AbeBooks Search Web Services End User Guide

Version 2.5 (last revised June 2024)

Contact: affiliate@abebooks.com
# Table of Contents

Table of Contents ......................................................................................................................... 1
Introduction ........................................................................................................................................ 2
When to Use Search Web Services ................................................................................................. 2
How it Works ..................................................................................................................................... 2
Getting Started ............................................................................................................................... 2
Step 1: Join Our Affiliate Program .................................................................................................. 2
Step 2: Request a Client Key ............................................................................................................ 2
Creating Search Requests ................................................................................................................ 3
How to Build a Search Request ......................................................................................................... 3
Request Parameters .......................................................................................................................... 3
  Book Search Criteria ...................................................................................................................... 3
  Output Value Parameters ............................................................................................................... 8
  Book Record Format ..................................................................................................................... 10
  Sort Order .................................................................................................................................. 15
  Limiting Search Results ............................................................................................................... 16
Interpreting Error Messages .......................................................................................................... 16
  Validation Errors ......................................................................................................................... 16
  Authorization Errors .................................................................................................................... 20
  Service Level Errors .................................................................................................................... 20
Additional Features .......................................................................................................................... 20
  Specifying Domains .................................................................................................................... 20
  Adding Affiliate Tracking Code .................................................................................................... 21
  Adding Books to Basket ............................................................................................................... 21
  Compressed Search Results ......................................................................................................... 22
Appendix I: Sample Search Requests .............................................................................................. 23
Primary Search Parameters ............................................................................................................. 23
Secondary Search Parameters ......................................................................................................... 23
Output Value Parameters ................................................................................................................ 24
Output Size Parameters .................................................................................................................. 24
Sort Order Parameter ...................................................................................................................... 27
Max Results Parameter .................................................................................................................... 27
Appendix II: List of all parameters ................................................................................................. 27
Appendix III: Change Log ............................................................................................................... 30
Introduction
When to Use Search Web Services
AbeBooks is an online marketplace listing millions of new, used, rare and out-of-print books from thousands of sellers in over fifty countries worldwide. AbeBooks Search Web Services (SWS) puts real-time access to our inventory into your hands, allowing developers to build custom applications or re-create our search functionality on your own website. With millions of books in our database, including many international titles from our global seller base, you can promote books from all over the world, via any of our domains, using one simple process.

How it Works
Users can run search requests on various parameters such as ISBN, author, title, keyword, or publisher to obtain information about book prices, shipping prices, images, descriptions, and more. Users can also fine-tune their search results by applying filters such as new or used books, seller location, book condition and seller rating. Add affiliate network tracking to receive commission on sales you generate.

Getting Started
To gain access to Search Web Services, you must first join our Affiliate Program and then request a Client Key.

Step 1: Join Our Affiliate Program
AbeBooks SWS can only be used by members of our Affiliate Program, providing your users with the books they need, us with valuable traffic, and you with a great source of income. Up to 5% in commission can be earned. Find out more and join our Affiliate Program here: https://www.abebooks.com/books/AffiliateProgram/

Step 2: Request a Client Key
Once you have joined our Affiliate Program, please send an email to affiliate@abebooks.com containing the following information:

1. The IP address you’ll use to make the requests
2. URL
3. Email address
4. Technical contact name
5. Affiliate ID
We will evaluate your application and provide you with instructions for how to generate your Client Key.

Creating Search Requests

How to Build a Search Request

Each search request is a URL that contains request parameters. A typical search request looks like this:

https://search2.abebooks.com/search?clientkey=<your client key here>&title=things

- **https://search2.abebooks.com/search?** This is a URL where all search requests are performed.
- **clientkey=<your client key here>** Fill in your Client Key after the = sign. This tells our system that you are authorized to search our inventory. **Note: the Client Key is case sensitive.**
- **&** This sign separates the various parameters such as title, ISBN, author etc.
- **title=** This is a parameter name. Use this to tell our system which parameter to search. **Note: parameter names are case sensitive.**
- **things** This is a parameter value. Use this to tell our system which value to search.

Request Parameters

Request parameters fall into the following categories:

- Book Search Criteria (Primary and Secondary Parameters)
- Output Value Parameters
- Book Record Format
- Sort Order

Note: Appendix I contains sample search requests and Appendix II contains a list of all parameters in alphabetical order.

