



Understanding Poverty

## Documents & Reports

# The World Bank Documents & Report API

The World Bank offers an API that allows for the search and retrieval of the public, Bank documents available in the Documents & Reports site. Records can be retrieved in a format useful for research and for inclusion in web sites outside of Documents & Reports and the World Bank.

## Overview (A Simple Example)

The API is offered much like a REST API, accepting requests in the form a URL's query string as HTTP GET requests. The URL's query string determines:

- what is to be searched
- what is to be returned for each matching record
- how what is returned is formatted (as JSON or XML)

What follows is a simple request querying for records of documents related to wind turbines. It also requests that the list returned be in a JSON format and that the country and document date be returned with each record. (Other key, record fields, like display title and URL, are always returned):

<https://search.worldbank.org/api/v3/wds?format=json&qterm=wind%20turbine&fl=docdt,count>

The query for matching records is given as the value of the "qterm" parameter.

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The format for results is given as the value of the format parameter, "format". Either "json" or "xml" can be requested.



The fields to be returned are given as a comma separated list with the “fl” parameter.

# How to Query

The example above illustrates the use of the “qterm” parameter. Queries given with the qterm parameter will return all records matching that query in one of more of its fields. So when querying with “qterm”, a record will be a match if words from the query appear in the document’s title, its abstract, report number, or associated project number or project name, its associated country, region or any of a number of other, core fields.

You can further restrict matches to specific fields by using the URL query string parameters in the list at the end of this article (by passing the values to be matched as their values). Those fields are marked “Yes” in the “Query parameter” column of the table. This request will return all records whose display titles contain both the words “wind” and “energy”.

[https://search.worldbank.org/api/v3/wds?format=json&display\\_title=wind%20energy](https://search.worldbank.org/api/v3/wds?format=json&display_title=wind%20energy)

You’ll see many field names end in “\_exact”. The values passed for those parameters must exactly match the value of the field in the document corresponding to that parameter if the field is to be considered a match to the query.

# How to Request the Return of Specific Fields

You can request the fields to be returned for each record using the URL query string parameter name, “fl”. More than one field can be requested by listing fields in a comma separated list. The following query for all records listing Algeria in their country fields requests the return with each record of the record’s list of countries, its volume number, total number of volumes, document name and report name.

[https://search.worldbank.org/api/v3/wds?  
format=xml&count\\_exact=Algeria&fl=count,volnb,totvolnb,docna,repnme](https://search.worldbank.org/api/v3/wds?format=xml&count_exact=Algeria&fl=count,volnb,totvolnb,docna,repnme)

You can request any field marked “Yes” as retrievable in the table at the end of this article.

# How to Retrieve Facets

All values found for a field across all documents returned for a query can be listed if the field is available as a facet. The fields for which facets are requested are passed as a comma separated list with the “fct” parameter. For example, the following lists all values for country and language (the “count\_exat” and “lang\_exact” fields) in an XML format.

[https://search.worldbank.org/api/v3/wds?format=xml&fct=count\\_exact,lang\\_exact&rows=0](https://search.worldbank.org/api/v3/wds?format=xml&fct=count_exact,lang_exact&rows=0)



Since no query is specified as a filter, all records are considered a match. This request also requests no rows be returned with results to make locating the facet's list of values easy to spot in the XML returned. (The use of "rows" is documented in "How to Page Through Results" below.)

# How to Page through Results

Two URL query string parameters control how large each returned page of matching records will be and where that page is in the overall set of results. The number of records on a page is requested using the "rows" parameter. Which record should start that page is requested with the "os" parameter. The first record in the entire record set is referred to a record "0". So, to request the first page of results and request a page size of 20, you would send the following request:

```
https://search.worldbank.org/api/v3/wds?format=json&rows=20&os=0&fl=docty
```

There is no query in this example. So all records are considered a match. The document type field, "docty", will also be returned for each result.

