



Wichita State University Libraries

Philosopher's Index

What it is.

The Philosopher's Index is a database indexing scholarly articles from journals and proceedings as well as books. It includes material published from 1940 to the present and primarily covers these areas of philosophy: Aesthetics, Axiology, Epistemology, Ethics, Logic, Metaphilosophy, Metaphysics, Philosophical Anthropology, Philosophy of Education, Philosophy of History, Philosophy of Language, Philosophy of Religion, Philosophy of Science, Political Philosophy, and Social Philosophy. While this is not a full-text database, you may be able to link to full text if the library subscribes to the electronic version of the journal you need. Where electronic full text is not available, you can check the WSU Libraries Catalog or request an Interlibrary Loan.

How to use it.

Access the Philosopher's Index from the Wichita State University Libraries homepage (<http://library.wichita.edu>). Click the link to **Electronic Databases**, then click **By Title**. Then find and click on **Philosopher's Index**. You will be routed to CSA Illumina, with the Philosopher's Index as the selected database. By default you will be in Quick Search mode. For more options, click on the Advanced Search tab.

CSA ILLUMINA
Discover one of the major potential threats to today's

Logout Quick Search **Advanced Search** Search Tools Browse 0 Marked Records | Search History | Alerts Help & Support

Add Row | Remove Row

and	(or		or)	Anywhere	▼
and	(or		or)	Anywhere	▼
and	(or		or)	Anywhere	▼

Search Tips: e.g., wildcard*, exact phrase; use Keywords for a single search of Title, Abstract, Descriptors

Search Clear

Now Selected: **Philosopher's Index**

Change: Subject Area or Specific Databases

Date Range: Earliest to 2007

Limited to: Latest Update Journal Articles Only English Only

Show: Short format Results per page: 50

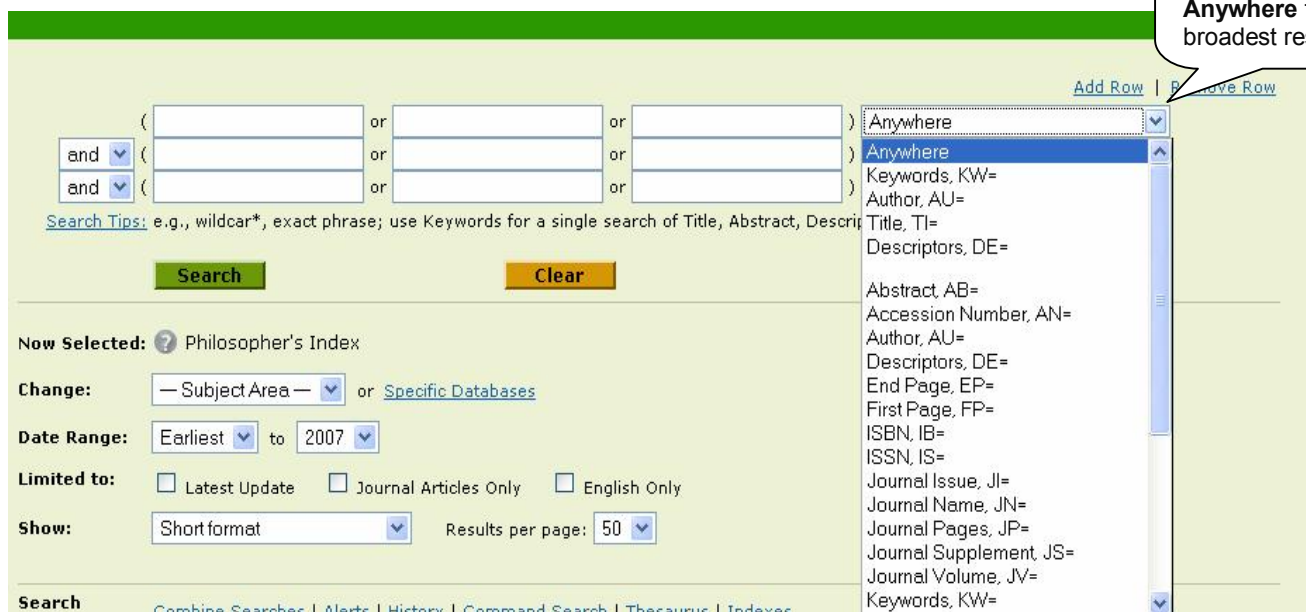
Search Tools: Combine Searches | Alerts | History | Command Search | Thesaurus | Indexes

I like to switch the Results per page from 10 to 50 – less clicking from page to page. Not recommended for dial-up connections.

As you can see, the Boolean (and/or/not) operators in CSA Illumina work both vertically and horizontally. Use the ORs in the rows to search related terms. Use the ANDs in the first column to include terms in your search, or switch them to NOT to exclude terms. You can also change the operator to OR to broaden your search. The pull-down menu at the end of each row can be used to limit the search to a particular type.

There are 26 ways to search each row, and you have the option of adding rows. Remember, though, that sometimes using too many search terms will produce overly-narrow results – or no results at all. The five most common searches, Anywhere, Keyword, Author, Title, and Descriptors (subjects) are listed first. Scroll down to review all of the various options.

