

## Introduction

This guide explains how to find library videorecordings (VHS or DVD) about theater or dramatic arts. This includes televised plays or movies adapted from plays. The guide assumes experience with HOMER, UConn's library catalog. Beginners can also consult the guide, **Basics of HOMER Searching**. Dramatic arts and theater videos are located in the following UConn Libraries:

- Culpeper Media Library (on Level 3 in the Homer Babbidge Library)
- Music & Dramatic Arts Library (in the Fine Arts complex on the south side of campus)
- Several of UConn's Regional Campus Libraries (available to Storrs via the library's InterCampus Express service)

## Find ALL Dramatic Arts Videos (any UConn Library)

### Method 1: Subject Search

*Quickest and easiest. Retrieves an alphabetical list of all titles.*

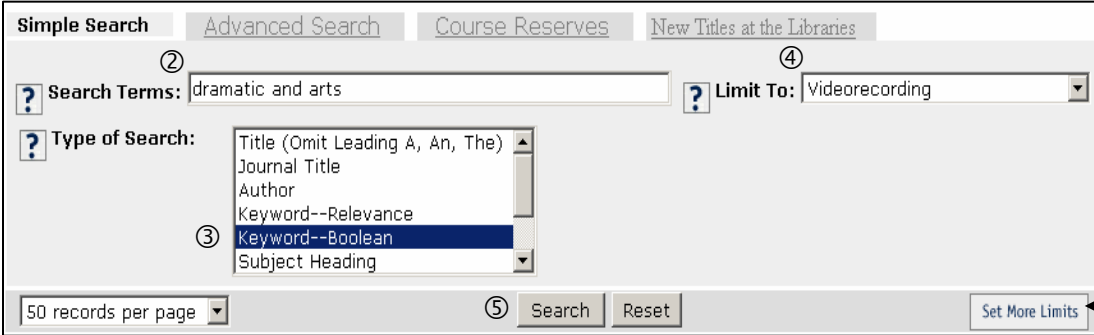
1. Use HOMER's Simple Search screen (depicted in the screenshot below).
2. In the Search Terms box: type **dramatic arts video**. (Type these exact terms, exact word order.)
3. Type of Search: select **Subject Heading**.
4. Click on the Search button.
5. In the resulting subject list, click on the heading "Dramatic Arts Video" to see the specific titles.
6. To further limit those results to one library: click the "Post Limits" button, select the desired library in the "Location" box, then click "Set Limits."

### Method 2: Keyword Boolean Search

*Allows you to specify video format or add other search terms, such as playwright, title keywords, director, or actor.*

1. Use HOMER's Simple Search screen.
2. In the Search Terms box: type one of the following searches:
  - dramatic and arts and video?** (finds words starting with "video" such as videodisc, videocassette, videorecording)
  - dramatic and arts and DVD** (finds just DVDs)
  - dramatic and arts and VHS** (finds just VHS cassettes)
  - dramatic and arts** (if you do this search, you should also follow step #4 below)
3. Type of Search: select **Keyword-Boolean**.
4. Limit To: select **Videorecording** (do this if you did not type **DVD**, **VHS**, or **video?** in step 2).
5. Click on the Search button. (You may also use the **Set More Limits** button to limit by library.)

*Example using a Keyword Boolean search (Method 2):*



The screenshot shows the HOMER search interface with the following elements:

- ① **Simple Search** tab selected.
- ② **Search Terms:** "dramatic and arts"
- ④ **Limit To:** "Videorecording"
- ③ **Type of Search:** "Keyword--Boolean" selected from a dropdown menu.
- Buttons: "Search", "Reset", and "Set More Limits".

A callout box on the right points to the "Set More Limits" button with the text: "Use this button to limit your results to a particular library."

## Limit by Library Location (before you search)

This works with any Keyword search. Click the **Set More Limits** button in the lower right corner (see example above). In the resulting Web page, select the desired library in the "Location" box, then click "Set Limits."

