

Linc - the Library Information Connection

Online Library Catalogs for Virginia's Community Colleges



WHAT IS Linc? Use *Linc*, the online catalog, to find books, print and electronic, DVDs and videos, government documents, and periodicals available at ESCC and in other VCCS libraries.

You can search *Linc* from anywhere. Begin with the ESCC Web page, <http://www.es.vccs.edu>. Choose **Library – Students Start Here – ESCC Library Catalog (Linc)**.

Five types of searches are available:

- Basic – displays as default search; used most often; good place to start
- Advanced – finds specific formats (i.e. visual materials); searches in various fields
- Browse – results in alphabetical or numerical order; move forward or backwards
- Command – uses CCL-Common Command Language Codes (more info' in **Linc Help**)
- Multi-Catalog – searches selected VCCS library catalogs; also finds E-Journals in **MetaLinc**

The top frame always displays the menu bar; the lower one shows search options and displays results.

You do not have to sign in to search *Linc*. But you may sign in with your ESCConnect username/password to see your personal library information (**My Account**), renew and place holds on items, and customize displays.

The **Bookbag** function lets you select records to be saved and viewed later.

The **Search History** function allows you to view previous saved search queries.

WHAT ARE SOME GENERAL SEARCH HINTS?

The examples displayed for each **Search Type** selected may be very helpful when beginning your search.

Use keywords to begin a search, to look for a current trend or issue, or if unsure of correct subject headings.

Example: college campus violence

Lowercase letters find matches of capitalized words also.

Example: computer will find matches for computer, Computer, and COMPUTER.

Linc supports use of Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT) for defining searches. AND is assumed.

Example: chesapeake and bay and oysters finds the same records as chesapeake bay oysters.

The ? or * characters before or after search terms finds matches that contain portions of words.

Example: gun? will retrieve gun, gunners, guns, etc. Example: *ology will retrieve, archaeology, psychology, etc.

WHAT ARE SOME SPECIFIC SEARCH HINTS?

For **Keywords Anywhere**, word order is not important; use quotes to perform a phrase search.

For **Title begins with...**, omit a, an, or the when they appear at the beginning of a title.

For **Author, last name first**, you do not need to separate the last and first name with a comma.

For **Author Keywords** or **Title Keywords**, word order is not important.

For **Subject (LC) begins with ...**, use descriptor headings found in subject fields of records.

WHERE CAN I GET HELP?

LRC staff will help you on campus, online, by email or phone. Or click **Linc Help** when searching.