Some of the types of searches you can do. Use **Anywhere** for the broadest results.



Searching is not case sensitive. If you enter multiple words into one search box and place quotation marks around them (e.g., “Hegelian theory”) they will be searched as a phrase. Use the asterisk (*) for truncation, that is, to search various forms of a word: marx* will find Marx, marxism, marxist, etc. The asterisk is also used within words to find variant spellings or irregular word forms: behavi*r, wom*n. For more searching tips, click the Help & Support link.

Here's an example of a search that uses Boolean operators:

The screenshot shows a search interface with a green header and a light green background. At the top, there are navigation tabs: "Quick Search", "Advanced Search", "Search Tools", and "Browse". A "Help & Support" link is in the top right. Below the tabs is a search form with three rows of input fields. The first row contains "(atheis*" or "agnostic*" or ") Anywhere". The second row contains "and (ethic*" or " or ") Anywhere". The third row contains "and (" or " or ") Anywhere". Below the form are "Search" and "Clear" buttons. A "Search Tips" link is provided. Below the search form, it says "Now Selected: ? Philosopher's Index". There are "Change:" options for "Subject Area" and "Specific Databases". A "Date Range:" section is circled in red, showing "Earliest" to "2008". Below that, "Limited to:" options include "Latest Update", "Journal Articles Only", and "English Only" (checked). A "Show:" section has "Short format" and "Results per page: 30". At the bottom, "Search Tools:" includes links for "Combine Searches", "Alerts", "History", "Command Search", "Thesaurus", and "Indexes".

In this search, all variations of the words *atheist/m* or *agnostic* will be searched, and at least one of these terms will appear somewhere in the results. In addition, any variation of *ethic* will appear in each result. Note also that this search is limited to articles, books, or chapters written in English. If you want results published only recently, or during a certain set of years, you can change the Date Range.

The screenshot shows search results for "143 results found for: (atheis* or agnostic*) and ethic* in ? Philosopher's Index". A green bar at the top indicates "Published Works 143". Below that, a navigation bar shows "All Publication Types 143" circled in red, with sub-categories: "Journals 88", "Peer-Reviewed Journals 67", "Books 47", and "Chapters/Essays 8". There are links for "Mark" or "Clear all on page", "Update Marked List", "Copy", "Print", and "Email". The "Sort by:" dropdown is set to "Most Recent First" with a "Go" button. Below the navigation bar, there are "Previous" and "Next" buttons, and a "Record #" field with a "Go" button. The results list includes:

- 1. **The Autonomy of Ethics** by Brink, David O. **Martin, Michael.** (2007). *The Cambridge Companion to Atheism*, Martin, Michael (ed). (pp. 149-165). Cambridge: Cambridge Univ Pr. ... assumption that a commitment to the objectivity of *ethics* is possible only on a religious foundation. Adapting Socrates' famous discussion of related assumptions in Plato's Euthyphro, I critically examine and reject this assumption, defending ... [View Record](#) | [Check Your Library](#) | [WSU Interlibrary Loan](#) | [Link to Full Text](#)
- 2. **Justice in the Belmont Report & The Social Division of Labor in Newsletter on Philosophy and Medicine**. Rosamond Rhodes and Mark Sheldon (eds) London, Alex John **American Philosophical Association Newsletters**, vol. 05, no. 2, pp. 5-10, Spring 2006 ... it has been treated as the last virtue of research *ethics*. Using the *Belmont Report* as a case study, this paper argues that research *ethics* suffers from a lingering parochialism about issues of justice. It further argues ... [View Record](#) | [Check Your Library](#) | [WSU Interlibrary Loan](#) | [Link to Full Text](#)
- 3. **Being Grateful for Being: Being, Reverence and Finitude**

Each result shows the "Database: Philosopher's Index" and "Descriptors" such as *Ethics*, *Naturalism*, *Religion*, *Voluntarism*, *Agnosticism*, *Belmont Report*, *Biomedical Research*, *Ethics*, *Justice*, and *Parochialism*. There are also "Discovery Links" for "Images, Definitions, etc."

At the time of this writing, the search above yielded 143 results, or records. Note the breakdown of the results: 88 journal articles, of which 67 are peer-reviewed; 47 books; and 8 chapters or essays. Selecting any of those tabs will show only results of that type.

Let's take a closer look at a record.

The screenshot shows a search record for the article "Ethics in Technological Culture: A Pragmatist Approach" by Keulartz, Jozef; Schermer, Maartje; and K. The record includes the title, authors, and a snippet of the abstract. Below the abstract, there are several links: "View Record", "Check Your Library", "WSU Interlibrary Loan", and "Full-text". A callout box points to the "360 Link to Full Text" icon, stating: "Clicking on the 360 Link will open the article in full text if available. It also guides you through the process of getting articles that are not available in full text." To the right of the record, there are "Database:" and "Descriptors:" sections. The "Descriptors:" section lists "Applied Ethics", "Ethics", "Pragmatism", "Science", and "Technology". A callout box points to these descriptors, stating: "Descriptors are similar to subject headings. Clicking on one will initiate a search." Below the descriptors, there is a "Discovery Links" section with a sub-link for "Images, Definitions, etc.". A callout box points to this section, stating: "Discovery Links are related resources provided by Philosopher's Index. Often turn up nothing."

