Direct Linking to Quest:
Keyword, Direct (system number, ISBN, ISSN) and Browse Index Searches

You can use the following URL syntax to link to the Quest Web OPAC from an external document/web site and execute a search. Such syntax could be used, for example, in a Pathfinder to link a user directly to a catalog record.

I.) KEYWORD / DIRECT SYSTEM NUMBER SEARCHES

The general syntax is as follows:

http://library.bc.edu/F?func=find-b &local_base=logical_base&find_code=IndexCode&request=SearchTerm(s)&adjacent=Y or N (Y=Search as a phrase, N=Search as keyword(s))

The text in red represents search variables that are passed-on to the Web OPAC when you click on the link. The link opens the Web OPAC and executes the search specified in the in the link.

For example:

If you want to link to the OPAC and execute a search for a specific book/record, create a URL from your external document with the following syntax:

http://library.bc.edu/F?func=find-b&local_base=BC_CATALOG&find_code=SYS&request=001527656&adjacent=N

***Please make sure that there are no spaces in the URL

This link will take you directly to O'Neill Library's copy of *Bloody constraint : war and chivalry in Shakespeare / by Theodor Meron.*

Explanation of the elements in the example URL:

1.) func=find-b (or find-c – SEE Example 3 below)

This signals to Aleph that you are executing a keyword/direct search while linking to the catalog from an external source.

2.) &local_base=BC_CATALOG

This is the specific catalog that the URL should open and search using the terms passed along in the URL. The following is an explanation of the bases:
- **BC_CATALOG**: The full Online catalog -- All Libraries.
- **BCL_SER**: The journals catalog (All Libraries)
- **BCL_LAW**: Records in the Law Library
- **BCL_ONL**: Records in O'Neill (not including Media, GovDocs, Microform, Internet)
- **BCL_BAPST**: Records in Bapst Library
- **BCL_BURNS**: Records in Burns Library
- **BCL_ERC**: Records in the ERC
- **BCL_GOV**: Records in O'Neill Government Documents
- **BCL_INT**: Internet Resources
- **BCL_SWK**: Records in the Social Work Library
- **BCL_MEDIA**: Records in the Media Center
- **BCL_MICRO**: Microforms in O'Neill Library
- **BCL_FA_W**: Faculty Publications Catalog
- **BCL30**: Course Reserves Catalog

3.) &find_code=SYS

This tells Aleph what keyword/direct index to search. The following is a list of keyword/direct indexes:
SYS - Aleph System Number
020 - ISBN (don't include hyphens)

022 - ISSN (include hyphen)
WRD - Words anywhere in record
WTI - Words in title fields
WAU - Words in author fields
WSU - Words in subject fields
WNO - Words in note fields
WPU - Words in publisher field
WNC - Words in table of contents field
WSE - Words in series title field
WLT - Words in local archival collection name
WYR - Year of publication
WLN - Language code
WPP - Place of publication code
WSL - Library code
WCL - Library collection code

4.) &request =001527656

This is the actual search term(s) the URL is passing-on to the system.

5.) &adjacent =N OR &adjacent =Y (Optional: the system defaults to "adjacent=N")

Determines whether or not the terms are searched as a phrase, or as keywords anywhere. If adjacent=Y, then terms are searched as a phrase. If adjacent=N, then terms are searched as keyword anywhere.

Example 2:

http://library.bc.edu/F?func=find-b&local_base=BC_CATALOG&find_code=WSE&request=Cambridge+studies+ideology+religion&adjacent=N

This URL link will return a list of all of the titles in the series, *Cambridge Studies in Ideology and Religion*.

In this example, the "+" sign functions in the URL as a Boolean "AND". The terms are searched as a phrase.

Please note: If you are searching for an *exact phrase*, you should use a Scan (Browse) URL link. See BROWSE HEADINGS information below.

Example 3: Using Multiple Indexes:

http://library.bc.edu/F?func=find-c&local_base=BC_CATALOG
&ccl_term=WLN=spa+AND+WSU=(Cuba+Politics+and+government)

This URL link will return a list of all of the titles which are written in Spanish, and contain the subject heading: *Cuba -- Politics and government*. Please note that the syntax "+AND+" is used to link two different keyword indexes. Remember, do not include spaces in the URL or the link will not work.

II.) BROWSE HEADINGS (SCAN) – Use when you are searching for an *exact phrase/heading*

To link to a Browse List, the general syntax is as follows:

http://library.bc.edu/F?func=scan&local_base=logical_base&scan_code=BrowseIndexCode&scan_start=SearchTerm(s)

The text in red represents search variables that are passed-on to the Web OPAC when you click on the link. The link opens the Web OPAC and executes the search specified in the in the link.

For example:

http://library.bc.edu/F?func=scan&local_base=BC_CATALOG&scan_code=ATH&scan_start=fitzgerald+f+scott

***Please make sure that there are no spaces in the URL

This link will take you to a list of headings, starting with *Fitzgerald, F. Scott*

Explanation of the elements in the example Browse URL:

1.) func=scan

This signals to Aleph that you would like to see a browse list of headings while linking to the catalog from an external source.

2.) &local_base=BC_CATALOG

This is the specific catalog that the URL should open and search using the terms passed along in the URL. The following is an explanation of the bases:
- **BC_CATALOG**: The full Online catalog -- All Libraries.
- **BCL_SER**: The journals catalog (All Libraries)
- **BCL_LAW**: Records in the Law Library
- **BCL_ONL**: Records in O'Neill (not including Media, GovDocs, Microform, Internet)
- **BCL_BAPST**: Records in Bapst Library
- **BCL_BURNS**: Records in Burns Library
- **BCL_ERC**: Records in the ERC
- **BCL_GOV**: Records in O'Neill Government Documents
- **BCL_SWK**: Records in the Social Work Library
- **BCL_MEDIA**: Records in the Media Center
- **BCL_MICRO**: Microforms in O'Neill Library
- **BCL_FA_W**: Faculty Publications Catalog
- **BCL30**: Course Reserves Catalog

3.) &scan_code=ATH

This tells Aleph what browse or direct index to search. The following is a list of browse/direct indexes:

TTL - Title headings
ATH - Author Headings
SUB – Subject Heading
CWT – Call Numbers
SDC – SuDoc (Government Document) Call Numbers
SRS – Series Titles
TUT – Uniform Titles
024 – ISMN (international Standard Music Numbers
SYS - Aleph System Number
020 - ISBN (don't include hyphens)
022 - ISSN (include hyphen)
STP – Local Collection Name

4.) &scan_start=fitzgerald+f+scott

This is the actual index starting point the URL is passing-on to the system.

Example 2:

http://library.bc.edu/F?func=scan&local_base=BC_CATALOG
&scan_code=SUB&scan_start=Cuba+Politics+and+government+1959-

This will display a list of subject headings, beginning with "Cuba – Politics and Government – 1959-"

Any Questions? Contact:
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