Power Search

Power Search provides an alternative search method for the users so that they can make better usage of the vast store of public records in the system. Power Search allows users to identify an entity (an individual or a business) with limited or fragmented data, with the assistance of connectors. They then can further search the entity using the linking technology within the system (Relavint).

There are two components in Power Search: Terms & Connectors Search and Quick Search.

Regardless of your input, the searches are performed against the following combined databases: Person Header, Real Property, and Corporate Filings.

Topics in this help are listed below:

- Terms & Connectors Search
- Quick Search
- Results Display
- Next Steps

Terms & Connectors Search

This is also known as Boolean Search. Basically it allows you to combine any words and phrases using operator words such as AND, OR, and NOT (otherwise known as Boolean operators) to limit, widen, or define your search.

If you have very limited information, our Terms & Connectors Search can be of great help. It involves inputting information in one or more fields in the standard search form followed by adding more terms that are essential to your search, including connectors, in another designated area.

For example, you might know the city in which a company is located and the nature of the business (such as a doors and windows manufacturer), but have no other information. In a Terms & Connectors search, you can enter the name of the city; then add “doors and windows” in the Additional Terms area. Your search results will include all companies in that city that sell or manufacture doors and windows.

You may also skip the search form and go straight to the Additional Terms area to input your search terms and connectors. Use parenthesis to separate terms.
For example, if you want to search for “John Yamaguchi” in “Coral Springs, Florida”, enter “(John Yamaguchi) and (Coral Springs and Florida)”. 

Quick Start

1. The default for Power Search is the Terms & Connectors Search. It is a search form with multiple fields.

2. Enter any information you may have for those fields, be it Name, SSN, Company, Address, City, State, Zip, DOB, or Phone, or a combination of these elements.

3. In the Additional Terms area, enter anything else you think that is related to the subject entity. You can start with either terms or connectors. For example, you may enter “international” in the Company field; then add “(John Doe) or (Jane Doe)” in the Additional Terms area. (This allows you to search for companies whose names contain “international” and have “John Doe or Jane Doe” as the listed officers.) Or enter “John Doe” in the Name field; then add “or (Jane Doe) and (Miami and Florida)” in the Additional Terms area. (This is to search John Doe or Jane Doe in Miami, Florida.) Note: Wild Card indicators are allowed in the Additional Terms area.

4. Enter the Reference. This may be the case name or number. You can use numbers or characters, or a combination of numbers and characters. This information is optional, but may be used to keep track of your searches and reports. You can find your reference codes in the Activity section of menu My Account.

5. Click the Search button.

Notes:

- You may also input connectors in the form fields. Just make sure to use, for example, “John or Jon w/3 Smith” in the Name field, or add parenthesis to the names like “(John Smith) or (Walter Smith)”, as apposed to “John or Walter Smith”. If you use the latter, the system would treat “John or Walter” and “Walter Smith” as phrases and search “Walter Smith”, or “Walter”, or “John”, instead of searching for “John Smith” or “Walter Smith”.

- For address search, it is best to not use directional indicators (such as NW and E. etc.) and street designations (such as St. and Cir. etc.) as those could be spelled out or abbreviated. So “123 N. Main Street” is best run as “123 pre/4 Main”.
**Commonly Used Connectors**

Search connectors are the logic words used to help narrow or widen a search. You may use them in capped or small letters.

Connectors that are allowed in the system are:

- **AND** – To search all terms entered. For example, if the terms are “Broward County AND Palm Beach County”, the result records should contain both counties.

- **OR** – To search one or both terms entered. For example, if the terms are “Broward County OR Palm Beach County”, the result records should contain either or both of the counties.

- **AND NOT** – To not search the term/terms entered. For example, if the terms are “Broward County AND NOT Palm Beach County”, the result records should contain Broward County only. Palm Beach County records should be excluded.

- **pre/N** – To search a term that is preceded by N (number of) words. Terms with a period or a space is considered one word. For example, if the terms are “John pre/1 Doe”, the results should be records that contain “John Doe”; if the terms are “John pre/2 Doe”, the results should be records that contain “John Doe” and “John Smith Doe”/“John S. Doe” etc; if the terms are “John pre/3 Doe”, the results should be records that contain “John Doe”, “John Smith Doe”/“John S. Doe”, and “John and Jane Doe” or “John Smith S. Doe” etc.

- **w/N** – To search a term that is within (either before or after) N (number of) words. Terms with a period or a space is considered one word. For example, if the search terms are ““John w/1 Doe”, the results should be records that contain either “John Doe” or “Doe, John”; if the search terms are ““John w/2 Doe”, the results should be records that contain “John Doe” or “Doe, John”, or “John Smith Doe” or “Doe, John Smith” or “Doe, John Jr.” etc; if the search terms are ““John w/3 Doe”, the results should be records that contain “John Doe” or “Doe, John”, “John Smith Doe” or “Doe, John S.” or “Doe, John Smith Jr.”, and “John and Jane Doe” or “Doe, John and Jane” etc.

