



BookData Online: Subject Searching

What is Subject Searching?

Within the book industry there are a number of classification schemes which group titles together based on their subject. These include BIC, Dewey Decimal Codes (DDC), Library of Congress, Readership Levels and E4Libraries. BookData Online allows you to search by these classification schemes to tailor your searches and achieve more targeted results.

How do Classification Schemes work?

Publishers provide various levels of subject classification information for their titles, and then Nielsen Book's team of specialist Classifiers review these and assign detailed classification data in a consistent way in accordance with the guidelines and rules for the scheme concerned. The primary schemes the Classifiers use are: BIC (currently Version 2.0), DDC (currently Edition 22), and BookScan's proprietary scheme, Product Class. With the exception of DDC, which is a numeric code only, all classification values are held and displayed as both a code and a text heading. The BIC standard subject categories are hierarchical, so BookData Online presents them in a tree structure which is a useful visual aid when searching.

How do I find out more about the Classification Schemes?

The following schemes provide more information on their websites:

BIC (including Subject, Keyword, Geographical, Chronological, Educational, Reading Level)
<http://www.bic.org.uk/7/BIC-Standard-Subject-Categories/>

E4Libraries (including Adult Fiction, Adult Non Fiction, Children's)
<http://www.bic.org.uk/51/E4libraries-Subject-Category-Headings/>

Library of Congress (including Subject Heading, Class)
<http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpsolcco/>

How do I search using BIC Subject Classifications?

Click on the **New Search** tab to get the **Product Search** screen. Any search field which contains an **Index** which is searchable will have a radio button beside it.

BIC Subject Keyword A radio button is a clickable circle.

On the left hand side of the search screen is the **Quick Builder**. This allows you to adapt your search form. Click on the down arrow under **Quick Builder** and select **BIC Subject** and then click on **Add selected field**. **BIC Subject** will now be listed in your search form.

Click in the radio button beside **BIC Subject** and you will be taken to the **Browse Subject** screen which displays the **subject tree**. Enter your search term in the text box called **Text search across subject tree**

and click on [Search](#). For e.g. Search using the word *Ethics* and a list of relevant subjects will be listed on the right hand side.

By clicking on each result you will see where it appears in the [subject tree](#). To search by a particular subject select the tick box as it appears in the [subject tree](#) and click on [Choose selected subjects](#). It will appear in [Your chosen subjects](#) text box. You can then either [Add to your search](#) or [Search directly](#). Adding to your search will add the subject to your search form and allow you to tailor your criteria further before searching. Alternatively you can view your results and then click on [Refine search](#).

Searching by BIC subject *Ethics and moral philosophy* will return a list of over 12,500 titles. If you narrow the search by *Publication date* to only include titles published in 2009 the results are narrowed to around 300 titles.

The screenshot shows the Nielsen website interface for the United Kingdom. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Logout, Home, About Us, Contact Us, and Feedback. Below this, the Nielsen logo and the text 'International Service Territory United Kingdom' are visible. A secondary navigation bar contains links for Saved Searches, Saved Search Forms, List Manager, Form Builder, and Search History. The main content area is titled 'Browse Subject: bicSubject'. It features a search box with the text 'Text search across subject tree: ethics' and buttons for 'Search' and 'Cancel'. Below the search box is a 'Choose selected subjects' button. The subject tree is displayed as a list of categories with checkboxes. The 'Ethics & moral philosophy (HPQ)' category is highlighted in red. At the bottom of the subject tree, there is another 'Choose selected subjects' button and a checked checkbox for 'Include sub-categories'.

