I. Working with Search Results from ProQuest Congressional Search Forms

Once you have retrieved your search results, you can use several features to enhance and explore these results.¹

A. Edit Search

The search terms you entered appear at the top of the Congressional results page. Next to the search terms is the “Edit Search” button. This allows you to edit the search terms from the Results page.² Clicking the “Edit Search” button will take you back to the last search you conducted.

B. FOCUS Search

Also at the top of the Results page is the “FOCUS Search” box. Entering additional search terms in this box will narrow the original search, but will search for specific words or phrases only within the results already found.³ This is an easy way to narrow your results to more specific results using search terms. Connectors and commands and truncation and wildcard characters can be also used within the FOCUS search. The FOCUS search option is available on all search forms through Congressional.

EXAMPLE: The results for the search “housing w/5 discrimination and gender,” entering the word “apartment” in the FOCUS search box and clicking “Go” narrows the original list of results to only those results that contain the word “apartment”.

C. Results List Detail

Depending on the level of detail you would like in the Results list, you can view the above results in one of four formats: the default “Results list,” an “Expanded” list, “KWIC” list, or Full Document format. The default Results list shows the search results in a numbered list, as seen below.

The Expanded list shows the same results as the default list, except that the search terms are shown in context.

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The KWIC (Keywords in Context) list helps you determine the relevance of results in the list by showing each document with each search term surrounded by a text. In the KWIC list view, you will see records one-by-one rather than in a list of results.

Finally, the Full Document list shows each record in the results list one-by-one. In the Full Document view, you can click the “Find More Like This” link to narrow the search to find similar documents. The option to select the display for the search results is available on all search forms through Congressional, including the Basic Search Form.
D. Other Options

Other options available from the Results list include the option to email results, print results, and to navigate from record to record.

Additionally, you can sort the results by relevance or by publication date of the record retrieved.\(^5\)

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