

# Making an EBSCO Search Box

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This guide will help you make a personalized search box to search one or more EBSCO databases. These search boxes will allow users to search a database right from a web page or subject guide. They are handy because they can save users time and have a tendency to draw attention, allowing you to better control where your users search.

## Building the Search Box

### Search Parameters

First, go to <http://support.ebsco.com/eit/searchboxbuilder/> where you will find the “EBSCOHost Integration Toolkit Search Box Builder.” Do the following:

First, leave the interface at “EBSCOhost Research Databases.”

Under “Choose” leave the radio button at Databases and then select the database you want to be searched. For this box, I’m choosing to only search PsycINFO.

Under “Search” choose what kind of search you want. Although “Boolean/Phrase” might give experienced users better results, I suggest checking the “All Terms” box. This will most closely replicate the “google experience” many users expect when using a search box on a webpage.

For normal search boxes, I don’t suggest using the “Limit results” or “Keywords” boxes. Users will be able to limit their search later, from the databases native interface once they have completed their initial search. There may be situations, however, where it would be a good idea to use these features. For example, if you were making a specialized subject guide for a particular topic, you could enter some of the important terms while having students add others to personalize the search.

### Search Box Builder

Choose your search parameters and customize your search box size and style to fit your site.

#### STEP 1 Set Search Parameters

The screenshot shows the 'STEP 1 Set Search Parameters' interface. It includes a dropdown menu for 'Interface' set to 'EBSCOhost Research Databases'. Under 'Choose', the 'Databases' radio button is selected. A list of databases is shown, with 'PsycINFO 1887-Current (psyh)' checked. Below this is a section for 'Subscribe to EHIS? Add your third-party database.' with fields for 'Display Name' and 'Code', and an 'Add' button. The 'Search' section has radio buttons for 'Boolean/Phrase', 'All terms' (which is selected), and 'Any terms'. The 'Limit results' section has checkboxes for 'Full Text', 'References Available', and 'Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals'. At the bottom, there is a 'Keywords' input field with a note: 'Keywords will be combined with user search box input.'

## Authentication Parameters

Authentication parameters setup the search box so that if users are off-campus they will be able to access the databases.

Under “Proxy prefix” enter our proxy address:

<http://proxy.lib.odu.edu/login?url=>

As far as I can tell, the rest of this section can be left blank. I’m not sure if things would work better if some of these boxes were checked because I don’t fully understand them.

In my tests, users who are not using a library computer will enter their search terms and then be taken to the proxy login screen where they will enter their email address and UIN.

## Choosing a Box Design

EBSCO offers a few different search box designs. Two of these include the EBSCO logo. While these boxes look good, I have run into problems when putting them into my subject guides. The word wrap, for example, has given me difficulties. You can use one, but I would suggest testing it as you go.

Instead, I suggest choosing the third option, which is a plain box.

Custom boxes can also be made using uploaded images. If you are interested in this option, feel free to experiment or consult with me and we can figure it out together.

### STEP 2 Select Authentication Parameters

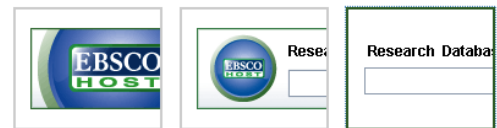
Proxy prefix:   
i.e. <http://proxy.institution.edu/login?url=>

Methods

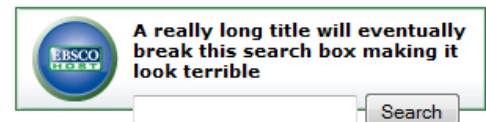
<input type="checkbox"/> Cookie	<input type="checkbox"/> IP Address
<input type="radio"/> User ID/Password	<input type="radio"/> Referring URL
<input type="radio"/> Athens	<input type="radio"/> Shibboleth
<input type="radio"/> Patron ID	<input type="radio"/> Patterned ID

Secure HTTPS authentication

### STEP 3 Choose a Search Box Design



Test-drive your search box. Try it out here.



## Customize the Layout

Now you're ready to add the text displayed with your search box and adjust its size. In the "Title" area, put whatever text displayed in the search box. You can adjust the height and width of the search box to make your text fit better. Note, however, that if you use a logo (like the EBSCO logos) the logo will not change size.

I suggest leaving the "Open search results in a new browser" checked. This will allow a user to get back to your page more easily when they are finished searching in the database.

