

Archive Search Cribsheet 2 - Advanced Search

BBC Archive Search

This cribsheet covers using the search filters in Archive Search. We recommend you read *Archive Search Cribsheet 1 - Simple Search* before using this one.

Search the BBC archives

Instantly uncover video and audio content within 66,884,394 assets from across the BBC archives.

Search assets by title, description or transcripts

Search All ▾ Enter search term

Search using AND

Search

Show all types ▾ from all series ▾ of all genres ▾ , transmission date ▾ from all time ▾ in all qualities ▾ ▾ Less Reset

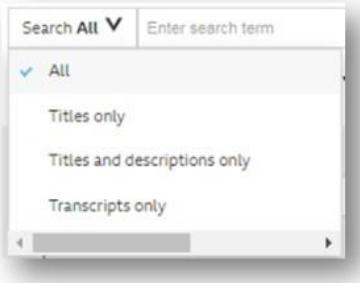
Search in Title	Search in Description	Search in Synopsis	Supplier type
Enter search term	Enter search term	Enter search term	All Supplier Types
Component	Content Type	Source System	Platform
All Components	All Content Types	All Source Systems	All Platforms
Contributor	Exclude from search	Include regional opt out	
All Contributors	None		

The search filters in Archive Search are quite intuitive to use and you can apply them before or after you have entered a search term (or with no search term at all). There are a few tips and pointers covered in this cribsheet which will help you use these advanced features more effectively.

Click on the ? menu at the top right of the screen to access the full list of search operators that you can apply to your search.



1.1. 'Search All' Filter



What is this for?

This filter allows you to specify what you want to search over. You can click on the down arrow and then select which option you would like to use.

How does it work?

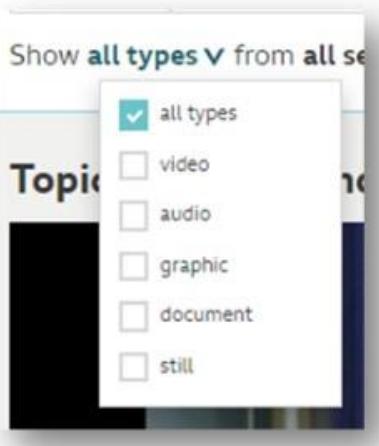
Applying one of the options from this filter will affect your search in the following way:

All	Searches across all metadata
Titles Only	This will search over all titles - this includes Programme Titles, Series Titles, Item Titles etc
Titles and descriptions only	This will search as above but will also include metadata from Programme Descriptions
Transcripts Only	This will restrict your search to cover metadata from any transcripts and subtitles only

Why would I want to restrict my search to only cover transcripts?

If you are specifically looking for something somebody has said and you are getting results which are not relevant use this filter - as an example if you search for "They think it's all over" across all fields you will get a lot of copies of the TV programme with the same name. If you search for the same phrase on Transcripts Only you will get results for Kenneth Wolstenholme's football commentary.

1.2. 'Types' Filter



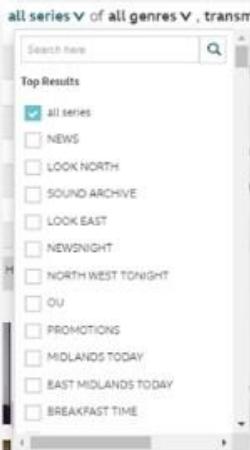
What is this for?

You can use this filter to restrict your search to only cover Video or Audio content. So if you are only interested in radio programmes set this to 'Audio'. This will include content which is still held on tape so you can use it to look for legacy content as well.

How about graphic, document & stills?

Ignore these for now - they are not relevant to Archive Search and we will review this filter as part of our future development.

1.3. Series Search



How does this work?

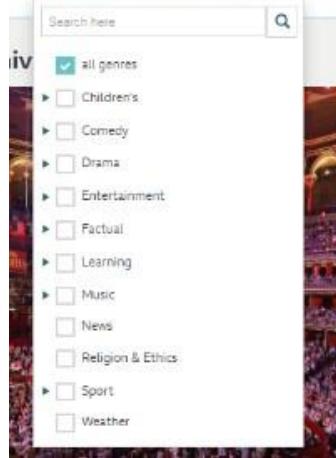
Opening this filter will launch a pop-up search box into which you can look for a series title. Once you start typing relevant results will be returned and you can select one (or more) of these to add to your search.