To return records, 40 through 60 (equivalent to page 3 when the page size is 20), the following request would be sent:

```
https://search.worldbank.org/api/v3/wds?format=json&rows=20&os=40&fl=docty
```

The default value for rows is 10 and the default value for os is 0. So to request the first page of results, using "os" is not required. And if 10 results per page are enough, "rows" is not required.

# More Advanced Queries

When more than one query field appears in a query, all records must match the query given for each field. For example, if "energy" is given as the value for the query parameter, "qterm", and "water" is given as the value for "display\_title", then all records with a field containing the value "energy" whose title contains "water" will be returned.

```
https://search.worldbank.org/api/v3/wds?  
format=json&qterm=energy&display_title=water&fl=display_title&rows=20&os=100
```

The above query is also requesting 20 records starting at record 100, requesting records be returned in the JSON format and requesting that each record include the display\_title field.

If the value of a field is usually a single number or code (or a list of numbers or codes) or if the field is an "\_exact" field, then a query can be formed to match all records having any value in a list of values by separating those values with the separator, "%5E" (the character, "^", encoded to safely appear in a URL). The following requests all records whose country field lists either the Russian Federation or Armenia and whose language is Russian or French. The first 10 results are requested along with facet values for country ("count\_exact") and language ("lang\_exact").



[https://search.worldbank.org/api/v3/wds?format=xml&fct=count\\_exact,lang\\_exact&rows=10&count\\_exact=Russian%20Federation^Armenia&lang\\_exact=Russian^French](https://search.worldbank.org/api/v3/wds?format=xml&fct=count_exact,lang_exact&rows=10&count_exact=Russian%20Federation^Armenia&lang_exact=Russian^French)

Remember that the country field, and many other fields, can have more than one value. So Armenia, for example, may appear listed with other countries for a record. Because those records match, all its countries will also be among the countries listed for the country facet, "count\_exact". So, while we queried for the Russian Federation and Armenia, other countries can be listed in the countries facet ("count\_exact").

If a field is available as a facet and as a query parameter, you can use that field to query on one or more of the values listed for that facet. The query above illustrates this for count\_exact and lang\_exact.

## Date Range Queries

To query for all documents newer than a specific date, you would use the "strdate" parameter. To query for all documents older than a specific date, you would query with the "enddate" parameter. The format for dates can be either "YYYY-MM-DD" or "MM-DD-YYYY". The following requests all procurement plans newer than January 1, 2018.

[https://search.worldbank.org/api/v3/wds?format=json&os=40&fl=docdt,docty&strdate=2018-01-01&docty\\_exact=Procurement+Plan](https://search.worldbank.org/api/v3/wds?format=json&os=40&fl=docdt,docty&strdate=2018-01-01&docty_exact=Procurement+Plan)

The following further restricts results to those older than March 30 of that year:

[https://search.worldbank.org/api/v3/wds?format=json&os=40&fl=docdt,docty&strdate=2018-01-01&enddate=2018-03-30&docty\\_exact=Procurement+Plan](https://search.worldbank.org/api/v3/wds?format=json&os=40&fl=docdt,docty&strdate=2018-01-01&enddate=2018-03-30&docty_exact=Procurement+Plan)

## Sorting Results

By default, results are sorted by relevance when "qterm" is used. Otherwise, results are sorted by document date in descending order.

To sort by another field, you would pass its name with the "srt" parameter and specify an ascending sort by specifying "asc" as the value of the "order" parameter or specify a descending order by passing "desc".

To force a request in ascending order by document date, you would send the following request.