Book Search Criteria

Note on URL Encoding

All URL parameters must be encoded with ISO-8859-1. For example, the author name "Hölderlin" must be encoded as "H%F6lderlin". This tool can help with encoding (select 'ISO-8859-1 (Latin-1)').
Primary Search Parameters

There are five primary search parameters, of which at least one must be specified in every search request.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter Name (case sensitive)</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Example Values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>isbn</td>
<td>A 10- or 13-character ISBN value.</td>
<td>9780708915110, 3799503005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>author</td>
<td>The name or names of all authors of a book. Spaces and other special characters must be URL encoded.</td>
<td>Margaret+Atwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>title</td>
<td>The title of a book. Spaces and other special characters must be URL encoded.</td>
<td>Bluebeard%27s+Egg+and+Other+Stories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>keyword</td>
<td>This word is searched against all text fields in a book listing, including author, title, publisher, description and the keywords assigned by a seller. Search using this field if you need to scan the entire listing, rather than a specific field. Spaces and other special characters must be URL encoded.</td>
<td>cooking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pubname</td>
<td>Search by publisher name. Spaces and other special characters must be URL encoded.</td>
<td>Random+house</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Secondary Search Parameters

Secondary search parameters are optional criteria that may be added to any search request to refine a search. Secondary search parameters that are not provided in the search request will be automatically set to the default values, as outlined below, e.g., minprice is assumed to be 0 for any search where the minprice parameter is not provided.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter Name (case sensitive)</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Accepted Values (case sensitive)</th>
<th>Default Value</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>maxprice</td>
<td>Limits the search to only books below the value specified by this parameter.</td>
<td>0 – max integer</td>
<td>No limit, USD</td>
<td>Must be a positive number. This value is in USD only.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vendorlocation</td>
<td>Limits the search to only books being sold by sellers who are located in the country specified.</td>
<td>Two or three letter ISO country code</td>
<td>Search all countries.</td>
<td>ISO3 codes are recommended. As of August 1, 2008, we no longer accept the twoletter country code gb. Use uk instead. If this changes in the future, we will maintain compatibility with uk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bookcondition</td>
<td>Filters results by book condition.</td>
<td>newonly, usedonly</td>
<td>Search all book conditions.</td>
<td>newonly means new books only, usedonly means used books only.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>minsellerrating</td>
<td>Filters results by seller rating.</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4, 5</td>
<td>Search all ratings.</td>
<td>AbeBooks’ seller ratings are based on a seller’s completion rate. More detail about seller ratings here.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>binding</td>
<td>Filters results by cover type.</td>
<td>softcover, hardcover</td>
<td>Search all bindings.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>signed</td>
<td>Limits results to signed books.</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>Search both signed and unsigned.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>----------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>freeshipping</td>
<td>Limits results to books which are shipped without cost to the USA.</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>Search all shipping rates. Only applies to USA. Free shipping prices may not be cheaper than prices including the shipping cost. Use total price plus relevant shipping destination in order to identify the best price.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>groupcode</td>
<td>Limits results to books from sellers in a particular group by supplying the group code.</td>
<td>FREESHIP (free shipping to the USA), FREESHIPFR (free shipping to France), FREESHIPDE (free shipping to Germany), FSIRL (free shipping to Ireland), FREESHIPIT (free shipping to Italy), FREESHIPNZ (free shipping to New Zealand), FREESHIPES (free shipping to Spain), FREESHIPUK (free shipping to the UK), FREESHIPAU (free shipping to Australia), FREESHIPCA (free shipping to Canada), FREESHIPWW (free shipping worldwide)</td>
<td>Search all sellers.</td>
<td>Free shipping prices may not be cheaper than prices including the shipping cost. Use total price plus relevant shipping destination in order to identify the best price.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parameter</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Values</td>
<td>Example</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>minpubyear</td>
<td>Filters results by minimum publication year.</td>
<td>1 - 9999</td>
<td>Search all publication years.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>maxpubyear</td>
<td>Filters results by maximum publication year.</td>
<td>1 - 9999</td>
<td>Search all publication years.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>firstedition</td>
<td>Limits results to first edition books.</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>Search all editions.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dustjacket</td>
<td>Limits results to books with a dust jacket.</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>Search books both with and without dust jackets.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vendorid</td>
<td>Searches for books from a particular seller by supplying their AbeBooks seller ID number.</td>
<td>Any AbeBooks seller ID number. Use integers only.</td>
<td>Look up a seller's ID number in the URL of the seller's storefront on the AbeBooks website.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pt</td>
<td>Filters results by Product Type.</td>
<td>book (Books and untagged items), mag (Magazines and Periodicals), comic (Comics), music (Sheet Music), art (Art, Prints and Posters), photo (Photographs), map (Maps), ms (Manuscripts and Paper Collectibles). Values can be combined, e.g., pt=art,photo with the comma URL encoded as “%2C”.</td>
<td>Search all Product Types. Product Type refers only to items that are explicitly tagged by AbeBooks sellers. These items represent a subset of AbeBooks' inventory. Product Type 'Book' refers both to items tagged as books and to all untagged items within AbeBooks' inventory.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Output Value Parameters

