

The *Index-Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon-General's Office (Index-Catalogue)* is a multi-part printed bibliography or list of items in the Library of the Surgeon-General's Office, U.S. Army. It contains material dated from the 1400s through 1950 and is an important resource for researchers in the history of medicine, history of science, and for clinical research.

**Features of the *Index-Catalogue*:**

- Published in 5 series in 61 volumes from 1880-1961.
- Contains material dated from the 15th through the 20th centuries.
- Primarily journal articles, books, dissertations, pamphlets, and reports.
- Also covers newspaper clippings, case studies, obituary notices, letters, portraits, rare books and manuscripts
- Contains two sub-alphabets under each subject heading that lists books from A-Z and journal articles in a separate A-Z arrangement.
- Reflects the collection of a single library, the Library of the Surgeon-General's Office, U. S. Army, and is not a bibliography of all existing material.
- By 1895, the Library was the world's largest medical library.
- Last publication year for monographs is 1950.
- Arranged in a primary alphabet of subject headings and authors-titles of monographs (books, dissertations, pamphlets, and reports).
- Last publication year for journal articles is 1949 but represents only those articles indexed with subject headings from A-Mn.
  - 4th series is incomplete: ends with v.11, alphabet through **Mn**.
  - 5th series coverage ends with 1950 imprints.
  - 5th series contains no journal articles.
- Available for online searching from the IndexCat from the National Library of Medicine.



## Searching with NLM IndexCat

<http://indexcat.nlm.nih.gov>

**IndexCat** is the National Library of Medicine's (NLM's) online version of the printed *Index-Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon General's Office (Index Catalogue)*. All IndexCat search indexes are comprised of keywords. Currently, there is a maximum limit of 1,000 citations retrieved for each collection.

*Note: Before searching, you must click a check mark next to the Collection named, Index-Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon-General's Office. U.S. Army, Series 1-5. The other Collection choice is LocatorPlus, NLM's online catalog.*

### Quick Search

**Quick Search is a keyword anywhere search** which looks for words located anywhere in a record. For example, a search on the word "measles" would return all of the titles that contain the word measles anywhere in the record - in the title, in the subject headings, in the notes. A keyword anywhere search looks for all terms listed in your search.

- The default operator between 2 or more words is OR. For example: a search on smallpox cowpox will retrieve items with *EITHER* word.
- Use quotation marks "" for phrase searching. For example: "brain tumor"
- Use a question mark ? to search alternate word endings (truncation). For example: transplant? finds transplant, transplants, transplanted, transplanting, transplantation, etc.

### Advanced Search

In **Advanced search**, you can limit your keyword search to terms from specific categories in the IndexCat record. Your choices are: Keyword Anywhere Search , Subject Search, Author Search, Title/Journal Title Search , Date Search , Item Type Search , ID Number Search.

#### **Tips:**

- Use a question mark ? to search alternate word endings (truncation). For example: transplant? finds transplant, transplants, transplanted, transplanting, transplantation, etc.
- When entering multiple search terms in the same search line, use the pull-down menus to the right to select how the terms should be combined:
  - any of these – combines with OR
  - all of these – combines with AND
  - as a phrase
- When entering terms in multiple lines, use the pull-down menus to the left to select how the rows should be combined (AND/OR/NOT)

### Results

Search results are displayed by Collection or by Series of the *Index Catalogue*. Although you can view a merged results list for all search results. Click on the collection name or number of hits to display the results.

#### **Record Elements Displayed:**

- First Line (bold and underlined) -- ID Number, Author, Title, Publication year - Click to reveal entire record
- Second Line (smaller font) -- Item Type; Subject Heading
- Third Line -- Database Source (from Index Catalogue Series #)

#### **To Print//Download/Email Results:**

1. Click check marks next to relevant results.
2. Click the "Add to Saved Records" button.
3. Click the "Click to View" link in the Saved Records box in the left hand side of the screen. This box will keep a running count of the number of items selected.
4. The selected results may be edited. Selected or all citations may be removed. In addition, you can just print/download/email just those results that you select with check marks. In the absence of any check marks, all items will be printed/ downloaded/ emailed.
  - Print – Provides a new browser window with items to be printed. The browser's print feature may be automatically launched. Otherwise, click print in the browser window.
  - Download – Select ASCII for a plain text file. Select RIS for a tagged file to be used with citation management programs. The records will be displayed in a browser window. Use File/Save As to save the file.
  - Email – fill in an email address in the blank provided and click the email button.