

Current or Controversial Issues

Book Series

At Issue – Presents opposing arguments on a range of controversial topics. Individual title examples include *Homeland Security*, *Teen Smoking*, and *Reality TV*.

Contemporary Issues Companion – Provides overviews of popular issues and often includes personal narratives and case studies. Recent examples of individual titles include *Schizophrenia*, *Death Penalty*, and *Extraterrestrial Life*.

Contemporary World Issues - Each volume of this continuing series summarizes the main issues surrounding a current issue. Individual title examples include *Forest Conservation Policy*, *Women in Prison*, and *Police Misconduct in America*.

Current Controversies – Titles within this series contain collections of materials from magazines, journals, newspapers, books, government publications, and other resources. Also presents opposing viewpoints.

Health Reference Series - Concise information on current health research for the layperson. Examples of individual titles include *Stress-Related Disorders Sourcebook*, *Depression Sourcebook*, and *Alternative Medicine Sourcebook*.



Ideas in Conflict - Though this series includes fewer volumes than other series, these books provide concise summaries of research articles or book chapters. Individual title examples include *Cloning*, *Death Penalty*, and *Tobacco*.

Opposing Viewpoints - Each volume contains articles presenting pro and con positions. Examples of individual titles include *Alcohol*, *Endangered Oceans*, and *Media Violence*.

The Reference Shelf – Information within each series title can include articles, book excerpts, and other materials. Each year, 6 new titles are published in this series of which one volume is an annual review of prominent speeches. Recent individual series titles include *Homeland Security*, *The United Nations*, and *The Car and its Future*.

Finding a Book Series Using the Library Catalog

► Browse Titles in a Series

Step 1: Go to Advanced Search in the library catalog.

Step 2: In the first text entry box, type in the name of the series [e.g. *Opposing Viewpoints*].

Step 3: Select Title as Search type [**Figure 1**, back page].

Step 4: After pressing the Search button, you should see an alphabetical list of all titles in the series you selected available at the Everett Community College Library-Media Center.

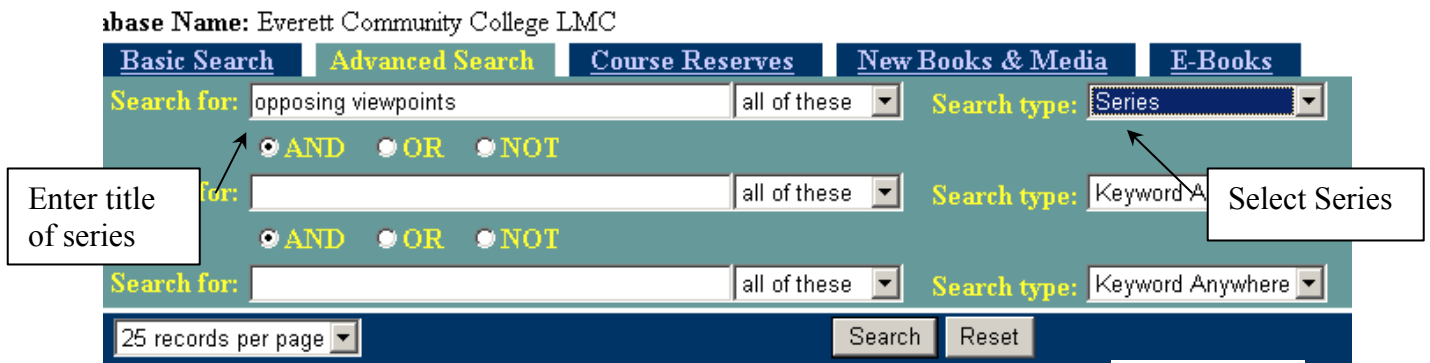


Figure 1

► Topic Keyword Searching a Series

Step 1: Go to Advanced Search in the library catalog.

Step 2: In the first text entry box, type in the name of the series [e.g. *Contemporary World Issues*].

Step 3: Select Title as Search type.

Step 4: In the second text entry box, type in your topic keyword(s) (e.g. pollution)

Step 5: After pressing the enter button, you should see a list of titles in the series mentioning your keyword owned by the Everett Community College Library-Media Center.

Finding Pro/Con Articles

When searching periodical databases such as those supplied by ProQuest, using words that express a strong point of view combined with your topic will sometimes retrieve useful articles (e.g. cloning and unethical). Examples of keywords include the following:

dangerous	deceptive	detrimental	distorted
ethical	exaggerated	foolhardy	harmful
inaccurate	inadequate	misinterpreted	misleading
mistaken	misunderstood	myth	outdated
proven	so-called	unethical	useful

Internet Resources

Congressional Research Service Reports at the National Library for the Environment

<http://www.ncseonline.org/NLE/CRS>

Contains over 1,200 full text reports authored by staff of the Congressional Research Service. Intended for members of Congress but available to the general public. Emphasis is on environmental issues, but other topics are included.

The Pew Research Center for the People and the Press

<http://people-press.org>

Provides opinion research polls on a variety of public policy issues dating from 1989 to the present. Sponsored by Pew Charitable Trusts.

Librarians' Internet Index Social Issues

<http://lii.org/pub/topic/socialissues>

Evaluated by librarians, this webpage lists sites on a range of popular current issues. Organized by subject. Topic examples include Discrimination, Poverty, and Terrorism.