Why am I getting lots of different results for the same series title?

The data for this search comes from existing and legacy upstream systems such as On Air / What's On, and PIPs. In those systems series may have been entered multiple times to cover, for example, different commissioning rounds. We are working on improving the logic for this filter. In the meantime, if you are getting lots of confusing results, you may want to use the 'Search in Title' field - more details on this below.

1.4. Genre Filter

of all genres  , transmission date  from

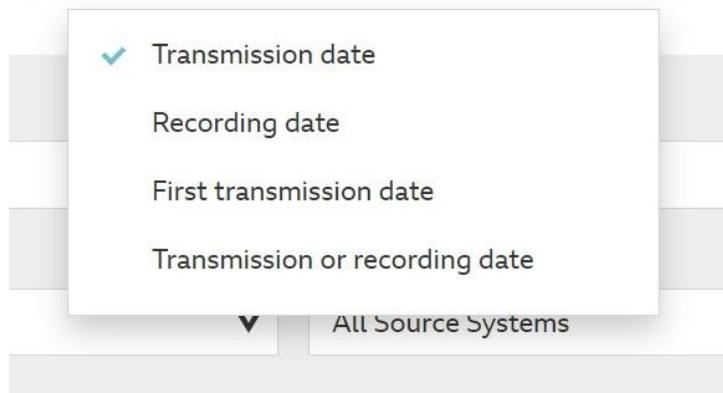


The Genre filter allows you to refine your search to one or more programme genres. You can select a top level genre, or click on the arrow to the left to expand the genre to view and select any of the sub-genres to add to your search

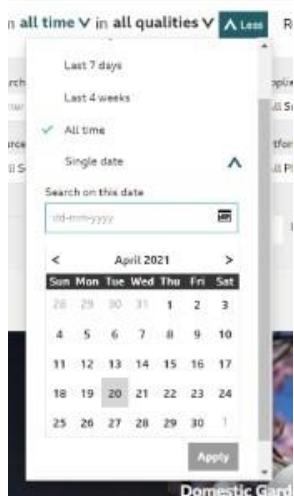
1.5. Transmission Date and Time

Archive Search will default to searching the Transmission Date when you fill in a time range, but you can change this to search over *Recording Date*, *First Transmission Date*, or *Transmission or Recording Date*

, transmission date  from all time  in

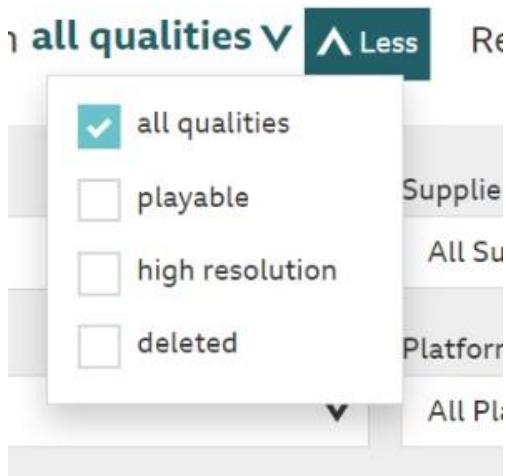


Once you have made your selection click on the arrow next to 'all time' and either select one of the default date ranges, or enter a single date or date range:



Don't forget to hit 'Apply' once you have entered a date!

1.6. Qualities Filter



Use this filter if you want to only return playable, or high resolution content

What does the deleted filter show?

Ignore this for now! We are about to remove it.

Click on 'More' to reveal the additional filters

Search the BBC archives

Instantly uncover video and audio content within **34,488,678** assets from across the BBC archives.