Finally, if you've chosen more than one database, you can choose whether to have your box will search all of those databases or only the ones a user selects.

## Preview Your Search Box

As you've been entering information, you've probably noticed that the preview at the bottom of the page has been updating. It will give you a good idea about what your search box will look like. Due to some unique aspects of our web pages, however, search boxes will not always appear on our pages as they do in the preview.

## Generate Code

When you have your search box looking how you want, you're ready to generate the code for it. Click the box that says "Create Search Box" and code will appear in the box below.

### STEP 4 Customize the Layout

Title:

Logo:   
Want to use your own logo? Paste a URL to the image.

Height:  pixels

Width:  pixels

Results:  Open search results in new browser

Databases:  Show choose databases (for 2 or more databases)

### STEP 5 Confirm Your Search Box

Test-drive your search box. Try it out here.

**Need an article and don't know where to start? Search PsycINFO!**

[Create Search Box](#)

[Reset form](#)

### STEP 6 Copy Your Search Box Code

Copy code to clipboard. Paste this code in your web page.

```
<!-- EBSCOhost Custom Search Box Begins -->
<script src="http://supportforms.epnet.com
/eit/scripts/ebSCOhostsearch.js"
type="text/javascript"></script>
<form action="" onsubmit="return
ebSCOhostSearchGo(this);" method="post">
<input class="ebSCOhostwindow"
```

## Inserting the Code

Now, you should have code, which looks something like this:

```
<!-- EBSCOhost Custom Search Box Begins -->
<script src="http://supportforms.epnet.com/eit/scripts/ebscohostsearch.js"
type="text/javascript"></script>
<form action="" onsubmit="return ebscoHostSearchGo(this);" method="post">
<input class="ebscohostwindow" name="ebscohostwindow" type="hidden" value="1" />
<input class="ebscohosturl" name="ebscohosturl" type="hidden"
value="http://proxy.lib.odu.edu/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&site=eh
ost-live&scope=site&type=1&db=&db=psyh" />
<input class="ebscohostsearchsrc" name="ebscohostsearchsrc" type="hidden" value="url" />
<input class="ebscohostsearchmode" name="ebscohostsearchmode" type="hidden" value="+AND+" />
<input class="ebscohostkeywords" name="ebscohostkeywords" type="hidden" value="" />
<div style="height:50px;width:250px;font-family:Verdana,Arial,Helvetica,sans-serif;font-size:9pt;font-
weight:bold;color:#353535;" />
    <div style="padding-top:12px;padding-left:25px;">
        <span style="font-weight:bold;">Need an article and don't know where to start? Search
PsycINFO!</span>
        <div style="padding-top:7px;">
            <span><input class="ebscohostsearchtext" name="ebscohostsearchtext"
type="text" size="23" onsubmit="return ebscoHostSearchGo(this.form);" style="font-size:9pt;padding-
left:5px;" /></span>
            <span><input type="submit" value="Search" onclick="return
ebscoHostSearchGo(this.form);" style="font-size:9pt;padding-left:5px;" /></span>
        </div>
    </div>
</div>
</form>
<!-- EBSCOhost Custom Search Box Ends -->
```

This probably doesn't make a lot of sense to you, but for the most part it doesn't need to. Just select all of it and copy it to your clipboard (Ctrl + c).

Normally, you would paste this text directly into the html file of your webpage. Most of us, however, don't directly interact with the html code, so instead we'll put the information into our subject guides.

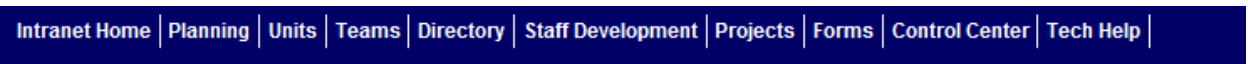
## PageScribe Pages

It is fairly easy to put your search box into a PageScribe page.

We'll start by going to the intranet page

<http://libstaff.lib.odu.edu/>

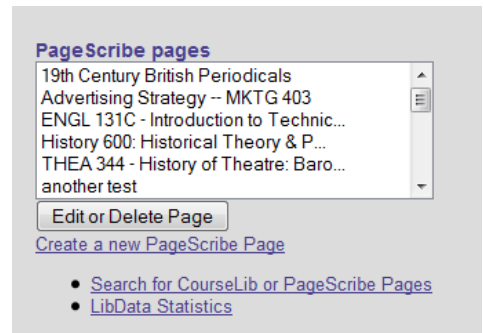
Then click on "Control Center" and enter the username (odulibrary) and password (0dul1brary). Then, click on the link that says "Libdata Subject Guides" and enter your username (yourname) and password (yourname01).



