

Three Ways to Apply Lexiles to EBSCO Databases

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Lexiles are most easily applied in the school databases. Ultra, Middle, Primary and Topic Search have two visible Lexile limiters: "Lexile Reading Level", with a drag down box and "Lexile Reading Score", where users have more flexibility in applying Lexiles.

1. "Lexile Reading Level" is pretty straightforward. Simply use the drag down box and highlight the desired Lexile range.

2. For "Lexile Reading Score" use a hyphen to define either the desired range, maximum or minimum Lexiles. Don't type in a specific Lexile score. What happens is the search will be restricted to articles that are exactly that Lexile and will result in very few, if any hits.

Some examples of using the "Lexile Reading Score" in the high school database Ultra:

A search on "Saturn planets" yields over 300 hits

RANGE: "Saturn planets" with 800-1000 in the Lexile Score Box results in over 60 hits that are between 800-1000 (sixth to eighth grade).

MAXIMUM: "Saturn planets" with -1000 in the Lexile Score Box results in approximately 70 hits that are all below a 1000 Lexile (eighth grade or less).

MINIMUM: "Saturn planets" with 1000- in the Lexile Score Box results in about 200 hits that are all above a 1000 Lexile (eighth grade or higher).

3. All of the databases, with the exception of Newspaper Source, Academic and Business Source Premier are Lexile'd. Only HTML articles have a Lexile score. At this time PDF articles do not. In databases where there are Lexile scores but they are not visible, a field code can be used to apply Lexiles. Try the following searches in Health Source Consumer or Masterfile Premier.

RANGE: stem cell and lx 800-1100 This will give you articles w/in the 800-1100 range

MAXIMUM: stem cell and lx -1100 This will give you articles on stem cells that are less than 1100 Lexile

MINIMUM: cell and lx 1100- This will give articles at 1100 or higher.