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The [abebooks.com](http://search.abebooks.com) SearchServer allows affiliated websites to query our inventory of books. For affiliate partners, the server can be accessed via *HTTP*. In order for a client to connect to the server it submits an HTTP POST or GET request to <http://search.abebooks.com/>

This document specifies the protocol for submitting queries to the SearchServer. The server responds to queries with a string of matching book records in Abebook's HB3 format, which the client can then use to construct and display information to surfers at their website.

Requests

The server communicates by sending and receiving HTTP messages. Requests may be submitted using either GET or POST. The following URL parameters are used to submit requests.

Parameter	Default	Description	Example
typ	1	the request type	1 - Search 2 - Status
cur	USD	the ISO currency code for the currency the affiliate wants book prices converted to	USD
cnt	USA	the ISO country code for the country the order is destined for	USA
shp	S	indicates the shipping rate to use	S - Standard P- Priority
an		Author	atwood

tn		Title	robber bride
pn		Publisher	stewart
sn		Keyword	Canadian literature
bi		binding: S to specify softcover only, H to specify hardcover only.	H
fe		first edition: set to "ON" to specify	ON
dj		dust jacket: set to "ON" to specify	ON
sgnd		signed: set to "ON" to specify	ON
prl	0	minimum price (must be integral)	5
prh		maximum price (must be integral)	25
vloc		vendor location: the three letter ISO country code (usa), or two letter province/state post-office code followed by the ISO country code (e.g., wausa). Only books for sale by vendors located in this geographic area will be returned.	wausa
isbn		an ISBN value. Should not include punctuation or spaces	3799503005

ordr	0	sort order. 0 - newest books first, 1 - price descending, 2 price ascending	1
bsi	0	results index; used for multiple pages of results	50
ds	50	maximum number of books to be retrieved (max value is 300)	15
dtl	M	the level of detail requested. The number of data fields returned is determined by this parameter.	I - IDs only S - Sort M - medium L - Long
pdate1		Publisher Date: can be used to define a publisher date range	1990
pdate2		Publisher Date: can be used to define a publisher date range	2000

Errors and default values:

If any of the parameters contain an invalid value, the default is used instead. The only exception is *cur*, which will return an error code if not recognized (see below). As well, if the destination country (*cnt*): if unrecognized, results default to using the vendor's shipping rates for International destinations.

Required parameters:

All parameters are optional, but at least one of *an*, *tn*, *pn*, *sn*, or *isbn* must be specified. If multiple terms appear within a parameter, they are AND'd together, except in the case of *v/oc*. Note that a phrase (i.e., words contained in double-quotes) is treated as a single term.

Example 1.

Search for the keywords "House" and "People"

<http://search.abebooks.com/search?sn=house&people>

Example 2.

Search for the author "Steven King"

[http://search.abebooks.com/search?an="steven+king"](http://search.abebooks.com/search?an=)

Example 3.

Search for the title "Harry Potter"

[http://search.abebooks.com/search?tn="Harry+Potter"](http://search.abebooks.com/search?tn=)

Example 4.

Search for publisher name "Mcgraw"

<http://search.abebooks.com/search?pn=mcgraw>

Example 5.

Search for ISBN "0071379703"

<http://search.abebooks.com/search?isbn=0071379703>

Special Characters:

All parameter values are case insensitive. A space (%20 or '+' if using an HTTP GET) is used to delimit terms. Double-quotes are used to indicate a phrase match. The "~" is used to denote logical negation (NOT). All other punctuation is removed; e.g., tn=Portnoy's becomes tn=Portnoys.

Publisher Date

pdate1 and *pdate2* can be used to define a publisher date range. They can be used together or just one can be provided to search a specific year or later. To search just within a year both *pdate1* and *pdate2* must be provided and have the same value. The values are properly managed by the server so *pdate2* can have the lower year value and the query will still work as expected.

Example 1.

pdate1 = 1991

<http://search.abebooks.com/search?an=stephen+king&pdate1=1991>

Returns stephen king results with a publisher year of 1991 or later

Example 2.

pdate2 = 1991

<http://search.abebooks.com/search?an=stephen+king&pdate2=1991>

Same result as 1

Example 3.

pdate1 = 1991

pdate2 = 1991

<http://search.abebooks.com/search?an=stephen+king&pdate1=1991&pdate2=1991>

Same result as 1

Example 4.

pdate1 = 1991

pdate2 = 2000

<http://search.abebooks.com/search?an=stephen+king&pdate1=1991&pdate2=2000>

Returns stephen king results with a publisher year between 1991 and 2000, inclusively

Example 5.

pdate1 = 2000

pdate2 = 1991

<http://search.abebooks.com/search?an=stephen+king&pdate1=2000&pdate2=1991>

Same result as 4

Currently, the API only accepts 4 digit years that are less than 2050. Invalid years will just be ignored, so someone searching with pdate1=1991&pdate2=20000 would get results published 1991 and later.

Responses

RESULTS: Search Output

When a query is submitted the SearchServer returns an ASCII string of output fields. Fields in the Search Output format are separated by carriage returns (and line feeds). Each field is identified by a four character identifier and '|' separator. The specification is meant to be extensible; therefore, if an unrecognized field is received, it should simply be ignored. Fields can occur in **any order** and are **optional**. The only exceptions are the BOOS and BOOE fields, which are not optional (unless BKLS is used); moreover, each BOOS field must be followed by a single BOOE before the occurrence of another BOOS.

If the request was submitted using HTTP, the first three fields returned will be MSGS, DFND, and STRT.