## Another Nifty Way to Search

When viewing the catalog record for a drama video, click on the subject “Dramatic Arts Video” to find the other drama videos.

<b>Database:</b>	UCAT- UConn Libraries
<b>Title:</b>	Medieval drama [videorecording] : from sanctuary to stage / producer, Telequest Inc. ; writer, Douglas Anderson.
<b>Variant Title:</b>	<a href="#">From sanctuary to stage</a>
<b>Publisher:</b>	Princeton, NJ : Films for the Humanities & Sciences, c2003.
<b>Material Type:</b>	Visual Material Videorecording
<b>Subject(s):</b>	<a href="#">Drama, Medieval.</a> <a href="#">Moralities.</a> <a href="#">Mysteries and miracle-plays.</a> <a href="#">Dramatic Arts Video.</a>

## If You Know the Title, Person’s Name, or Specific Topic

Use the Keyword Boolean search described above in Method 2, but instead of typing **dramatic and arts**, type key words from the playwright and/or title. Add one of these terms: **video?**, **DVD**, or **VHS** (or select “Videorecording” in the “Limit To” box).

Tip: a question mark at the end of a term finds word variants (e.g., **play?** finds play, plays, playwrights, player, playford, etc.).

Examples:

**shakespeare and video?** (finds videodiscs and videocassettes of Shakespeare’s plays, videos with Shakespeare as a topic, or videos in which his name appears in a title, theater company’s name, publisher’s name, notes, etc.).

**greek and theat? and dvd** (finds DVDs on Greek theater . . . or Greek theaters, theatre, theatres, theatrical, etc.)

**chekhov and sisters and video?** (finds videorecordings—any format—of Chekhov’s *Three Sisters*)

**medieval and stage and video?** (finds the video *Medieval Drama from Sanctuary to Stage*)

## More Information about Search Terms

Consult the handout, **Subject Heading for Dramatic Arts**, for additional search terms on specific theatrical topics (e.g., stage design, costume, lighting, geographical regions). The Dramatic Arts Video search should find these, but adding terms helps narrow down the results. (Be careful. Not all videorecordings have these descriptive terms in HOMER.)

## What This Search Does NOT Find

This search does not find “related” genres, such as operas or musicals. For these, alter the search accordingly, but remember that it is more effective to search for the specific title or playwright/composer/lyricist if you know them.

Examples: **operas and video?** (finds videorecordings of or about operas in general)

**musicals and video?** (finds videorecordings of or about musicals in general)

**verdi and otello and video?** (finds recordings of Verdi’s opera *Otello*)

## And for the Truly Concerned . . .

**A note about MVT:** Some users are typing “MVT” (“Music Library Videotape”) as a search term for Music & Dramatic Arts Library videocassettes. It is not a reliable search. Use the terms **video?** (or, more specifically, **DVD** or **VHS**).

**Dramatic Arts vs. Theater:** While “theater” is theoretically the more inclusive term, it does not work well as a search term in HOMER. It retrieves too much non-theatrical “junk” in HOMER. The library chose to use the phrase “Dramatic Arts Video” as a broad descriptive term since “dramatic arts” is a more unique phrase in HOMER, and gives more accurate, precise search results. It indeed retrieves videos about theater, even if the term “dramatic arts” implies a narrower scope than “theater.”

**Items included in the “dramatic arts video” search:** videorecordings from any UConn library that were clearly about theater or dramatic arts (including costume, puppetry, theatrical directors, stage design, etc.); filmed theatrical productions; and television or cinematic adaptations of plays. Please notify the drama librarian if you find items that should have been included.

**Exclusions:** musicals, operas, screenplays, novels adapted for TV or film (these were not considered to be “plays”), or cinematic adaptations of novels that happen to also have a theatrical adaptation (but the filmed version of that theatrical adaptation *would* be included). Distinctions can be imprecise. See the librarian if you have suggestions.