Search assets by title, description or transcripts

Search All Enter search term

Search using AND

Show **all types** from **all series** of **all genres** , **transmission date** from **all time** in **all qualities** Reset

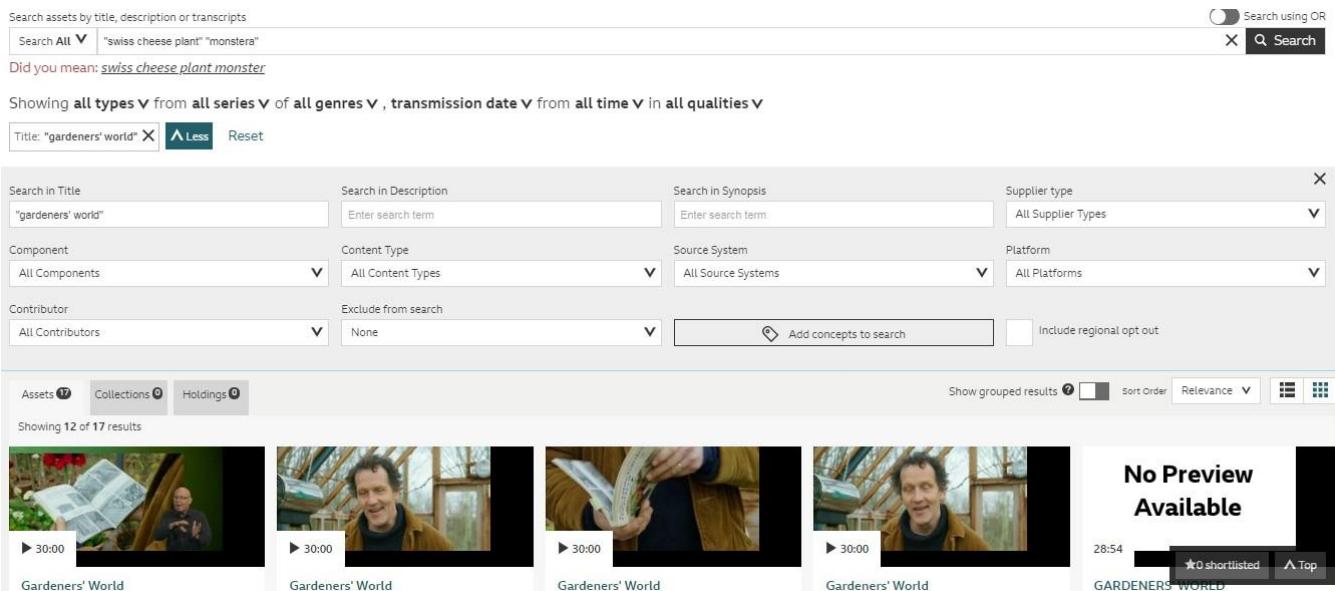
Search in Title <input type="text" value="Enter search term"/>	Search in Description <input type="text" value="Enter search term"/>	Search in Synopsis <input type="text" value="Enter search term"/>	Supplier type <input type="text" value="All Supplier Types"/>
Component <input type="text" value="All Components"/>	Content Type <input type="text" value="All Content Types"/>	Source System <input type="text" value="All Source Systems"/>	Platform <input type="text" value="All Platforms"/>
Contributor <input type="text" value="All Contributors"/>	Exclude from search <input type="text" value="None"/>	<input type="button" value="Add concepts to search"/> <input type="checkbox" value="Include regional opt out"/>	

1.7. Title / Description / Synopsis Search

These fields do exactly what they say on the tin. Enter a search term in the 'Search in Title' field for example and the system will only look in title fields to find your results. This covers all titles - Series, Programme, Episode etc.

Why wouldn't I just use the main search box for a title search?

You can of course use the main search box for title searches, but if you want to combine a phrase search with a title then your search will be more focussed if you separate the phrase into the main search box, and the title into the Title box. Doing your search this way allows you to use complex search logic in the main search box and restrict it to a particular programme. For example if you wanted to find footage of "Swiss Cheese Plant" or "Monstera" in episodes of "Gardeners' World" and you put everything in the main search box you'll get a lot of results. Put "Gardeners' World" in the title field instead and your results will be much more accurate:



