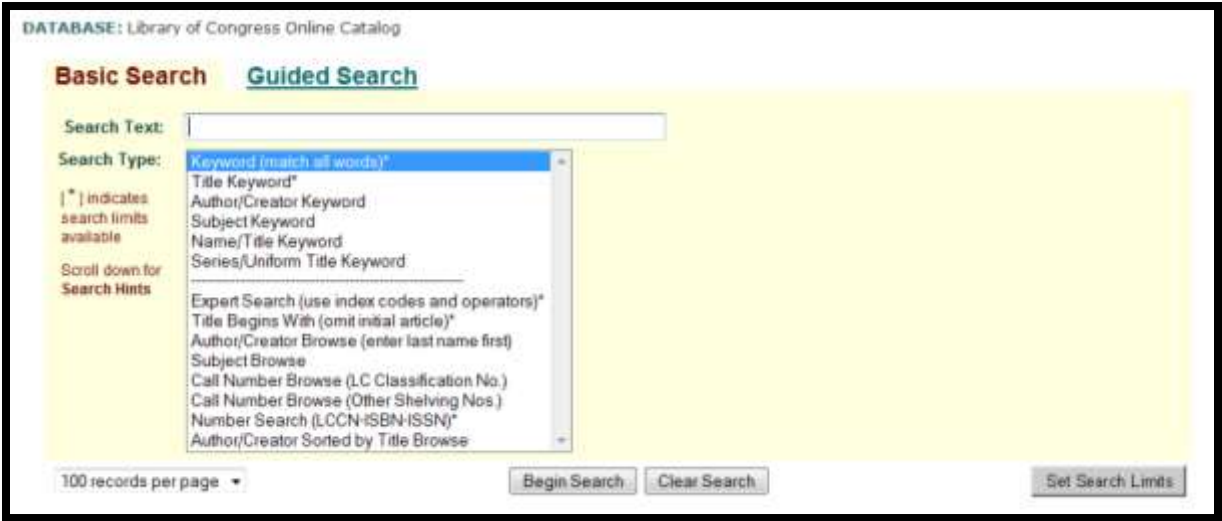


The Library of Congress is the largest library in the world. When it was established in 1800, it was a research library for U.S. Senators and Representatives. However, over the last 200 years it has grown to meet research needs for everyone, worldwide. Today, people can research just about any topic they want. **Online** search options provide information from detailed to broad ideas.

There are two types of online searches available for Library of Congress Online Catalogs. The website is: <http://catalog.loc.gov>.

Basic Search	or	Guided Search
Using a fill-in box, you can search by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Title or Author/CreatorSubjectCall NumberLCCN, ISSN, or ISBNKeywords		Using a series of forms and menus: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Construct keyword searchesRestrict all of part of the search to a particular indexCombine search words or phrases with Boolean operators

The **Basic Search** simply requires a keyword.



The **Guided Search** allows the user to enter a basic keyword, PLUS other important words that may help in the search, or words that should be left out. It gives the user a lot more flexibility.



However, the Library of Congress system allows a user to find books located with an actual **library** too. The system has several categories, including subjects such as: General Works, Philosophy, Religion, History, Geography, Social Sciences, Political Science, Law, Education, Music, Arts, Medicine, Agriculture, Technology, Bibliographies, etc.

A user can look under a main heading, for example “**General Works**” to find subclasses including:

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CLASSIFICATION OUTLINE	
CLASS A - GENERAL WORKS	
(Click each subclass for details)	
Subclass AC	Collections. Series. Collected works
Subclass AE	Encyclopedias
Subclass AG	Dictionaries and other general reference works
Subclass AI	Indexes
Subclass AM	Museums. Collectors and collecting
Subclass AN	Newspapers
Subclass AP	Periodicals
Subclass AS	Academies and learned societies
Subclass AY	Yearbooks. Almanacs. Directories
Subclass AZ	History of scholarship and learning. The humanities

Within each subclass, the user will find codes for locating books and documents in the library. For example, under **Subclass AP, Periodicals**, the user would find:

Subclass AP	
AP1-(271)	Periodicals
AP101-115	Humorous periodicals
AP200-230	Juvenile periodicals
AP(250)-(265)	Periodicals for women
AP(270)-(271)	Periodicals for Blacks

The specific number coding would direct the user to the appropriate shelf to find the type of periodical being searched for.

With the direction of a reference librarian or by knowing your way around your library, this system allows you to go directly to the shelf (or shelves) of material you’re search for.

(Information from: <http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpsolcco/>.)