

AbeBooks Search Web Services End User Guide

Submitting a Client Key Request

To gain access to Abebooks Search Web Services, you must first obtain a Client Key.

To obtain a Client Key, first go to the AbeBooks Search Web Services page at <http://www.abebooks.de/docs/AffiliateProgram/WebServices/>

Next, follow these 3 steps:

1. Submit a Client Key request:

Submit a Client Key request by clicking **Make Request** and filling out the form. Read and accept the Terms of Use, (you may print these for your records).

Note: In order to complete the Client Key Request Form, you must first be signed on to your Abebooks account. If you are not signed on when you click **Make Request**, you will be prompted to Sign On in order to access the form.

The Website Address field is a required field, and you must agree to the Terms of Use in order to submit your request.

Once you have completed the form, click the [Submit] button.

If the form has been submitted successfully, you will receive a 'Thank you, your request has been successfully submitted' message.

2. Receive your Confirmation E-mail and link:

Once your request has been submitted, you will receive a Confirmation E-mail that contains a link to your Client Key.

3. Get your Client Key:

Clicking the link in the Confirmation E-mail, or copying and pasting the URL into the address bar of your browser, will take you to a page that will provide you with your Client Key.

Specifying Authorization Credentials – Client Key

All requests made to the search web service **must** include a **clientkey** parameter. This client key value is obtained from AbeBooks and is used to authorize users of the search service. The client key is **case sensitive**, so the key: 4398db55-fdf2-485d-92f8-f09b59344f94 is considered to be different from 4398DB55-FDF2-485D-92F8-F09B59344F94.

If the client makes a search request with an invalid or unrecognized client key, then the server will return an HTTP status of 401 ("UNAUTHORIZED") error message.

Creating Search Requests

Each search request is a URL that contains request parameters. These parameters fall into the following categories:

- Authorization Credentials
- Book Search Parameters
- Output Value Parameters
- Sort Order
- Record Format

The **parameter names** are always lower case and are case sensitive, as are most **parameter values**.

All search requests are performed at <http://search2.abebooks.com/>

Sample search request URL:

<http://search2.abebooks.com/search?isbn=0451161351&clientkey=<your client key here>>

Book Search Parameters

Primary Search Parameters

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

Parameter Name	Description	Example Values
isbn	A 10 or 13 character ISBN value	9780708915110, 3799503005
author	The name or names of all authors of a book. Spaces and other special characters must be URL encoded	Margaret+Attwood

title	The title of a book. Spaces and other special characters must be URL encoded	Bluebeard%27s+Egg+and+Other+Stories
keyword	This word is searched against all text fields in a book listing. (Note that this is not the vendor assigned keyword)	cooking
pubname	Search by publisher name	Random House
vendorid	Search by AbeBooks Seller	7876454657 (numerals only)

Sample search request URLs containing Primary Search Parameters:

- **Example 1:**
Search for the ISBN '0451161351'
<http://search2.abebooks.com/search?isbn=0451161351&clientkey=<your client key here>>
- **Example 2:**
Search for the author 'Stephen King'
<http://search2.abebooks.com/search?author=stephen%20king&clientkey=<your client key here>>
- **Example 3:**
Search for the title 'Cujo'
<http://search2.abebooks.com/search?title=cujo&clientkey=<your client key here>>
- **Example 4:**
Search for the author 'Stephen King' and the title 'Cujo'
<http://search2.abebooks.com/search?author=stephen%20king&title=cujo&&clientkey=<your client key here>>
- **Example 5:**
Search for the keyword 'horror'
<http://search2.abebooks.com/search?keyword=horror&clientkey=<your client key here>>

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. (For example: minprice is assumed to be 0 for any search where the minprice parameter is not provided).