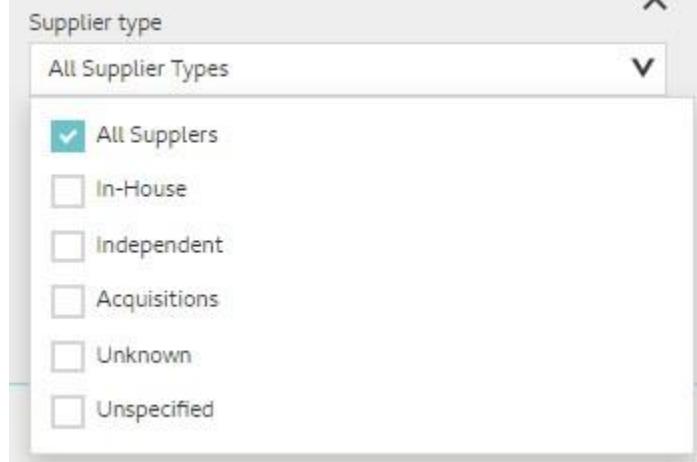
The screenshot shows the BBC Archive search interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the query "Search assets by title, description or transcripts" and a dropdown "Search All" set to "swiss cheese plant" and "monstera". There are buttons for "Search using OR" and "Search". Below the search bar, a message says "Did you mean: [swiss cheese plant monstera](#)". The search results are shown for "Title: 'gardeners' world'". The results list 12 of 17 results, all for "Gardeners' World". Each result card shows a thumbnail image, a duration (e.g., 30:00 or 28:54), the title "Gardeners' World", and a "No Preview Available" message. There are buttons for "Assets", "Collections", and "Holdings". At the bottom right, there are buttons for "Show grouped results", "Sort Order", "Relevance", and "grid" and "list" view options.

What's the difference between the Description and Synopsis search fields?

The 'Description' field covers text that will be held in the Archive Description field for an asset. This is usually internal-facing, cataloguing data. The 'Synopsis' field will search over text that is held in public-facing systems - such as the information about a programme that you see on iPlayer or bbc.co.uk

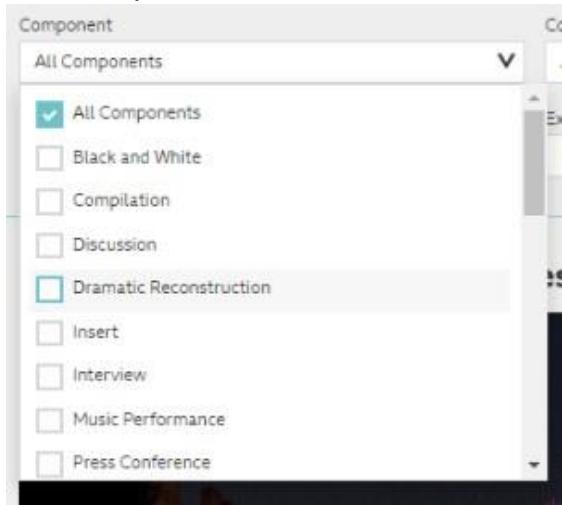
1.8. Supplier Type

Use this filter if you want to refine your search by whether it was an In-House, Indie or Acquisition.



The screenshot shows a dropdown menu for "Supplier type" with the heading "All Supplier Types". The menu lists the following options: "All Suppliers" (selected, indicated by a checked checkbox), "In-House", "Independent", "Acquisitions", "Unknown", and "Unspecified".

1.9. Component

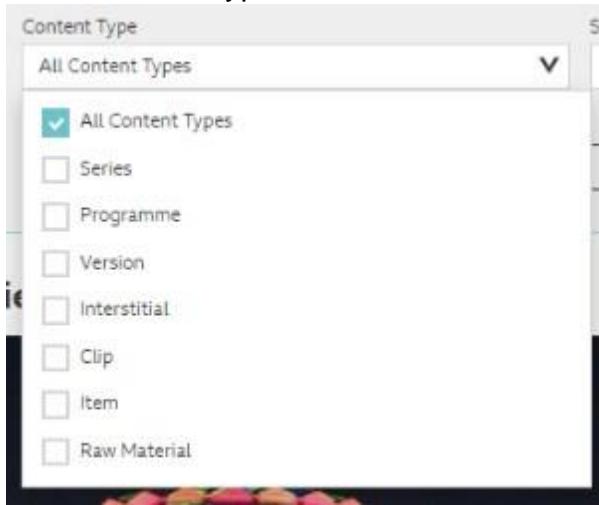


This filter contains a list of categories that have been applied to programmes and other content. It's a straight lift and shift from the old Fabric system so it largely refers to older material which may still be on tape.

Why does it include categories like 'Red Button' and 'iPlayer' - shouldn't they be under the TX Channel / Platform filter?