Output value parameters are optional parameters that determine how certain output values, such as shipping price, are calculated. Output value parameters that are not provided in the search request will be automatically set to the default values, as outlined below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter Name (case sensitive)</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Accepted Values</th>
<th>Default Value</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>allvendorimageurls</td>
<td>Includes all available vendor images.</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>On output sizes of short and larger only the best vendor image will be returned.</td>
<td>By default short and larger output formats will provide the best vendor image as a URL. If this parameter is provided then all available image URLs will be included in two new outputs, Vendor Image Urls Large and Vendor Image Urls Small. The output format does not determine this result.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>currency</td>
<td>Item price and shipping cost(s) will be returned in the currency specified by this parameter.</td>
<td>Three letter ISO currency code</td>
<td>USD</td>
<td>Each AbeBooks domain uses a single base currency (AbeBooks.com uses USD, AbeBooks.co.uk uses GBP and AbeBooks.de, AbeBooks.fr, AbeBooks.it and Iberlibro.com use EUR). Conversions to other currencies are an approximation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parameter</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Value</td>
<td>Notes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>destinationcountry</td>
<td>All shipping prices will be calculated with the destination country set to the country specified by this parameter.</td>
<td>Two or three letter ISO country code</td>
<td>USA Only the following countries are available: Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Spain, Switzerland, USA and UK. All other countries will use the &quot;International&quot; shipping price, as specified by the seller.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shippingdetails</td>
<td>Includes second book ship cost, min/max ship days and standard/priority shipping rates.</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>Search all shipping rates. If this parameter is not set then second book ship cost, min/max ship days will all = 0 and shiprate parameter will be ignored.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shiprate</td>
<td>Either S or P. All shipping rates will be calculated as either S (standard) or P (priority) rates.</td>
<td>S, P</td>
<td>S To use this parameter, shippingdetails=yes must also be included in the search request.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>targetsite</td>
<td>Sets the listing URL to the requested AbeBooks domain as well as the corresponding country and currency (e.g., UK and GBP for abebooks.co.uk, Germany and EUR for abebooks.de). Excludes certain books where advertising is prohibited in the country</td>
<td>abebooks.com, abebooks.co.uk, abebooks.fr, abebooks.de, abebooks.it, iberlibro.com, zvab.com</td>
<td>abebooks.com To change the country from the one corresponding to the target domain, set the destinationcountry parameter. To change the currency from the one corresponding to the target domain, set the currency parameter. For full instructions, see the Specifying Domains section below.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
corresponding to the domain.

Book Record Format

The outputsize parameter is used to determine how much detail is included in each search result. The less data that is requested, the faster the results will be returned. All search requests may include one of the following values:

- outputsize=micro
- outputsize=short
- outputsize=medium (default value if no outputsize is specified in the search request)
- outputsize=long