Parameter Name	Description	Example Value	Default Value
minprice	Must be a positive number. Limits the search to only books above the value specified by this parameter	12	0
maxprice	Must be a positive number. Limits the search to only books below the value specified by this parameter	25	No limit
vendorlocation	Two or three letter country ISO code (see appendix). Limits the search to only books being sold by vendors in the country specified by this parameter*	USA	Search all countries
bookcondition	filter by book condition newonly = new books only usedonly = used books only used = used and unclassified books only	newonly, usedonly, used	Search all conditions
minsellerrating	filter by minimum seller rating	2,3,4,5	Search all ratings
binding	filter by cover type	softcover, hardcover	Search all bindings
signed	limit to signed books	yes	Search both signed and unsigned
freeshipping	limit to only freeshipping US (not applicable for Europe!)	yes	Search all shipping rates
expeditedshipping	limit to only expedited shipping US (not applicable for Europe!)	yes	Search all shipping speeds
shippingdetails	Includes second book ship cost, min/max ship days, standard/priority ship rates	yes	Search all shipping rates
minpubyear	minimum publication year	1 - 9999	Search all publication years
maxpubyear	maximum publication year	1 - 9999	Search all publication years
firstedition	limit to first editions	yes	Search all editions
dustjacket	limit to books with dustjacket	yes	Search books both with and without

			dustjackets
vendorid	an AbeBooks vendor id (numerals only)	2345346346	Search all AbeBooks vendors

* We recommend using three letter ISO codes instead of two letter codes:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISO_3166-1_alpha-3

As of August 1 2008, we no longer accept the two-letter country code "gb"; please use "uk" instead. If this is corrected in the future, we will retain backwards-compatibility with "uk".

Sample search request URLs containing Secondary Search Parameters:

- **Example 1:**
Search for items titled 'Cujo' that are listed for U\$10.00 or more
<http://search2.abebooks.com/search?title=cujo&minprice=10&clientkey=<your client key here>>
- **Example 2:**
Search for items titled 'Cujo' that are listed for U\$10.00 or less
<http://search2.abebooks.com/search?title=cujo&maxprice=10&clientkey=<your client key here>>
- **Example 3:**
Search for items titled 'Cujo' that are listed for between U\$1.00 and U\$10.00
<http://search2.abebooks.com/search?title=cujo&minprice=1&maxprice=10&clientkey=<your client key here>>
- **Example 4:**
<http://search2.abebooks.com/search?title=cujo&minprice=10&bookcondition=newonly&clientkey=<your client key here>>
- **Example 5:**
<http://search2.abebooks.com/search?title=cujo&minprice=10&minsellerrating=4&clientkey=<your client key here>>
- **Example 6:**
<http://search2.abebooks.com/search?title=cujo&minprice=10&binding=hardcover&clientkey=<your clientkey here>>
- **Example 7:**
<http://search2.abebooks.com/search?title=cujo&minprice=10&signed=yes&clientkey=<your client key here>>
- **Example 8:**
<http://search2.abebooks.com/search?title=cujo&minprice=10&minpubyear=1990&maxpubyear=1995&clientkey=<your client key here>>

- **Example 9:**
<http://search2.abebooks.com/search?title=cujo&firstedition=yes&clientkey=<your client key here>>
- **Example 10:**
<http://search2.abebooks.com/search?title=cujo&dustjacket=yes&clientkey=<your client key here>>

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. (For example: destinationcountry is set to USA if not provided in the search request.)

Parameter Name	Description	Example Value	Default Value
currency	Two or three letter currency ISO code. All prices will be returned in the currency specified by this parameter.	CAD	USD
destinationcountry	Two or three letter country ISO code (see appendix). All shipping prices will be calculated with the destination country set to the country specified by this parameter	GBR	USA
shiprate	Either S or P . All shipping rates will be calculated in either S (standard) or P (priority) rates.	P	S

* We recommend using three letter ISO codes instead of two letter codes:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISO_3166-1_alpha-3

As of August 1 2008, we no longer accept the two-letter country code "gb"; please use "uk" instead. If this is corrected in the future, we will retain backwards-compatibility with "uk".