The values in this filter were built up over time so to a certain extent reflect how the BBC categorised its output in the past. We are working on rationalising these values but for now it's a good way to search on, for example, the old music session archive.

1.10. Content Type

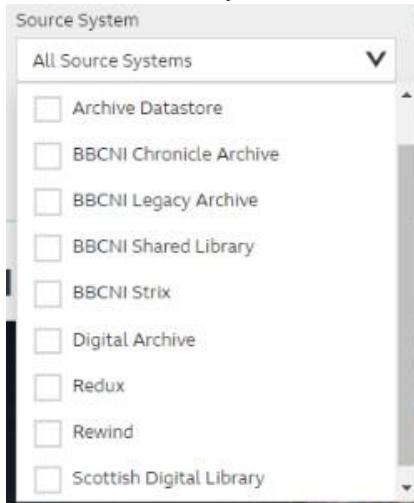


Use this filter if you want to refine your search by the type of content - for example, programmes or raw material (rushes).

Isn't that the same as the Component Filter?

There are some similarities between the two - as mentioned above the Component Filter is an historic list of values that were applied to the tape based holdings. As part of the rationalisation of that filter we will look at combining any similar values between these two filters to make content category searching a lot more intuitive.

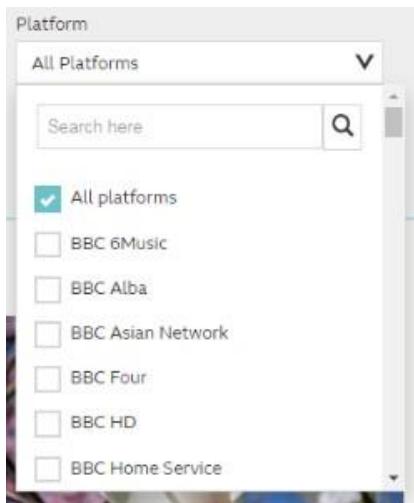
1.11. Source System



The Source System filter covers the different archives that Archive Search sits across. The default is to search across all of them but you can restrict your search to only look over one or a combination of these source archives. The content and format for each of these archives is as follows:

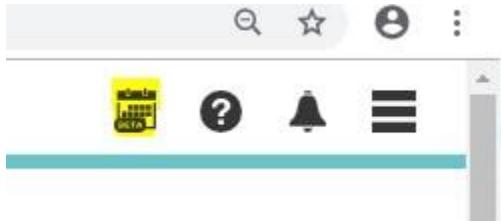
Source Archive	Contents	Format
Archive Datastore	This is the old tape based archive ('Fabric'). It doesn't hold any AV material but has the cataloguing information about the historic tape collection. It includes raw material, items, and radio content as well as television programmes.	Data only
BBC NI Chronicle Archive	These archives hold the content which is captured and managed by the BBC Northern Ireland team. It includes rushes, raw material etc as well as programmes.	High Res
Digital Archive	This is the BBC's main TV archive. It contains television programmes which have been produced as digital files, and also holds the digitised copies of the tape archive. As well as programmes it contains raw material, items etc. It also holds the full digitised copies of the BBC Wales tape archive.	High Res
Redux	Redux holds off-air recordings of BBC output across all of the main networks since 2007 - both TV and Radio.	Low Res
Rewind	Rewind holds browse quality copies of various material previously held on tape	Low Res
Scottish Digital Library	This is the main TV and Radio archive for content created and broadcast in Scotland	High Res

1.12. Platform



Use this filter if you want to search for content on a specific TV Channel or Radio Network.

Alternatively you can search across the output for a channel or network on a specific day by using the Schedule search tool. You can find this at the top right of the page:



Click on it to open it, and then enter the date you are interested in. You can use the dropdown filter to select specific TV or Radio channels. Once you have the schedule page displayed you can click on any of the results to open the item on the right of the page:

Showing schedule for **12-04-2021** at **6:00 AM** for **Network TV**

BETA

1.13. Contributor

The contributor filter is a useful tool for adding a person to your search and is quite intuitive to use - you can search for a contributor within the filter and the search results will usually include disambiguation information so you can identify the correct person. You can then either select the top level tick box to add all results for that contributor to your search, or click on the arrow to the left of the contributor and you will then see the individual contributions that person has made to a programme by their role (for example Narrator, Interviewee, Reporter etc). However, there are a few issues which you should be aware of when using this filter. These are:

