

## Workshop: Finding early English and American books online

McCabe Library, 2/27/07

Instructor: Amanda Watson

This handout is not a comprehensive guide to the EEBO, ECCO, and Early American Imprints databases. For more information, see the help documentation in each database (look for the “Help” or “About” links on the main screen), or e-mail me at [awatson1@swarthmore.edu](mailto:awatson1@swarthmore.edu) — I’m happy to set up an appointment to walk you through any of these databases!

All three databases can be found on the A-Z list of databases in the Subject Portal, under E.

### I. Early American Imprints, Series 1 (Evans) and Series 2 (Shaw-Shoemaker)

- These two databases contain facsimile images of over 70,000 books published in America from 1632 to 1817.
- Search by author, title, subject, genre, and a variety of other options.
- Browse by genre, subject, author, publication and printing information, and language. (This is useful if you’re not searching for a specific work.)
- Contains searchable full text.

#### A sample Evans/Shaw-Shoemaker search

Searching for Benjamin Franklin as author:

The screenshot shows the Readex Archive of Americana search interface for Early American Imprints, Series I: Evans, 1639-1800. The search box contains the text "franklin, benjamin". A dropdown menu is open, showing search options: "in Citation Text", "in Full Text", "in Title", "in Subjects", "in Genres", "in Author" (highlighted), "in Place of Publication", "in Publisher", "in Document Number", and "in Year of Publication". The "Search" button is visible. Below the search box, there are "Browse by" tabs for "Genre", "History of Printing", "Place of Publication", and "Language". A list of genres is displayed, including "Academic dissertations", "Acrostics", "Addresses", "Advertisements", "Emblem books", "Elegies", "Playbills", "Plays", "Poems", and "Prayer books". Search hints are also visible on the right side of the interface.

And a search result (view individual pages through the Table of Contents on the left):

The screenshot shows a search interface with a search bar at the top containing the text "Search Within this Imprint for:". To the right of the search bar is a "Search" button and a "New Search..." link. A "Search Hint" box on the right says "Search within this publication to find pages containing your search term(s)". Below the search bar are navigation links: "< Prev Imprint | Next Imprint >".

On the left side, there is a "TABLE OF CONTENTS" section with a list of pages: "Page [Not Numbered]", "Page 4", "Page 5", "Page 6", "Page 7", "Page 8", "Page 9", "Page 10", "Page 11", "Page 12", "Page 13", and "Page 14". Above this list are checkboxes for "Add to My Collection" (unchecked) and "Show Highlights" (checked). A "Print Full Citation" link is also present.

The main content area displays the following information:

- Date of Publication:** 1747
- Title:** [Plain truth]  
Plain truth: or, Serious considerations on the present state of the city of Philadelphia, and province of Pennsylvania By a tradesman of Philadelphia. [Sixteen lines in Latin]
- Author:** [Franklin, Benjamin, 1706-1790.](#)
- Subjects:**  
[Philadelphia \(Pa.\)--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775.](#)  
[Pennsylvania--History--Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775.](#)  
[Pennsylvania--Politics and government--To 1775.](#)
- Publication Information:**  
[Philadelphia] Printed [by Benjamin Franklin], in the year MDCCLXVII. [1747]
- Physical Description:**  
22, [2] p. ill. 17 cm. (8vo)

Click “Add to My Collection” to save your search results and return to them for downloading or printing.

## II. Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO)

- ECCO contains images of around 138,000 books published in the British Isles (plus a few from North America) during the 18<sup>th</sup> century.
- Search by author, title, or keyword.
- Contains searchable full text.

### A sample ECCO search

Searching for the word “Lilliput” in the full text of all the collections:

The screenshot shows the ECCO search interface. At the top, there is a banner with the text "Eighteenth Century Collections Online" and navigation links for "Basic Search", "Advanced Search", "Browse Authors", and "Browse Works". To the right of the banner are links for "Help", "Search Tips", and "Gale Databases".

The "Basic Search" section is active, showing a search bar with the text "lilliput". To the right of the search bar is a "Search type:" dropdown menu with options: "Keyword", "Author", "Title", and "Full Text". The "Full Text" option is selected. Below the search bar is a "SEARCH" button and a "Clear Form" button.

Below the search bar is a "Limit by:" section with a "Year(s) of Publication:" field and a "(yyyy-yyyy)" label. There is also a checkbox labeled "Include documents with no known publication date" which is currently unchecked.