Sample search request URLs containing Output Value Parameters:

- **Example 1:**
Search for listings titled 'Cujo' and specify pricing to be in Canadian dollars (CAD)
<http://search2.abebooks.com/search?title=cujo¤cy=CAD&clientkey=<your client key here>>

- **Example 2:**
Search for listings titled 'Cujo' and specify shipping to Great Britain (GBR)
<http://search2.abebooks.com/search?title=cujo&destinationcountry=GBR&clientkey=<your client key here>>
- **Example 3:**
Search for listings titled 'Cujo' and specify 'priority' shipping
<http://search2.abebooks.com/search?title=cujo&shiprate=p&clientkey=<your client key here>>

Controlling Book Record Format - outputsize

The **outputsize** parameter is used to determine how much detail is included in each search result. All search requests may include one of the following values:

- outputsize=micro
- outputsize=short
- outputsize=medium
- outputsize=long

If an **outputsize** is not provided in the search request, then **outputsize=medium** will be used as the default value.

Sample search request URLs containing the 'outputsize' Parameter:

- **Example 1:**
Search for the ISBN '0451172817' and specify outputsize as 'micro'
<http://search2.abebooks.com/search?isbn=0451172817&outputsize=micro&clientkey=<your client key here>>
- **Example 2:**
Search for the ISBN '0451172817' and specify outputsize as 'short'
<http://search2.abebooks.com/search?isbn=0451172817&outputsize=short&clientkey=<your client key here>>
- **Example 3:**
Search for the ISBN '0451172817' and specify outputsize as 'medium' (default)
<http://search2.abebooks.com/search?isbn=0451172817&outputsize=medium&clientkey=<your client key here>>
- **Example 4:**
Search for the ISBN '0451172817' and specify outputsize as 'long'
<http://search2.abebooks.com/search?isbn=0451172817&outputsize=long&clientkey=<your client key here>>

Sample 'outputsize' Record Returns:

Always Examine Returned Search Result Elements Carefully

Note that the output samples below are complete examples that include all possible fields. If a particular field is not populated for a listing in the search result, that field will be omitted from the record. Therefore, actual results may contain fewer fields than these examples, but will NEVER contain more fields.

Q. What does each level of detail mean?

A. There are four possible parameters to determine how much detail you want included in each search result (see below)

**If the outputsize parameter is not provided in the search request, then outputsize medium will be used as the default value.*

Micro – includes result count*, book ID, ISBN 10 and 13, listing condition (NEW or NOT NEW), item condition (new, very good, etc.)**, quantity, vendor currency, listing price, total book price, first book shipping cost, extra book shipping cost, min and max shipping days***, listing url

Short – includes all of above plus author, title, publisher name and catalogue image

Medium – includes all of the above plus vendor name, vendor location, vendor ID, seller rating, keywords, subject, binding type, and edition type

Long – includes all of the above plus book jacket, publication year, vendor price, and vendor description, and vendor image (if there is one).

***ResultCount** = how many books with your specific criteria are returned

****ItemCondition possible output values:** new, as new, fine, very good, good, fair or poor

*****Extra book shipping cost, min and max shipping days as well as standard/priority shipping rates**, will be returned for all outputsizes if specifically requested by shippingdetails=yes, otherwise the fields will be returned containing 0.

outputsize=micro - Micro Record Format

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<searchResults>
  <Book>
    <bookId>555203965</bookId>
    <isbn10>0451172817</isbn10>
    <isbn13>9780451172817</isbn13>
    <listingCondition>NEW BOOK</listingCondition>
    <itemCondition>New</itemCondition>
```