**Wildcard Searches**

A wildcard is a character that may be used in a search term to represent one or more other characters.

**Note:** Wildcard indicators are allowed only in the **Additional Terms** area. Additionally they cannot be used on the SSN.
In the system the question mark (?) and the asterisk (*) are the accepted wildcard indicators. The question mark indicates the equivalent of a letter variable. For example, "M?N" would include Man or Men, or any other words which begin with an M and end with an N with one letter (a-z) in between, as part of the search.

The asterisk is used to indicate the equivalent of a Begins With search or a root expander. The letters prior to the asterisk shall be consider root of a word and any word with those letters as a beginning shall be considered as part of the search. For example, if you enter "john\*", the search results will have John, Johnson, Johnsonville, etc.

**Quick Search**

This is also referred to as the Natural Language Search, where a user simply types a key word (term) or a group of key words (phrase) in one text input area.

The search returns records that contain all the key words. For example, if your input is "John Doe", the system returns records that contain both words.

**Quick Start**

1. Type the search term(s) in the Enter Terms field.
2. Enter the Reference.
3. Click the Search button.

**Note:** If you choose to input a Social Security Number in the Enter Terms field, you need to first enter “SSN” followed by the full SSN. Example: SSN (123-45-6789).

**Common and Unique Terms**

Quick Search differentiates between common and unique terms. Unique terms are less frequently used words and therefore are more highly weighted than the common terms.

In the extreme case, when one term is very unique while the other term is very common, it is possible the system will return a resultset that would have only the unique term.
For example, “John” is a common name while “Yamaguchi” is a much less common one. If you enter terms “John Yamaguchi”, the system will search for “Yamaguchi” before “John”. In the results list records with “John Yamaguchi” appear first, followed by records with Just “Yamaguchi”. Those with just “John” would likely be too numerous to make to the list at all.

Results Display

Results are displayed by relevance – the ones that match the input criteria the most make the top of the list.

The relevance of a result may be impacted by the terms, with uncommon or unique terms weighing more heavily in the relevance ranking.

Elements in the results may include some or all of the following:

- **Name or Company** – Full Person Name or Company Name
- **SSN** – Social Security Number
- **DOB** – Date of Birth
- **DOD** – Date of Death
- **Phone** – Phone number from Electronic Directory Assistance
- **Address** - Street, City, State, and Zip.
- **Type** – Indicator of the database type (Person Header, Corporate Filings, Fictitious Business Names, or Real Property)
- **Last Seen** – Date the address was last reported

Too Many Records Found

The maximum number of records to be displayed in the search results list is 1000. If your search retrieves more than the maximum number of records, the system will return “Too many records found. Please add additional terms to narrow your search results”. There is no charge for the search.

Narrow/Expand Search Results

If your search returns more records than are practical to review, try to narrow the results by adding search criteria, if known, in the following order:
1. State
2. City
3. Zip
4. Middle initial

**Caution:** Not all records have a middle initial. Adding one may eliminate records you may want to include.

If too few or no record is returned, try loosening the search by removing the most restrictive search criteria, such as the SSN, DOB, or the exact Street Address.

**Locate the Subject in the Results List**

Identify the proper record(s) by carefully examining the information displayed. Make sure the record you pick fits what is already known of the subject.

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**Next Steps**

If the returned record is on a person, you will be able to all or some of the following:

- Conduct further searches on the desired record by clicking the hyperlinks on Name, SSN, or Address.
- Copy/Print/Email one or all of the records.
- Export the results list by clicking the **Export to Excel** link.
- Launch Relavint, an embedded linking tool that connects a person with addresses and other persons, by clicking the icon.
- Generate reports by clicking various report icons. Available reports are:
  - Comprehensive Report for person ((Icons) – provides detailed information on all aspects of an individual, such as name, address, properties, motor vehicle registrations, possible criminal records, etc.
  - Address Report (Icons) – provides current and historical information on all the individuals associated with the address.
Finder Report - provides more information, especially phones, on a person by tapping into a historical phone database.

If the returned record is on a business, you will be able to do all or some of the following:

- Conduct further searches on the desired record by clicking the hyperlinks on Company, or Address.
- Copy/Print/Email one or all of the records by clicking the icon.
- Export the results list by clicking the Export to Excel link.
- Launch Relavint, an embedded linking tool that connect a business to persons, addresses, and other businesses, by clicking .
- Generate reports by clicking various report icons. Available reports are:
  - Comprehensive Business Report - provides basic company information such as name, address, and phone number, as well as more detailed records such as business filings, assets, and associated businesses.
  - Address Report - provides current and historical information on the all the businesses associated with the address.

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