The following fields are used by version 1 of the protocol.

Field	Detail format	Description
MSGS	HTTP requests only	The status: 0 - OK 1 - Service Unavailable 2 - Invalid ResellerID 3 - Invalid Currency 5 - Syntax error in search string 6 - Error in search system
DFND	HTTP requests only	The number of matches found by SearchServer
STRT	HTTP requests only	The start index for the next set of results. If you have a next page set "bsi" to this value to retrieve the

		next page of results.
BOOS	short, medium, long	book start
BOOK	short, medium, long	abebooks.com's book number (bookid)
VEND	medium, long	the name of the vendor offering the book
VLOC	medium, long	vendor location, in non-normalized human-readable form.
CURY	short, medium, long	the ISO code for the vendor's currency (so you know whether or not a currency conversion has occurred)
ANAM	short, medium, long	Author
TNAM	short, medium, long	Title
ISBN	short, medium, long	ISBN ISBN's will be returned whenever the client sets the detail level to 'M' or 'L', i.e. dtl=M or dtl=L
PBLS	short, medium, long	Publisher
SUB1	medium, long	Subject
DESC	long	description
PRIC	short, medium, long	price (numeric only; no currency symbol), converted to the currency specified in the CURRENCY field (or <i>cur</i> parameter) of the request
VPRC	long	price in vendor's currency (numeric only; no currency symbol)

JACK	medium, long	jacket flag J=Book Jacket
BIND	medium, long	binding flag H = Hardcover S = Softcover
EDTN	medium, long	binding flag F = First Edition
SIGN	medium, long	signed flag I = Signed
BCAT	medium, long	catalog (may be more than one of these)
STAT	BKLS requests only. short, medium, long	status: For Sale, Sold or On Hold. This field is only included in the response if the BKLS search criteria was used. Otherwise, it is not included in the response, and only available books are included in the response.
VNID	medium, long	the abebooks.com clientid of the bookseller
FSHP	medium, long	first book ship cost, in the currency specified by the CURRENCY field (or <i>cur</i> parameter) of the request Shipping will be returned whenever the client sets the detail level to 'M' or 'L'(i.e. dtl=M or dtl=L), as well as specifying the shipping speed of shp=P for priority or shp=S for standard and the destination country "cnt".

		The Destination country value must be a standard 3-letter Country ISO code, such as USA or DEU
ESHP	medium, long	extra book ship cost, ... Shipping will be returned whenever the client sets the detail level to 'M' or 'L' (i.e. dtl=M or dtl=L), as well as specifying the shipping speed of shp=P for priority or shp=S for standard and the destination country "cnt". The Destination country value must be a standard 3-letter Country ISO code, such as USA or DEU
MISH	medium, long	minimum number of shipping days to reach the destination Country
MASH	medium, long	maximum number of shipping days to reach the destination Country
BPIC	short, medium, long	URL (excluding "http://") to an image of the book stored on abebooks.com
WURL	short, medium, long	URL (excluding "http://") to a page on abebooks.com for ordering this book
BOOE	short, medium, long	book end
BKLS	ID	space-separated list of bookids

Example 1.

An example book record of detail *short* is as follows:

dtl = S

<http://search.abebooks.com/search?an=steven%20king&dtl=S>

```
BOOS|  
BOOK|584130873  
ANAM|Judith Areen Patricia King Steven Goldberg Alexander Morgan Capron  
TNAM|1989 Supplement to Law, Science and Medicine  
PBLS|Foundation Pr  
ISBN|0882777025  
CURY|USD  
PRIC|1.0  
WURL|www.abebooks.com/abe/ListingDetails?bi=584130873  
BOOE|
```

Example 2.

An example book record of detail *medium* is as follows:

dtl = M

<http://search.abebooks.com/search?an=steven%20king&dtl=M>

```
BOOS|  
BOOK|584130873  
ANAM|Judith Areen Patricia King Steven Goldberg Alexander Morgan Capron  
TNAM|1989 Supplement to Law, Science and Medicine  
PBLS|Foundation Pr  
ISBN|0882777025  
SUB1|REFERENCE  
CURY|USD  
PRIC|1.0  
VEND|Frugal Media Corporation  
DESC|USED Ships Within 24 Hours - Satisfaction Guaranteed!  
WURL|www.abebooks.com/abe/ListingDetails?bi=584130873  
BOOE|
```

Example 3.

An example book record of detail *long* is as follows:

dtl = L

<http://search.abebooks.com/search?an=steven%20king&dtl=L>

```
BOOS|  
BOOK|584130873  
ANAM|Judith Areen Patricia King Steven Goldberg Alexander Morgan Capron  
TNAM|1989 Supplement to Law, Science and Medicine  
PBLs|Foundation Pr  
ISBN|0882777025  
CURY|USD  
PRIC|1.0  
VEND|Frugal Media Corporation  
VLOC|Austin, TX, U.S.A.  
SUB1|REFERENCE  
JACK|  
BIND|S  
EDTN|  
SIGN|  
BCAT|  
VNID|7908374  
FSHP|3.0  
ESHP|1.75  
MISH|5  
MASH|14  
DESC|USED Ships Within 24 Hours - Satisfaction Guaranteed!  
WURL|www.abebooks.com/abe/ListingDetails?bi=584130873  
BOOE|
```

Example 4.

An example book record of detail IDs only is as follows:

dtl = I

<http://search.abebooks.com/search?an=steven%20king&dtl=I>

```
584130873 577321600 592084386 407798356
```

Support requests:

Support request can be made via email to inventory@abebooks.com