[https://search.worldbank.org/api/v3/wds?format=json&os=40&fl=docdt,docty&strdate=2018-01-01&enddate=2018-03-30&docty\\_exact=Procurement+Plan&sort=docdt&order=asc](https://search.worldbank.org/api/v3/wds?format=json&os=40&fl=docdt,docty&strdate=2018-01-01&enddate=2018-03-30&docty_exact=Procurement+Plan&sort=docdt&order=asc)

## URL Querying String Parameters and Fields



Parameter / field name	Description	Query parameter	Retrievable (with "fl")	Facetable	Sortable
abstracts	Abstract (document summary)		Yes		
admreg	Administrative Region in the Bank		Yes	Yes	
admreg_exact	Administrative Region in the Bank	Yes			
authr	Author	Yes	Yes		
alt_title	Alternate title (in language of document)		Yes		
authr_exact	Author	Yes			
available_in	Available in (other language translations)		Yes		
bmdt			Yes		
chronical_docm_id	Alternate document ID	Yes	Yes		
closedt	Closing date		Yes		
colti	Collection / Series title	Yes	Yes		
colti_exact	Collection / Series title	Yes		Yes	
count	Country	Yes	Yes		
count_exact	Country	Yes		Yes	
countcode	Two letter ISO country code	Yes			



countrycode_exact	Two letter ISO country code	Yes			
credit_no	Credit Number	Yes	Yes		
datee	Create date (of D&R record)	Yes			
disclosure_date	Disclosure date	Yes			
disclstat	Disclosure status	Yes	Yes		
disclstat_exact	Disclosure status	Yes		Yes	
display_title	Title (Report name plus volume name)	Yes	Yes		
display_title_exact	Title (Report name plus volume name)	Yes			
docdt	Document date	Yes			Yes
docm_id	Alternate document ID	Yes			
docna	Document name (volume name)		Yes		Yes
docna_exact	Document name (volume name)	Yes			
docty	Document type	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
docty_exact	Document type	Yes			
entityid	Alternate document ID	Yes			
envcat	Environmental category	Yes			



geo_reg	Geographic region	Yes	Yes
guid	Alternate document ID	Yes	Yes
historic_topic	Historic topic (legacy topic)		Yes
id	Document ID	Yes	Yes
isbn	ISBN		Yes
issn	ISSN		Yes
keywd	Keyword	Yes	Yes
keywd_exact	Keyword	Yes	
lang	Language	Yes	Yes
lang_exact	Language	Yes	Yes
lndinstr	Lending instrument	Yes	Yes
loan_no	Loan number	Yes	Yes
majdocty	Major document type		Yes
majdocty_exact	Major document type	Yes	Yes
majtheme	Major theme		Yes
majtheme_exact	Major theme	Yes	Yes
ml_abstract	Multilingual abstract (in language of document)		Yes



origu	Originating unit in the Bank	Yes	Yes
owner	Owning unit in the Bank	Yes	Yes
owner_exact	Owning unit in the Bank	Yes	
pdfurl	PDF URL (of document)	Yes	
prdln	Product line (lending)	Yes	Yes
proid	Project ID	Yes	
projn	Project Name	Yes	
projectid	Project ID	Yes	Yes
publishtoextweb_dt	Publish to external web date	Yes	
repnb	Report number	Yes	Yes
repnb_exact	Report number	Yes	
repnme	Report name	Yes	Yes
secc1	Security classification	Yes	
sectr_exact	Sector (economic)	Yes	Yes
src_cit	Source citation	Yes	Yes
subsc	Subsector	Yes	
subtopic	Subtopic	Yes	



subtopic_exact	Subtopic	Yes	Yes
teratopic	Topic (legacy)	Yes	Yes
teratopic_exact	Topic (legacy)	Yes	Yes
theme	Theme	Yes	
theme_exact	Theme	Yes	Yes
topic	Topic	Yes	
topic_exact	Topic	Yes	Yes
topic_name_exact	Topic	Yes	Yes
totvolnb	Total number of volumes		
topicv3	Topic	Yes	Yes
trustfund	Trust fund	Yes	Yes
trustfund_exact	Trust fund	Yes	
txturl	Test URL (of document)	Yes	
url	URL (of record for document)	Yes	
volnb	Volume number	Yes	



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