Where the terms we searched for appear they are highlighted, in this case, in the abstract and in the **Descriptors**. If one of the Descriptors seems more appropriate for your search, click on it. It will perform a new search which you can then combine with your current search (more on that later).

There are two new features in the Philosopher's Index: **360 Link to Full Text** and **Discovery Links**. Discovery Links are meant to link to related content such as Images or Definitions. As of now, there seems to be very little content being linked to.

360 Link to Full Text will bring you directly to an article *if the library subscribes to the specific year and issue of that journal electronically*. Where this is not the case, the 360 Link page has options to help you search the WSU catalog or request the item from Interlibrary Loan.

Now, suppose you want to narrow your search to find information on atheism or agnosticism and *applied ethics*. As mentioned above, click on the "Applied Ethics" Descriptor. This performs a search for applied ethics, but not the terms from your original search. To get what you need you must **combine searches**. Scroll down to the bottom of the search results page to find the **Combine Searches** link, or select the **Search Tools** tab at the top of the page (where you will find the **Combine Searches** link).

Combining produces a history of any searches you have done during the session:

Combine Searches Alerts History Command Search Thesaurus Indexes

New Search: #1 and #2
[Search Tips: \(#3 or #2\) and new term](#)

Now Selected: Philosopher's Index

Change: or [Specific Databases](#)

Date Range: to

Limited to: Latest Update Journal Articles Only English Only

Show: Results per page:

[Create Desktop Shortcut to CSA Illumina](#)

Search History

Search #2
 DE=("applied ethics")
 255 results found in Philosopher's Index
 Date Range: Earliest to Current

Search #1
 (atheis* or agnostic*) and ethic*
 143 results found in Philosopher's Index
 Date Range: Earliest to 2008
 Limited to: Published Works Only; English Only

And the number of articles produced by this combination is ...

Published Works 1

in Types 1 Journals 1 Peer-Reviewed Journals 1

[Search all on page](#) | [Update Marked List](#) | [Save, Print, Email](#)

Sort by:

Record #

◀ Previous 1 Next ▶

[Ethics in Technological Culture: A Programmatic Proposal for a Pragmatist Approach](#)
 Keulartz, Jozef; Schermer, Maartje; Korthals, Michiel (& others)
Science, Technology, and Human Values, vol. 29, no. 1, pp. 3-29, Winter 2004
 Neither traditional philosophy nor current applied *ethics* seem able to cope adequately with the highly dynamic character of our modern technological culture. This is because they have insufficient insight into the moral significance of technological ...
[View Record](#) | [Check Your Library](#) | [WSU Interlibrary Loan](#) | [Full-Text](#) | [Link to Full Text](#)

Database: Philosopher's Index
Descriptors: [Applied Ethics](#) | [Ethics](#) | [Pragmatism](#) | [Science](#) | [Technology](#)

Discovery Links
[Images, Definitions, etc.](#)

◀ Previous 1 Next ▶ Record #

Show Results per page:

Exactly one. This would seem to indicate one of two possibilities: either your topic is too narrow and you need to rework it, or you've discovered an opportunity to conduct original research!

Also, why doesn't the record above show our search terms *atheis** or *agnostic**? Click on the title of the article to see the full abstract.

Abstract Neither traditional philosophy nor current applied *ethics* seem able to cope adequately with the highly dynamic character of our modern technological culture. This is because they have insufficient insight into the moral significance of technological artifacts and systems. Here, much can be learned from recent science and technology studies (STS). They have opened up the black box of technological developments and have revealed the intimate intertwining of technology and society in minute detail. However, while applied *ethics* is characterized by a certain "technology blindness," the most influential approaches within STS show a "normative deficit" and display an *agnostic* or even antagonistic attitude toward *ethics*. To repair the blind spots of both applied *ethics* and STS, the authors sketch the contours of a pragmatist approach. They will explore the tasks and tools of a pragmatist *ethics* and pay special attention to the exploration of future worlds disclosed and shaped by technology and the management of deep value conflicts inherent to a pluralist society.

There it is. Now you can decide whether or not this is an article you'd like to read.

What if I can't think of search terms?

You can try searching a fairly broad term and see if any of the Descriptors can help you find the appropriate search term. The Reference Librarians can help, too.

The Philosopher's Index is a sophisticated database, and there are other features, such as alerts and saving searches, that are not discussed in this handout. If you would like to know more about them, read the Help & Support documentation or ask a Reference Librarian. You can reach us by phone (978-3584); by chat (Yahoo IM ID: wu_knows; MSN Messenger ID: wu_knows@hotmail.com; AOL IM ID: wuknows2); by e-mail via the Web (<http://library.wichita.edu/cybrarian.html>); or in person at the Reference Desk. We are always happy to help!

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