And a search result (Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*):

[Reformat for Reading](#)



Mark this page

Revise Search

Back to Results

Search This Work

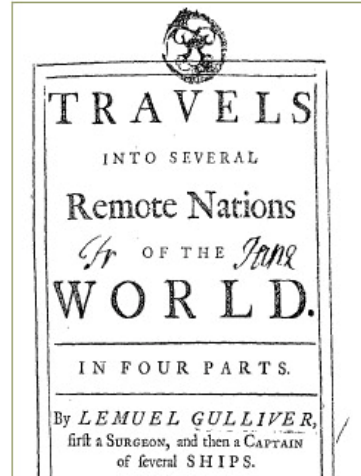
Search results  
13 relevant pages

page number	image number
	<a href="#">3</a>
	<a href="#">9</a>
	<a href="#">10</a>
	<a href="#">11</a>
	<a href="#">13</a>
25	<a href="#">37</a>
47	<a href="#">59</a>
59	<a href="#">71</a>
65	<a href="#">77</a>
77	<a href="#">89</a>
82	<a href="#">94</a>

Swift, Jonathan. *Travels into several remote nations of the world. In four parts. By Lemuel Gulliver, ...* London, 1726. 330pp. Vol. 1 of 2 (2 vols. available). *Literature and Language*

[Full Citation](#) | [eTable of Contents](#) | [List of Illustrations](#)

Page # Image # Scale Rotate  
Title Page | [Table of Contents](#) ◀ OR 2 of 330 GO ▶ 25% ▾ Original positio



Use the arrows (◀ ▶) to navigate through the book, or use the menu on the left to jump right to the pages where your search term appears.

Note the list of “Search results” in the column on the left. Click on any of the pages listed as “relevant” to jump to it, and see your search term highlighted on the page. Use the “Mark this page” checkbox to save your search results and return to them.

### III. Early English Books Online (EEBO)

- EEBO contains images of over 100,000 books printed in the British Isles from the beginning of printing (1472) to 1700.
- Search by author, title, subject, or various other options.
- No searchable text. To search full text, go to the EEBO Text Creation Partnership (also in the A-Z list of databases in the Subject Portal).

#### A sample EEBO search

Looking for books by the poet John Donne:

Check this box to include typographical variants  [Help](#)  
(e.g. Julius Caesar finds Iulius Caesar and Ivlivs Caesar)

**KEYWORD(s):**  [Select from a list >>](#) [Search](#)

**LIMIT TO:**  [Limit help](#)

**AUTHOR KEYWORD(s):**  [Select from a list >>](#)  
(e.g. Knox, John; Church of England)

**TITLE KEYWORD(s):**  [Select from a list >>](#)  
(e.g. Hamlet; labyrinth or labyrinthe)

**SUBJECT KEYWORD(s):**  [Select from a list >>](#)  
(e.g. Saints, Ireland fby History)

**BIBLIOGRAPHIC NUMBER:**  [Abbreviations reference](#)  
(e.g. STC and 22328; E.540[17])

**LIMIT BY DATE:** From:  To:  [Date help](#)

**Sort results:**  **Display:**

Search results will display as a list of records:

Key: - RECORD - DOCUMENT IMAGE - ILLUSTRATION  /  - ADD/REMOVE, TO/FROM, MARKED LIST

Click the icon for bibliographic information and the icon for page images. Use the checkboxes to add works to your “marked list,” which lets you save your search results and return to them for printing.

Looking at a book:

View this document as: [Help on downloading](#)

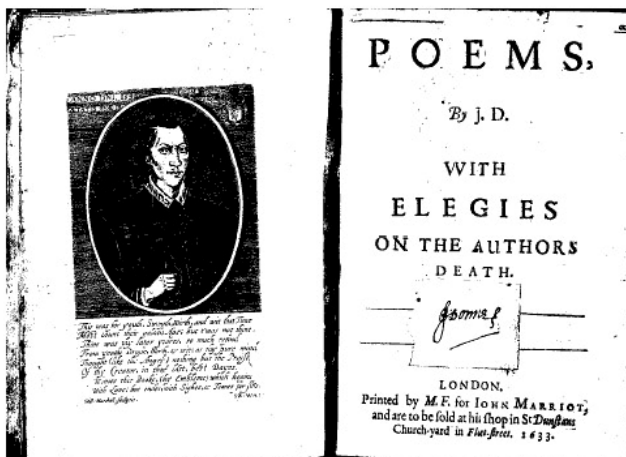
[<< Back to results](#)

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