Note: If a particular field is not populated for a listing in the search result, that field will be omitted from the record.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Output Name</th>
<th>Micro Record Format (outputsize=micro)</th>
<th>Short Record Format (outputsize=short)</th>
<th>Medium Record Format (outputsize=medium)</th>
<th>Long Record Format (outputsize=long)</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Result count</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>How many books are returned given specific criteria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book ID</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>An AbeBooks internal listing ID. This number is also in the Listing URL below.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listing condition</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Returns value NEW or NOT NEW.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item condition</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Returns values new, as new, fine, very good, good, fair or poor. This is a more granular version of the “Listing condition”.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantity</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Indicates if a seller offers multiple copies of the same book ID.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vendor currency</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>The currency in which the seller uploaded their inventory.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listing price</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Default listing price is the price as seen on the AbeBooks.com site. If the currency parameter has been set the listing price is in the currency specified.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total book price</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Total book price plus shipping.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First book shipping cost</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra book shipping cost</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>shippingdetails=yes parameter must be included.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>July 2023 update supports improvements to our shipping experience, allowing for more complex shipping rules. The field may no longer display meaningful values as a result. We did not deprecate this field and instead the field will return 0.0.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Min and max shipping days</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>shippingdetails=yes parameter must be included.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listing URL</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Link to AbeBooks listing detail page on AbeBooks.com domain. You can display the listing on any other AbeBooks site by switching the domain accordingly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Author</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field</td>
<td>Row 1</td>
<td>Row 2</td>
<td>Row 3</td>
<td>Row 4</td>
<td>Row 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publisher name</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catalogue image</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>URL for publisher provided image of book cover.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vendor name</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vendor location</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>City and country.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vendor ID</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>A unique ID that identifies a seller on AbeBooks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seller rating</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>A number between 1 and 5, indicating a seller’s completion rate. More details about seller ratings here.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keywords</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Additional searchable keywords that a seller provided for a listing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subjects</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Retired June 2024. Field omitted from record.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Binding type</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edition type</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book jacket</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publication year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vendor price</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vendor description</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vendor image</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Product Type</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**
- S indicates softcover binding. H indicates hardcover binding.
- F indicates the seller has listed the book as a first edition.
- J indicates the seller has listed the book as having a dust jacket.
- The price as originally specified by the seller, in the original currency.
- Listing description as provided by the seller.
- URL for seller provided image of book cover.
- Product Type refers to items that are explicitly tagged by AbeBooks sellers as Books, Magazines and Periodicals.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vendor Image Uris Large</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Comics, Sheet Music, Art, Prints and Posters, Photographs, Maps or Manuscripts and Paper Collectibles.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vendor Image Uris Small</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>allvendorimageurls=yes parameter must be included. A list of URLs to large vendor images.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sort Order**

The parameter `sortorder` is an optional parameter that indicates how the results should be sorted. The parameter accepts a sort order integer (listed below). If this parameter is not provided, the default sort order will be 2 (by price, ascending).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sort order integer</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Newly listed books first.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Price, descending.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Price, ascending. This is the default sort order.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sellers in the United Kingdom first. Sorted by price, ascending.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Author names, descending.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Author names, ascending.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Book title, descending.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Book title, ascending.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Sellers in Germany first. Sorted by price, ascending.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Sellers in France first. Sorted by price, ascending.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Sellers in Spain first. Sorted by price, ascending.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Sellers in Italy first. Sorted by price, ascending.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Seller rating, descending.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Total price, ascending (this is book price plus shipping. Include the destination country parameter to get shipping costs for the following countries: Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Spain, Switzerland, USA and UK. All other countries will use the “International” shipping price, as specified by the seller).

Limiting Search Results

The number of matching search results returned for each request can be controlled by the maxresults parameter. The fewer results that are requested, the faster the results will be returned. If not provided in the search request, the default number of search results returned will be 20. The maximum number of results that can be returned is 200.

