GPO Congressional Hearings Search Engine
University of Oklahoma Libraries

Full-text Search Tips
Elasticsearch is a robust search engine with full-text searching capability. Along with standard keyword searches, this application allows exact phrase, proximity, partial word, and filter options.

Using the keywords *canadian river* as an example, here are the different ways to control the search

- **OR**: By default, when searching for two or more words, the application searches for all of the words but not necessarily together.
    Searches **canadian OR river**
    Search results = 7,393 hearings

- **AND**: To search both words together, click **Match (AND)** below the search box.
    Searches **canadian AND river**
    Search results = 115 hearings

- **Match Phrase**: Below the search box, click Match Phrase to search the exact phrase and order of the words.
    Searches the precise phrase **"canadian river"**
    Search results = 22 hearings

Proximity Searches:
While a Match Phrase search expects all of the words in exactly the same order, a proximity search allows words to be further apart or in a different order and can specify the maximum distance of words in a phrase.
    Searching "sea level rising" = "sea level rising" only
    Searching "sea level rising" ~5 = "rising sea level" or "sea level is rising" or "rising water levels above sea"

Partial Word Searches:
The wildcard character (*) represents any number of characters to allow partial word searching
    Searching *murk** = Murkowski, murky

Filter Options:
Click **Query String** and **Filter Options** button to refine your search further.
- **House, Senate, Joint** - By default all three are searched, this filter allows limiting the search to just one or two
- **Date Range** - Search by year [yyyy] or exact date [yyy-mm-dd] using exact format in example
- **Stop Words** - Eliminates words in the search query. For example: When searching Missouri, add the stop word *river* to avoid getting Missouri river in the results.
- **Search within Fields** - To search only within a field type, such as data or title add the field name and search command directly to the search box.

    TITLE: Sea Level = keywords in the Title field only

DATA: "lisa alaska" ~5 AND 2015 = will search for lisa and Alaska within 5 words of each other and will search for 2015 in DATE field

Search Results Ranking:
Elasticsearch sorts matching results by their relevance score, that is, by how well each document matches the query. A keyword search for *sea level* (sea or level) will rank documents that have both words together at the top of the search results list, followed by documents that have one word or the other word in the document.

Example: Search *sea level* (sea OR level)
Documents at the top of search results list will contain sea and level together,
followed by documents with either sea or level in the text.

Conducting Statistical Analysis
With a user account it is possible to collect your search results for statistical analysis. Items in the results list can be selected individually or by page. Steps to export data:

Saving results in CSV format
1. Conduct search
2. Select items (individually or SELECT all on page)
3. Click Save to CSV