



USER DOCUMENTATION

How to Link to an ALEPH Catalog



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Releases 15 -19
Last Updated: December 16, 2008

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Overview

ALEPH 500 has a generic link-to mechanism that is designed to support Web browser queries from external applications and clients to ALEPH's search engine, using the HTTP protocol. In ALEPH, the functionality of submitting queries has been integrated with the Web OPAC.

Because ALEPH is a flexible system, which enables each site to configure its own indexes and display formats, the query must be tailored to suit the particular catalog being queried.

If the query does not find a record, the server sends a "**NO HITS**" message, together with an ALEPH window. The individual ALEPH site has full control of the message text and format of the HTML file which defines this window.

Query Syntax

Here is an example of the syntax of a generic query:

```
http://<server:port>/F?func=  
<functional-code>&<parameter_name>=<parameter-value>
```

The query string is comprised of a number of different components. These are as follows:

<server:port> - This is the hostname and port number for the ALEPH server which is being addressed.

<functional-code> - This is the function value that links to the program that is used for the query. You can find the “func” value in the relevant ALEPH HTML file.

<parameter-name> - This is the parameter for the query, such as base code, index, document number, etc., which defines the target for the query. It must be written in lower case.

<parameter-value> - this can be written in either upper or lower case.

Pairs of **<parameter-name>=<parameter-value>** can be repeated, with each pair delimited by an ampersand character (“&”).

Following are examples of parameter names:

<find-code> - the index code in the ALEPH catalog. This code is site-specific, and therefore you must determine the codes used by the specific ALEPH application. Examples of codes used by many ALEPH sites are 020 or ISBN for the ISBN index, 022 or ISSN for the ISSN index, AUT for author index, TTL for title index.

<doc_number> - is used when the query is for a specific record, identified by its system number. The query text is the full nine-digit internal identification number (system number) of the record.

<local_base> - the code of the database being queried. If the base being queried is the default ALEPH base, this parameter is not required.

<l_base> - for func=direct (i.e. request for a particular document by its system number), this parameter name is required, in addition to the **<local_base>** parameter.

The base code is set by the individual site in the `/alephe/tab_base.lng` table.

<request> - the text of the query.

Queries

Direct Query

This link-to syntax supports retrieval of a specific record, based on its ALEPH record number.

This is an example of link-to syntax to retrieve a specific document, from the default base:

```
http://<server_name>:<port>/F?func=direct
&l_base=<base code>&doc_number=<system-number>&format=<format-value>
```

This is an example of link-to syntax to retrieve a specific document, from a base other than the default base:

```
http://<server_name>:<port>/F?func=direct
&local_base=<base code>&l_base=<base code>
&doc_number=<system-number>&format=<format-value>
```

This is an example of a link-to syntax retrieve a specific document by its ISBN:

```
http://<server_name>:<port>/F?func=find-b
&request=3527299769&find_code=ISBN
```

The same syntax can be used for any direct index defined in `tab11_ind`.

Please note that the `find_code` used here is the one defined in the `IND` section of `tab00.<lng>`.

The resulting web page of each query is identical to the result page received when using the OPAC application.

FIND Query

Following are examples of link-to syntax for keyword search queries using the `FIND` function.

To retrieve records based on words from the title field, the following is entered:

```
http://<server_name>:<port>/F?func=find-b&request=green&find_code=WTI
```

To retrieve records as above, but limited to the "EDUC" base:

```
http://<server_name>:<port>/F?func=find-b
&request=green&find_code=WTI&local_base=educ
```

Search for “great barrier reef” using words from title, with adjacency:

```
http://<server_name>:<port>/F?func=find-b&request=great barrier reef&find_code=wti&adjacent=Y
```

To retrieve records, based on several words from the subject field, where they are adjacent:

```
http://<server_name>:<port>/F?func=find-b&request=united states&find_code=WSU&adjacent=Y
```

The following example illustrates retrieving records using CCL and filters by language, year and material type:

```
http://<server_name>:<port>/F?func=find-c&ccl_term=wti=green &adjacent=N&filter_code_1=WLN&filter_request_1=ENG&filter_code_2=WYR &filter_request_2=2000&filter_code_3=WFM&filter_request_3=BK
```

SCAN Query

The SCAN command can be used to retrieve a list of headings.

The following example will retrieve a list of title headings starting with the string green:

```
http://<server_name>:<port>/F?func=scan&scan_start=green &scan_code=TTL
```

Items

Use the following syntax to retrieve a record’s items:

```
http://<server_name>:<port>/F?func=item-global &doc_library=USM01&doc_number=000007895
```

The parameters year, volume and sublibrary can be used to refine the query (for example, for journal issues):

```
http://<server_name>:<port>/F?func=item-global&doc_library=USM01 &doc_number=000007895&year=2001&volume=1&sub_library=UEDUC
```

Web Page

To display a specific web page from alephe/www_<lng>, use the file_name function. For example, to display the login-bor page, use the following syntax:

```
http://<server_name>:<port>/F?func=BOR-LOGIN&func_option= login-bor&file_name=login-bor
```

Language

To start the session in a particular language interface, use the following syntax:
`http://<server_name>:<port>/F?con_lng=<language code>`

For example, to start your session in German:
`http://<server_name>:<port>/F?con_lng=ger`