Interpreting Error Messages

Validation Errors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Error</th>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Error Message</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Invalid parameter</td>
<td>Misspelling a search parameter, or using upper case instead of lowercase letters in a parameter, e.g., sororder=2 instead of sortorder=2 or OUtputSizE=long instead of outputsize=long</td>
<td>Invalid parameter name provided: sororder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Invalid parameter name provided: OUtputSizE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invalid sortorder value</td>
<td>Entering a sortorder value that is not recognized by the system, such as sortorder=12</td>
<td>Invalid sortorder value provided: 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No parameters included</td>
<td>Not supplying any primary search parameters.</td>
<td>Please enter at least one search term.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malformed parameter value</td>
<td>Entering a parameter value in the incorrect format, e.g., isbn=isbn01-234567-34 instead of isbn=0123456734</td>
<td>Invalid ISBN value provided: isbn01234567-34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invalid value for numeric field with minimum and maximum limits</td>
<td>Entering an invalid value for a numeric field with minimum and maximum limits, e.g., maxresults=500 when the maximum value permitted is 200.</td>
<td>Illegal value for maxresults: 500. Value must be an integer between 0 and 200.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Invalid value for a numeric field with a minimum limit only</strong></td>
<td>Entering a value for a numeric field with a minimum limit only, e.g., minprice=20 when the minimum value permitted is 0.</td>
<td>Illegal value for minprice: -20. Value must be an integer greater than or equal to 0.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Invalid value for a numeric field with a maximum limit only</strong></td>
<td>Entering a value for a numeric field with a maximum limit only, e.g., maxprice=20 when the minimum value permitted is 0.</td>
<td>Illegal value for maxprice: -20. Value must be an integer greater than or equal to 0.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Invalid parameter value</strong></td>
<td>Entering an invalid parameter value, e.g., outputsize=macro</td>
<td>Invalid outputsize parameter specified (macro).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>More than one value for the same parameter</strong></td>
<td>Entering multiple values for the same parameter, e.g., outputsize=micro&amp;outputsize=long.</td>
<td>Too many outputsize parameters specified.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Entering a blank word in a primary search field</strong></td>
<td>Entering a non-searchable word, e.g., “the”, in the author search parameter.</td>
<td>Words such as “the”, “&amp;”, “in”, etc. are not searched. Please enter some “content” words, i.e. nouns or verbs and try again.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Entering a minimum price greater than maximum price</strong></td>
<td>Entering a value for minimum price that is greater than the maximum price, e.g., minprice=30&amp;maxprice=20</td>
<td>Please enter only whole numbers greater than zero in the ‘Price’ fields. The ‘max’ value must be larger than the ‘min’ value.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Entering a word in a number field</strong></td>
<td>Entering a word instead of an integer, e.g., minprice=fifty</td>
<td>Only enter numbers when using the price fields. The max value (i.e. the highest price) must be greater than min value (i.e. the lowest price).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Entering an invalid ISO country code</strong></td>
<td>Entering a country’s name instead of the ISO country code, e.g., destinationcountry=france instead of destinationcountry=FRA</td>
<td>Invalid country ISO code provided: france</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entering an invalid ISO currency code</td>
<td>Entering a currency name instead of the ISO currency code, e.g., currency=euro instead of currency=EUR</td>
<td>Invalid currency ISO code provided: euro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entering an invalid book condition value</td>
<td>Entering a book condition value other than those recognized by the system (newonly, usedonly), e.g., bookcondition=new</td>
<td>Invalid bookcondition value: new</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entering an invalid value for the minimum seller rating</td>
<td>Entering a minimum seller rating other than those recognized by the system (1, 2, 3, 4, 5), e.g., minsellerrating=77</td>
<td>Invalid minsellerrating value: 77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entering an invalid value for binding type</td>
<td>Entering a book condition value other than those recognized by the system (softcover, hardcover), e.g., binding=paperback</td>
<td>Invalid binding value: paperback</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entering an invalid value for signed books</td>
<td>Entering a value for signed other than those recognized by the system (yes, no), e.g., signed=ok</td>
<td>Illegal value for signed: ok. Value must be yes or no.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entering an invalid value for free shipping to the USA</td>
<td>Entering a value for freeshipping other than those recognized by the system (yes, no), e.g., freeshipping=ok</td>
<td>Illegal value for freeshipping: ok. Value must be yes or no.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entering an invalid value for first edition books</td>
<td>Entering a value for firstedition other than those recognized by the system (yes, no), e.g., firstedition=ok</td>
<td>Illegal value for firstedition: ok. Value must be yes or no.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entering an invalid value for dust jacket</td>
<td>Entering a value for dust jacket other than those recognized by the system (yes, no), e.g., dustjacket=ok</td>
<td>Illegal value for dustjacket: ok. Value must be yes or no.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entering an invalid minimum publication year</td>
<td>Entering a publication year below the minimum limit, e.g., minpubyear=0 when the minimum value permitted is 1.</td>
<td>Illegal value for minpubyear: 0. Value must be an integer between 1 and 9999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entering an invalid maximum publication year</td>
<td>Entering a publication year above the maximum limit, e.g., maxpubyear=10000 when the maximum value permitted is 9999.</td>
<td>Illegal value for maxpubyear: 10000. Value must be an integer between 1 and 9999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entering a seller name instead of ID number</td>
<td>Entering a seller name instead of seller ID number, e.g., vendorid=russells</td>
<td>Illegal value for vendorid: russells. Value must be a long integer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entering an invalid seller ID number</td>
<td>Entering an invalid seller ID number, e.g., vendorid=2147483650</td>
<td>Illegal value for vendorid: 2147483650. Value must be a long integer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entering an invalid value for shipping rate</td>
<td>Entering a value for shipping rate other than those recognized by the system (S, P), e.g., shiprate=standard</td>
<td>Invalid shiprate value: standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entering an invalid value for group code</td>
<td>Entering a value for seller group code that is less than 1 character and more than 10 characters, e.g., groupcode=ZAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA</td>
<td>The seller group code parameter must be at least 1 character and at most 10 characters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entering an invalid value for target site</td>
<td>Entering a value for the target site that is not one of the following: zvab.com, abebooks.com, abebooks.de, abebooks.co.uk, abebooks.fr, iberlibro.com, abebooks.it, e.g., targetsite=google.com</td>
<td>Invalid targetsite value 'google.com'. Expected one of [zvab.com, abebooks.com, abebooks.de, abebooks.co.uk, abebooks.fr, iberlibro.com, abebooks.it]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entering an invalid value for product type</td>
<td>Entering a value for product type that is not one of the following: book (Books and untagged items), mag (Magazines and Periodicals), comic (Comics), music (Sheet</td>
<td>Invalid pt values: manuscript</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Music), art (Art, Prints and Posters), photo (Photographs), map (Maps), ms (Manuscripts and Paper Collectibles), e.g., pt=manuscript

