UCT library book catalogue, including Electronic Books, as well as a <u>selection</u> of our databases of full text journal articles, all with one query.



You can find it on the library homepage at www.lib.uct.ac.za

In this example I am going to do a search in my own favourite discipline, the Sociology of Literature – (the study of literature *as a reflection of its society*), and a very nice topic for bridging both the Arts and the Social Sciences it is too.

I am going to look for a particular author - Nontsizi Mgqwetho.

This quick search brings up the physical copies of books that we have of her work, as well as and electronic books and articles *about* her work. ©



Clicking on the TITLE of the top record takes me to the records for the printed books and gives me the shelf number so I can find them on the shelves: It says the book is available at the African Studies Library and other locations.

BUT - on the search screen you can use a drop-down arrow to search only for electronic journal articles or electronic books or reference works.



In this example, restricting the search to Articles & other Electronic Resources, the top results are for electronic journal articles...

Nontsizi Mgqwetho	X Articles & other E-resources - Advanced search	^
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Author/Creator 🗸	My Pen Is the Tongue of a Skilful Poet: African- Christian Identity and the Poetry of Nontsizi	
Resource Type 🗸 🗸	Mgqwetho Brown, Duncan	
Databases 🗸	English in Africa, 2004 May, Vol.31(1), pp.23-58[Peer Reviewed Journal] & Available Online >	PAGE 1

And further down we have an electronic encyclopaedia entry for her, also available online.

Tweak your results 'Modern Prophets, Produce a New Bible': Christianity, ▲ Expand Results to items not held by UCT Arricanness and the Poetry of Nontsizi Mgqwetho Image: Current Writing: Text and Reception in Southern Africa, 2008 Oct, Vol.20(2), pp.77-91[Peer Reviewed Journal] Sort by Relevance ✓ Availability ✓ Available online ✓ Peer-reviewed ✓ Subject ✓ Available Online ✓ ✓ Available Online ✓ Maggwetto, Nontsizi Maggwetto, EAL0433 Mgqwetto, Nontsizi b. South Africa poet Not much Nontsizi Mgqwetto, EAL0433 Mgqwetto, Nontsizi b. South africa poet Not much Nontsizi Mgqwetto, EAL0433 Mgqwetto, Nontsizi b. South africa poet Not much Nontsizi Mgqwetto, EAL0433 Mgqwetto, Nontsizi b. South africa poet Not much Nontsizi Mgqwetto, EAL0433 Mgqwetto, Nontsizi b. South africa poet Not much Nontsizi Mgqwetto, EAL0433 Mgqwetto, Nontsizi b. South y	
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If I click on the title I will be taken to a full record for the article or electronic book, and a link to the database on which it lives:

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And so to download the article:

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Current Volume 20	Writing: Text and Reception in Southern Africa > 0, 2008 - Issue 2	Adva
43 Views 2 CrossRef citations 0 Altmetric	Original Articles **Modern prophets, produce a new bible*: Christianity, Africanness and the poetry of Nontsizi Mgqwetho Durcan Brown Pages 77-91 Published online: 01 Jun 2011 ** Download citation ** https://doi.org/10.1080/1013929X.2008.9678302	Full accet
GI Select Language V Translator disclaimer	Abstract In this article I consider how one might approach the apparently singular figure of Nontsizi Mgqwetho, a Xhosa woman who produced an extraordinary series of Christian <i>izibongo</i> in newspapers in the 1920s: through what kind of language, from what critical perspective, might one think and write about her? There have been various attempts to write about Mgqwetho, and there are certain obvious possibilities in terms of approach and methodology, which I explore briefly, but I want to suggest a mode of reading which provides a richer, more engaged and	

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Langua		Chicago/Turabian (16th edition) Mgqwetho. Current Writing: Text and Reception in Southern Africa, 20(2). doi:10.1080/1013929X.2008.9678302
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Or, even better, it allows me to send the record to a program like RefWorks or Endnote, which does my citing for me, automatically, at the touch of a button....

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The left-hand side of the screen has all sorts of options for refining or restricting your results:

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The most useful are probably Peer-reviewed Journals (the most respectable journals, I which every article is vetted by other academics), Subject or Resource type:

If you are getting too many results – and PRIMO can bring up *a lot* of results – you can use an Advanced Search to search more precisely:

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And if you are looking *for a very specific book, journal or article* – for example from a reading list - PRIMO has a *Find By Citation* form which can help you find exactly that reference. I'll use a good social science example here:

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Just put in as much information as you have on the reference:

Shaffer, P., 1998. Gender, poverty and deprivation: evidence from the Republic of Guinea. *World Development*, 26(12), pp.2119-2135.

Find a specific journal article, journal or book by citation information. For best results, include a title, ISSN, ISBN, DOI or PMID.

Article 🔿 Book	🔘 Journal	
Article Title Gender, poverty and depriva	Journal Title World Development	
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Author Last Name Shaffer	Author First Name	Author Initials P
Publisher	Publication Date	

And this will bring it up in both print and electronic versions:

	Gender, poverty and deprivation: evidence from the Republic of Guinea Shaffer P ISSN: 0305-750X World development., 1998, Vol.26(12)	*
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	Abstract The article examines the relationship between gender and consumption poverty and between gender and deprivation in					
	the Republic of Guinea. National household survey data reveal that women are not more likely than men to be consumption poor or to suffer greater consumption poverty.	Citing articles (14)				

A digression into Boolean Searching

It is possible to create very precise searches just using keywords.

The trick is to combine them with *Boolean Operators*, *wildcards and brackets*. Most of our databases, including our library catalogue, take Boolean operators.

Consider this search string:

(child* OR wom?n OR gender) AND poverty AND Africa* NOT "African American"

The * is a wildcard – it calls up anything that follows the root "child" – so it will being up child and children or childhood.....

The ? is a mid-word wildcard - calls up women and woman...

The OR expands you options – women or gender must come up in the results, it doesn't matter which....

The (brackets) keep the OR words together and relate them to the AND which follows – otherwise the search would call up anything to do with women, regardless of whether it had to do with poverty and Africa....

Any words linked with AND must be included in the search results - OR broadens a search, AND tightens it.

NOT excludes a term. *Be careful of this*. First search without it, to get an idea of what you are missing.

"Inverted commas" enclose a precise phrase.

To use Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT) in PRIMO, you must enter them in CAPITAL LETTERS, otherwise PRIMO ignores them.

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Don't forget that you can restrict the search to electronic journal articles or electronic books only, using the drop-down arrow – *useful if you are off-campus*.

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