	Databases	General Reference
Links	<a href="#">View</a> - <a href="#">Add</a> - <a href="#">Modify</a> - <a href="#">Delete</a> - <a href="#">Check Dups</a>	<a href="#">View</a> - <a href="#">Add</a> - <a href="#">Modify</a> - <a href="#">Delete</a> - <a href="#">Check Dups</a>
Categories	<a href="#">View</a> - <a href="#">Add</a> - <a href="#">Modify</a> - <a href="#">Delete</a> - <a href="#">Check Cats</a>	<a href="#">View</a> - <a href="#">Add</a> - <a href="#">Modify</a> - <a href="#">Delete</a> - <a href="#">Check Cats</a>
Build & Check	<a href="#">Build all</a> - <a href="#">Edit Templates</a> <a href="#">Quick URL check</a> - <a href="#">Detailed URL check</a>	<a href="#">Build all</a> - <a href="#">Edit Templates</a> <a href="#">Quick URL check</a> - <a href="#">Detailed URL check</a>
Reference	<a href="#">Newsletter</a> - <a href="#">FAQ</a> - <a href="#">Help</a> - <a href="#">Forums</a>	<a href="#">Newsletter</a> - <a href="#">FAQ</a> - <a href="#">Help</a> - <a href="#">Forums</a>

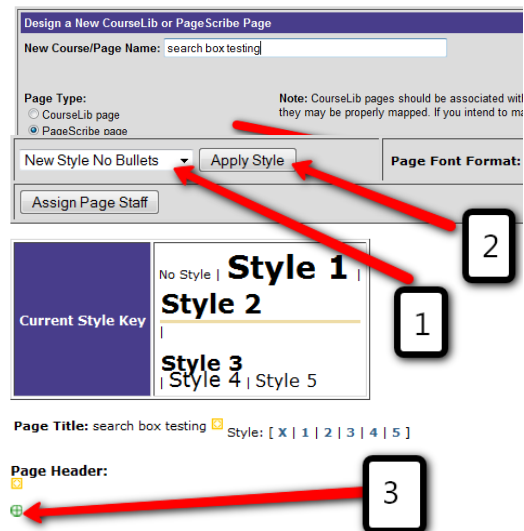
[Libdata Subject Guides](#)

If you already have a page that you want to put your search box onto, select the page and press the "Edit or Delete Page" button. Otherwise, click the Link that says "Create a new PageScribe Page" and name it something. We'll need to remember to delete it when we're done for the day.

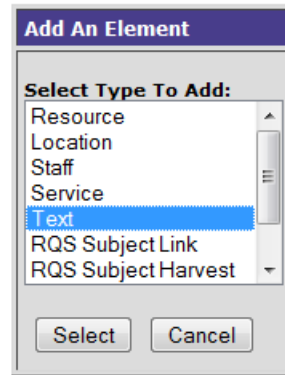


At this point, we can adjust the style of the PageScribe page to make it conform to the others we have posted. Instead of "LibData Standard" choose "New Style No Bullets" from the dropdown and press "Apply Style."

Next, we'll open up an item in order to insert our search box. Press the green button (below the "Page Header" entry area).



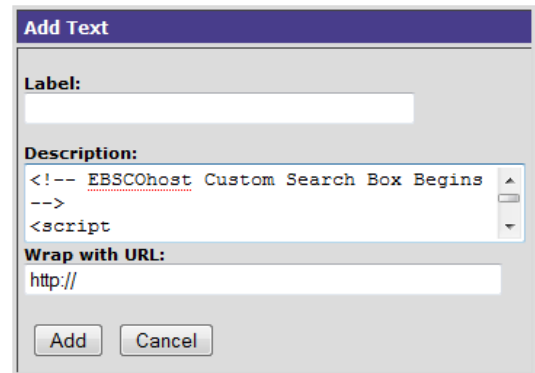
You'll be asked what type of element you want to add. Select "Text" and then press the "Select" button.