Authorization Errors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Error</th>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Error Message</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Invalid Client Key</td>
<td>Including an invalid or unrecognized Client Key in the search request.</td>
<td>HTTP status code 401 (SC_UNAUTHORIZED)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Service Level Errors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Error</th>
<th>Error Message</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Search Web Services is unresponsive</td>
<td>HTTP status code 503 (SC_SERVICE_UNAVAILABLE)</td>
<td>Please contact your AbeBooks representative if you notice this issue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Query rate limit exceeded</td>
<td>HTTP status code 429 “Too Many Requests”</td>
<td>The default query rate is 4 - 5 queries per second. If you exceed this rate, your throughput is being throttled and you will receive this error message.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional Features

Specifying Domains

AbeBooks has a number of different domains, each with their own default country and currency:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Default Country</th>
<th>Default Currency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AbeBooks.com</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>USD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AbeBooks.co.uk</td>
<td>GBR</td>
<td>GBP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AbeBooks.fr</td>
<td>FRA</td>
<td>EUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AbeBooks.de</td>
<td>DEU</td>
<td>EUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZVAB.com</td>
<td>DEU</td>
<td>EUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AbeBooks.it</td>
<td>ITA</td>
<td>EUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IberLibro.com</td>
<td>ESP</td>
<td>EUR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Search Web Services searches AbeBooks.com in USD by default. To search a different domain, in a different currency, use the following steps:

1. Use the targetsite parameter.
2. The item price and shipping cost(s) will be returned in the default currency for the chosen domain. To choose a different currency, include the currency parameter in the search request and set the correct ISO currency code, e.g., EUR, USD or GBP.
3. The shipping cost(s) value will be calculated for the default country for the chosen domain. To choose a different country, include the destinationcountry parameter in the search request and set the correct ISO country code, e.g., GBR, DEU, JPN or MEX.

**Adding Affiliate Tracking Code**

To track Search Web Services links to your affiliate ID, encode the redirect URL returned under listingURL. For an example of a free URL Decoder/Encoder, please see here: https://meyerweb.com/eric/tools/dencoder/ You may also use the encoding system you prefer.

**Impact Radius**

1. Use the following link as a template:  
2. Replace [ENCODED_REDIRECT_LINK] with the encoded redirect link.  
3. Replace [Impact_Radius_ID] with your Impact Radius ID number, e.g., 12345.

**Adding Books to Basket**

To send a user directly through to the shopping basket, use the following URL structure:  
https://www.abebooks.com/servlet/ShopBasketPL?ac=a&ik=14083099173 where the ik= parameter specifies the Book ID for the book to be added.

To add more than one copy, simply repeat the same ik= parameter:  
https://www.abebooks.com/servlet/ShopBasketPL?ac=a&ik=14083099173&ik=14083099173&ik=14083099173&ik=14083099173

The above URL would add five copies of Book ID 14083099173 to the basket.

To add multiple copies of more than one item, use the following structure:  
https://www.abebooks.com/servlet/ShopBasketPL?ac=a&ik=10023099123&ik=10023099123&ik=14083099173

The above URL would add five copies of Book ID 14083099173 and five copies of Book ID 10023099123 to the basket.
The above URL would add two copies of Book ID 10023099123 and three copies of Book ID 14083099173 to the basket.

Note: The maximum number of copies that can be added directly to the basket is fifty. If the quantity requested for a given Book ID exceeds availability, the maximum quantity available for the Book ID will be added to the basket.