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Browse Subject: bicSubject

Text search across subject tree: ethics Search | Cancel

Choose selected subjects

- The Arts (A)
- Biography & True Stories (B)
- Language (C)
- Literature & literary studies (D)
- English language teaching (ELT) (E)
- Fiction & related items (F)
- Reference, information & interdisciplinary subjects (G)
- Humanities (H)
 - History (HB)
 - Archaeology (HD)
 - Philosophy (HP)
 - History of Western philosophy (HPC)
 - Non-Western philosophy (HPD)
 - Philosophy: metaphysics & ontology (HPJ)
 - Philosophy: epistemology & theory of knowledge (HPK)
 - Philosophy: logic (HPL)
 - Philosophy of mind (HPM)
 - Philosophy: aesthetics (HPN)
 - Ethics & moral philosophy (HPQ)
 - Social & political philosophy (HPS)
 - Popular philosophy (HPX)
 - Religion & beliefs (HR)
- Society & social sciences (J)
- Economics, finance, business & management (K)
- Law (L)
- Medicine (M)
- Mathematics & science (P)
- Earth sciences, geography, environment, planning (R)
- Technology, engineering, agriculture (T)
- Computing & information technology (U)
- Health & personal development (V)
- Lifestyle, sport & leisure (W)
- Children's, young adult & educational (Y)

Choose selected subjects

Include sub-categories

You can also use the [subject tree](#) by clicking on the headings to drill down through the categories. The further through the scheme you go the more specific your results will be.

Tip: You can also use this method to search by BIC Subject, Keyword, Geographical, Language, Chronological, Educational and Reading Level. The BIC Language Code index will help you find books about a language but not titles written in that language. The BIC Educational Code index can be used to select titles assigned to a specific Key Stage within the UK National Curriculum.

How do I search using Dewey?

Click on the [New Search](#) tab to get the [Product Search](#) screen. Using [Quick Builder](#), select [Dewey](#) from the drop down list and click on [Add selected field](#). [Dewey](#) will now be listed in your search form.

Click in the radio button beside [Dewey](#) and you will be taken to the [Browse Index](#) screen which contains a search box. Enter the Dewey code in the text box called [Stem](#) and click on [Search](#). The system will return all the matching terms within the index which begin with the stem you have entered. *For e.g. Searching using the stem 170 will return a list of matching terms ranging from 170 to 179.9.*

Click on your chosen term and it will be added to the [Search Terms](#) text box. This text box can be used to build up a list of terms. **Tip:** You can run alternative stem searches and continue to add the results to the text box. You can then either [Add to your search](#) or [Search directly](#).

Tip: If you know the Dewey range you wish to search you can enter it into your search form using square brackets. For example [\[170 TO 179.9\]](#)

How do I search using Library of Congress?

Click on the [New Search](#) tab to get the [Product Search](#) screen. Using [Quick Builder](#), select [LC Subject Heading](#) from the drop down list and click on [Add selected field](#). [LC Subject Heading](#) will now be listed in your search form.

Click in the radio button beside [LC Subject Heading](#) and you will be taken to the [Browse Index](#) screen which contains a search box. Enter your search term in the text box called [Stem](#) and click on [Search](#). The system will search for all complete words held in the index for that subject which begin with the stem you have entered. *For e.g. Search using the stem garden and a list of matching terms will be returned including garden, garden-ers, garden-ing and garden-s.* Please note wild cards can not be used in a stem search.

Click on your chosen term and it will be added to the [Search Terms](#) text box. This text box can be used to build up a list of terms. **Tip:** You can run alternative stem searches and continue to add the results to the text box. You can then either [Add to your search](#) or [Search directly](#).

Tip: You can also use this method to search by Library of Congress Subject Heading and Class and NC Subjects.

How do I search using E4Libraries Childrens Codes?

Click on the [New Search](#) tab to get the [Product Search](#) screen. Using [Quick Builder](#), select [E4L Childrens codes](#) from the drop down list and click on [Add selected field](#). [E4L Childrens codes](#) will now be listed in your search form.

Click on the blue text of the label [E4L Childrens codes](#) and a list of the codes will be displayed in a pop up window. Cut and paste the code you wish to use into the relevant text box in the search form and click on [Search now](#). *For e.g. Search using the code BOB to find Books for Babies.*

Tip: You can also use this method to search by [E4Libraries Adult Fiction](#) and [Adult Non Fiction](#).

Login to BookData Online and try it for yourself - www.nielsenbookdataonline.com

Quick Reference Guides:

Our Quick Reference Guides are available to download from our website –
www.nielsenbookdata.co.uk

Help Desk

If you have a technical enquiry please contact our help desk, open during normal office hours:
(Monday-Friday 08.30-17.30 GMT)

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Email: help.book@nielsen.com