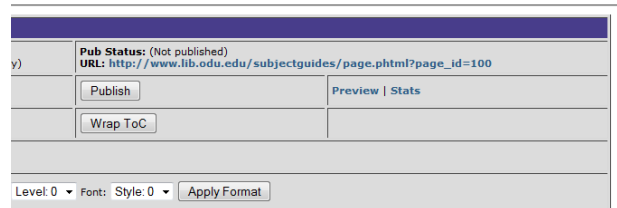
You'll then be asked to enter the text. You can enter text into the label if you wish for additional text to be visible. If you don't want any text, put in a blank space.

NOTE: If you leave the label section completely blank, the item will not be created when you press "Add."

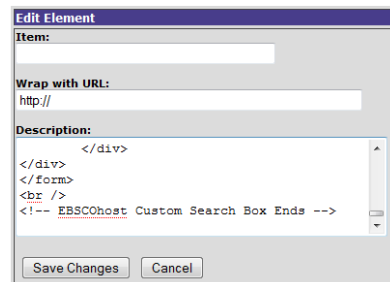
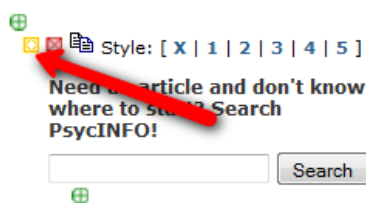
In "Description" put in the code exactly as it was generated from the EBSCO page. Then, press the "Add" button.



To preview your page, you can click the "Preview" link in the top-right corner of the page.



You may find that the box doesn't quite look right. You can go back to the editing page and click on the orange box to edit the entry. If you need to adjust the spacing at the bottom of the search box, you can add in a <br /> tag at the bottom of your entry.



## Test Your Search Box

Once you have your search box looking the way you want it, test it out. Enter some text into the box and press the search button (or press enter).

A new page should open and it should display the search results. If it doesn't, you may need to do some troubleshooting.

## Adding Search Box to RQS (Subject Guide) Pages

We can also add a search boxes to the Research QuickStart pages. In this case, we'll put one in the header of the document, underneath the contact information and chat widget.

To get to the RQS editing page, click on the link that says "Authoring Console." Next, click the link under "Research Quick Start Pages" that says "New or Delete."

New Edit Delete

Description	Select
Accounting	<input type="radio"/>
Aerospace Engineering	<input type="radio"/>
Allied Health	<input type="radio"/>
American History	<input type="radio"/>
Art and Architecture	<input type="radio"/>
Biology	<input type="radio"/>
Chemistry	<input type="radio"/>
Civil and Environmental Engineering	<input type="radio"/>
Civil Engineering Technology	<input type="radio"/>
Communication	<input type="radio"/>
Communication Disorders and Special Education	<input type="radio"/>
Community & Environmental Health	<input type="radio"/>
Companies and Industries	<input type="radio"/>
Counseling and Human Services	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Criminal Justice	<input type="radio"/>

Next, select the guide you want to edit and press the "Edit" button.

Next, copy and paste the code for your search box under the rest of the text with the header (after the </table> tag). You will probably need to add a <br /> tag at the end to get the spacing right.

Need an article and don't know where to start? Search PsycINFO!

Search  
Find Articles Using Databases

## Optional and Advanced: Tweaking Your Code

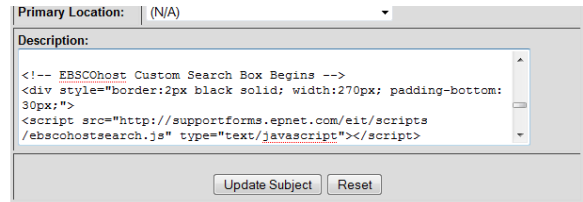
### Add a Border

To make your search box more visible, you can add a border to it. To do this, you will have to tweak the code by hand.

To do this, we'll wrap the whole search box in a new div. Right after it says, `<!-- EBSCOhost Custom Search Box Begins -->` we'll add: `<div style="border:2px black solid; width:270px; padding-bottom: 30px;">`

Right before it says, `<!-- EBSCOhost Custom Search Box Ends -->` we'll add: `</div>`

Most of the text in the opening tag is to make sure that the border goes all the way around the search box. If yours doesn't look right, you may have to tweak it further.



### Widening the Search Box

We can also widen the search box so that it will fit better.

To do this, find the code that says something like `<div style="height:50px;width:250px;font-family:Verdana,Arial,Helvetica,sans-serif;font-size:9pt;font-weight:bold;color:#353535;" />` and change the width to a larger value. To get the border to look right, you might have to change the values in the div we added earlier (by changing the width and maybe getting rid of the bottom padding).