**Compressed Search Results**

Search Web Services outputs in XML and in faster compressed format (GZIP). To get results in compressed format, include a header indicating that you accept compressed output. This is done by setting the Accept-Encoding HTTP Request header to "gzip, deflate". When compression is properly enabled, the response header will contain "Content-Encoding: gzip".
Appendix I: Sample Search Requests

Primary Search Parameters

Search for the ISBN '9780140707052':
https://search2.abebooks.com/search?isbn=9780140707052&clientkey=<your client key here>

Search for the author 'William Shakespeare':
https://search2.abebooks.com/search?author=william+shakespeare&clientkey=<your client key here>

Search for the title 'Macbeth':
https://search2.abebooks.com/search?title=macbeth&clientkey=<your client key here>

Search for the author 'William Shakespeare' and the title 'Macbeth':
https://search2.abebooks.com/search?author=william+shakespeare&title=macbeth&clientkey=<your client key here>

Search for the keyword 'tragedy':
https://search2.abebooks.com/search?keyword=tragedy&clientkey=<your client key here>

Secondary Search Parameters

• Search for copies of *Macbeth* that are listed for U$10.00 or more:
  https://search2.abebooks.com/search?title=macbeth&minprice=10&clientkey=<your client key here>

• Search for copies of *Macbeth* that are listed for U$10.00 or less:
  https://search2.abebooks.com/search?title=macbeth&maxprice=10&clientkey=<your client key here>

• Search for copies of *Macbeth* that are listed for between U$1.00 and U$10.00:
  https://search2.abebooks.com/search?title=macbeth&minprice=1&maxprice=10&clientkey=<your client key here>

• Search for new copies of *Macbeth*:
  https://search2.abebooks.com/search?title=macbeth&bookcondition=newonly&clientkey=<your client key here>

• Search for copies of *Macbeth* sold by sellers with a minimum rating of 4 stars:
  https://search2.abebooks.com/search?title=macbeth&minsellerrating=4&clientkey=<your client key here>

• Search for copies of *Macbeth* with hard cover binding:
  https://search2.abebooks.com/search?title=macbeth&binding=hardcover&clientkey=<your client key here>

• Search for only signed copies of *1984*:
  https://search2.abebooks.com/search?title=1984&signed=yes&clientkey=<your client key here>

• Search for copies of *Macbeth* with free shipping to the USA:

• Search for copies of *Macbeth* published between 1990 and 1995:

• Search for first editions of *1984*:
Output Value Parameters

- Specify pricing to be in Canadian dollars (CAD):
  https://search2.abebooks.com/search?title=macbeth&currency=CAD&clientkey=<your client key here>
- Specify shipping destination to Great Britain (GBR):
  https://search2.abebooks.com/search?title=macbeth&destinationcountry=GBR&clientkey=<your client key here>
- Specify 'priority' shipping:
  https://search2.abebooks.com/search?title=macbeth&shippingdetails=yes&shippingrate=p&clientkey=<your client key here>
- Change the default domain to abebooks.de:
  https://search2.abebooks.com/search?title=macbeth&targetsites=abebooks.de&clientkey=<your client key here>
- Include all vendor images:
  https://search2.abebooks.com/search?isbn=9780451161352&allvendorimageurls=yes&clientkey=<your client key here>

Output Size Parameters

Note that the output samples below are complete examples that include all possible fields. If a particular field was not provided by the seller, that field will be omitted from the record. So actual results may contain fewer fields than these examples, but never more fields.

Search for the ISBN '0131457578' and specify outputsize as 'micro':
Search for the ISBN ‘9780131457577’ and specify outputsize as 'short':
https://search2.abebooks.com/search?isbn=9780131457577&outputsize=short&clientkey=<your client key here>

Search for the ISBN ‘9780131457577’ and specify outputsize as 'medium' (default):
https://search2.abebooks.com/search?isbn=9780131457577&outputsize=medium&clientkey=<your client key here>
Search for the title *Harry Potter & The Prisoner Of Azkaban* and specify outputsize as 'long':

https://search2.abebooks.com/search?title=Harry+Potter+%26+The+Prisoner+Of+Azkaban&outputsize=long&clientkey=<your client key here>

<Book>
  <bookId>11470374626</bookId>
  <isbn10>1408810565</isbn10>
  <isbn13>9781408810569</isbn13>
  <listingCondition>NOT NEW BOOK</listingCondition>
  <itemCondition>Good</itemCondition>
  <quantity>14</quantity>
  <vendorCurrency>GBP</vendorCurrency>
  <listingPrice>1.0</listingPrice>
  <firstBookShipCost>11.14</firstBookShipCost>
  <extraBookShipCost>0.0</extraBookShipCost>
  <minShipDays>0</minShipDays>
  <maxShipDays>0</maxShipDays>
  <totalListingPrice>12.14</totalListingPrice>
  <listingUrl>www.abebooks.com/servlet/BookDetailsPL?bi=11470374626&cm_ven=ws&cm_cat=sws&cm_pla=sws&cm_ite=11470374626</listingUrl>
  <author>Rowling, J. K.</author>
  <title>Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (Harry Potter Signature Edition)</title>
</Book>
Sort Order Parameter