1. The Contributor list is not comprehensive

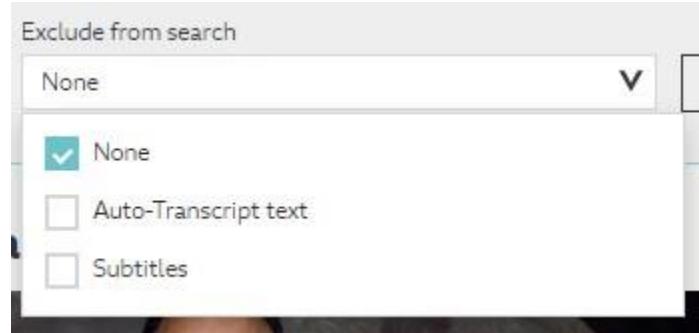
When you use this filter you are searching across contributor names that have been added to programmes when they have been catalogued in the archive, or published to the BBC website, not all programmes are catalogued and not all contributors are added.

2. There is some repetition

Archive Search looks across a number of different contributor datasets, there is some repetition both within and across those datasets. We are working on improving this data and cutting out the repetition.

Bear this in mind if your search does not return the results you would have expected. You can run a contributor search in the general search box instead, but remember to put quote marks around the contributor name.

1.14. Exclude from Search



The 'Exclude from Search' filter allows you to remove the speech-based search logic from your search results. You may want to do this if you are getting particularly noisy search results, or for example, you are getting results where contributors are talking about a person or subject, and you only want results which include the person or subject you are searching on.

1.15. Concept Searching

The Concept Search feature allows you to browse across the search terms which have been added to content as part of the BBC Archive taxonomy cataloguing, and add these terms to your search. Over the years cataloguers in the Archive department have added incredibly detailed terms to content held in the archive. These terms generally sit in a hierarchical structure which means that, as well as providing in-depth search terms to content, they also provide accurate contextual information about that search term. Using controlled terms like these in your search can be a very powerful way of searching across the archive.

Are these search terms not just indexed for normal search anyway?

Yes they are, and when you run a general search you are covering this taxonomy data by default. If you look at the following example you can see all of the taxonomy terms that have been applied to it in the 'Tags' section:

The screenshot shows a detailed view of a BBC Archive asset. At the top, it displays the programme number (ICFC105L/71), first broadcast date (Sun 07 Apr 2002), and channel (BBC Two). The 'Tags' section is expanded, showing the following terms:

- Shooting Dates: 1920-29, 1930-39, 1970-79, 1990-99, 1990
- Event Dates: 1959, 1982
- People: Blair, Tony, Clinton, Bill
- Geographies: City Of London (Greater London), Holborn (London), London (England), New York City (New York State), Sheffield (England), United States Of America
- Subjects: 1979 General Election, 1992 General Election, Activity Shots Of Bill Clinton Playing A Saxophone (American Politician), American Dust Bowl Catastrophe, Balloons (Type), Baseball + United States Of America, Celebrities, Clinton, Bill (US Politician), Conservative Party Election Posters, Control Of The House, Crowd + London (England), Crowd + United States Of America

You can run a new search on any one of these concept terms by clicking on them.

Using the Concept Search tool allows you to select these concept tags from the full set available and to see them in their hierarchical structure so you can also select terms above or below them.

Click on 'Add Concepts to Search' to start using it.

You can then enter any search term in the search bar. In this case lets say we were trying to find content which featured balloons as toys, but a general search was also returning results for Hot Air Balloons, Barrage Balloons etc. If we type 'Balloons' into the concept search tool we will get a list of results including 'Toy Balloons'. if we click on this result we can then see that it has a higher level term of 'Toys' and a lower level term for 'Black Balloons'

Discover Concepts

Balloons

Toys	Toy Industry	Black Balloons
	Toy Flags	
	Toy Fairs	
▶	Toy Factories	▶
	Toy Companies	
	Toy Buildings	
	Toy Balloons	
	Toy Auctions	
	Tnv.Animals	

Added concepts

Cancel Apply concepts to search

To add any of these terms to your search just hover your cursor over the term and click on the plus sign that appears next to it. You can continue searching and add further concepts, then click on 'Apply concepts to search' to return to the main search page from where you can run your search.