- Search for the ISBN '0451172817' and specify results to be sorted by highest to lowest list price:
  
  https://search2.abebooks.com/search?isbn=0451172817&sortorder=1&clientkey=<your client key here>

- Search for the ISBN '0451172817' and specify results to be sorted by the highest to lowest rated sellers:
  
  https://search2.abebooks.com/search?isbn=0451172817&sortorder=15&clientkey=<your client key here>

Max Results Parameter

- Search for the ISBN '0451172817' and limit the output to include 25 results:
  
  https://search2.abebooks.com/search?isbn=0451172817&maxresults=25&clientkey=<your client key here>

Appendix II: List of all parameters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter Name</th>
<th>Parameter Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>allvendorimageurls</td>
<td>Output Value</td>
<td>Include all available vendor image urls.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parameter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parameter</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>author</td>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>The name or names of all authors of a book. Spaces and other special characters must be URL encoded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>binding</td>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>Filter by cover type.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bookcondition</td>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>Filter by book condition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>currency</td>
<td>Output</td>
<td>Book price and shipping costs will be returned in the currency specified by this parameter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>destinationcountry</td>
<td>Output</td>
<td>All shipping prices will be calculated with the destination country set to the country specified by this parameter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dustjacket</td>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>Limit to books with a dust jacket.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>firstedition</td>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>Limit to first editions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>freeshipping</td>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>Limit to only free shipping to USA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>groupcode</td>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>Limit results to books from sellers in a particular group by supplying the group code.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>isbn</td>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>A 10- or 13-character ISBN value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>keyword</td>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>This word is searched against all text fields in a book listing, including author, title, publisher, description and the keywords assigned by a seller. Search using this field if you need to scan the entire listing, rather than a specific field. Spaces and other special characters must be URL encoded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>maxprice</td>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>Limits the search to only books below the value specified by this parameter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>maxpubyear</td>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>Maximum publication year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parameter</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>minprice</td>
<td>Secondary Search Parameter</td>
<td>Limits the search to only books above the value specified by this parameter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>minpubyear</td>
<td>Secondary Search Parameter</td>
<td>Minimum publication year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>minsellerrating</td>
<td>Secondary Search Parameter</td>
<td>Filter by seller rating.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pubname</td>
<td>Primary Search Parameter</td>
<td>Search by publisher name. Spaces and other special characters must be URL encoded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shippingdetails</td>
<td>Output Value Parameter</td>
<td>Includes second book ship cost, min/max ship days and standard/priority ship rates.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shiprate</td>
<td>Output Value Parameter</td>
<td>Either S or P. All shipping rates will be calculated as either S (standard) or P (priority) rates.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>signed</td>
<td>Secondary Search Parameter</td>
<td>Limit to signed books.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>targetsite</td>
<td>Output Value Parameter</td>
<td>Sets the listing URL to the requested AbeBooks domain as well as the corresponding country and currency (e.g., UK and GBP for abebooks.co.uk, Germany and EUR for abebooks.de).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>title</td>
<td>Primary Search Parameter</td>
<td>The title of a book. Spaces and other special characters must be URL encoded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vendorid</td>
<td>Secondary Search Parameter</td>
<td>An AbeBooks seller ID number.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vendorlocation</td>
<td>Secondary Search Parameter</td>
<td>Limits the search to only books being sold by sellers who are located in the country specified.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pt</td>
<td>Secondary Search Parameter</td>
<td>Filters results by Product Type.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix III: Change Log

May 2015
Updated formatting and layout
Added groupcode parameter and sortorder=20 (sort by relevance).

August 2015
Added targetsite parameter
Added instructions for obtaining GZIP compressed results.

December 2017
Added pt (Product Type) parameter

October 2019
Added allvendorimageurls parameter

April 2021
Added Note on URL Encoding
Switched from http to https

July 2023
Updated Extra Book Ship Cost field to always return 0.0

January 2024
Updated Vendor Image to N, Y, Y, Y

June 2024
Retired Subjects from Medium and Long Book Record Format returns. Field will be omitted from returned record.