```
<quantity>1</quantity>
<vendorCurrency>USD</vendorCurrency>
<listingPrice>1.94</listingPrice>
<firstBookShipCost>4.75</firstBookShipCost>
<extraBookShipCost>2.5</extraBookShipCost>
<minShipDays>3</minShipDays>
<maxShipDays>7</maxShipDays>
<totalListingPrice>6.69</totalListingPrice>
<listingUrl>www.abebooks.com/servlet/SearchResults?bi=555203965</listingUrl>
</Book>
</searchResults>
```

outputsize=short - Short Record Format

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<searchResults>
  <Book>
    <bookId>555203965</bookId>
    <isbn10>0451172817</isbn10>
    <isbn13>9780451172817</isbn13>
    <listingCondition>NEW BOOK</listingCondition>
    <itemCondition>New</itemCondition>
    <quantity>1</quantity>
    <vendorCurrency>USD</vendorCurrency>
    <listingPrice>1.94</listingPrice>
    <firstBookShipCost>4.75</firstBookShipCost>
    <extraBookShipCost>2.5</extraBookShipCost>
    <minShipDays>3</minShipDays>
    <maxShipDays>7</maxShipDays>
    <totalListingPrice>6.69</totalListingPrice>
    <listingUrl>www.abebooks.com/servlet/SearchResults?bi=555203965</listingUrl>
```

```
<author>King, Stephen</author>
<title>Needful Things</title>
<publisherName>Random House</publisherName>
<catalogImage>http://isbn.abebooks.com/mz/17/45/0451172817.jpg</catalogImage>
</Book>
</searchResults>
```

outputsize=medium - Medium Record Format

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<searchResults>
  <Book>
    <bookId>555203965</bookId>
    <isbn10>0451172817</isbn10>
    <isbn13>9780451172817</isbn13>
    <listingCondition>NEW BOOK</listingCondition>
    <itemCondition>New</itemCondition>
    <quantity>1</quantity>
    <vendorCurrency>USD</vendorCurrency>
    <listingPrice>1.94</listingPrice>
    <firstBookShipCost>4.75</firstBookShipCost>
    <extraBookShipCost>2.5</extraBookShipCost>
    <minShipDays>3</minShipDays>
    <maxShipDays>7</maxShipDays>
    <totalListingPrice>6.69</totalListingPrice>
    <listingUrl>www.abebooks.com/servlet/SearchResults?bi=555203965</listingUrl>
    <author>King, Stephen</author>
    <title>Needful Things</title>
    <publisherName>Random House</publisherName>
    <catalogImage>http://isbn.abebooks.com/mz/17/45/0451172817.jpg</catalogImage>
    <vendorName>SpanishS4</vendorName>
```

```
<vendorLocation>S4City, ., Brazil</vendorLocation>
<vendorId>2344918</vendorId>
<sellerRating>8</sellerRating>
<keywords>MODERN FIRSTS STEPHEN KING HORROR SHORT STORIES</keywords>
<subjects>
  <subject>Horror</subject>
</subjects>
<bindingType>S</bindingType>
<editionType>F</editionType>
</Book>
</searchResults>
```

outputsize=long - Long

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<searchResults>
  <Book>
    <bookId>593187245</bookId>
    <isbn10>0670839531</isbn10>
    <isbn13>9780670839531</isbn13>
    <listingCondition>NEW BOOK</listingCondition>
    <itemCondition>New</itemCondition>
    <quantity>1</quantity>
    <vendorCurrency>USD</vendorCurrency>
    <listingPrice>58.0</listingPrice>
    <firstBookShipCost>4.75</firstBookShipCost>
    <extraBookShipCost>2.5</extraBookShipCost>
    <minShipDays>3</minShipDays>
    <maxShipDays>7</maxShipDays>
    <totalListingPrice>62.75</totalListingPrice>
    <listingUrl>www.abebooks.com/servlet/SearchResults?bi=593187245</listingUrl>
```

```
<author>KING, Stephen</author>
<title>NEEDFUL THINGS</title>
<publisherName>Random House</publisherName>
<catalogImage>http://isbn.abebooks.com/mz/17/45/0451172817.jpg</catalogImage>
<vendorName>test</vendorName>
<vendorLocation>test, tes, Canada</vendorLocation>
<vendorId>51539110</vendorId>
<sellerRating>55</sellerRating>
<keywords>MODERN FIRSTS STEPHEN KING HORROR SHORT STORIES</keywords>
<subjects>
  <subject>Horror</subject>
</subjects>
<bookJacket>J</bookJacket>
<bindingType>H</bindingType>
<editionType>F</editionType>
<publicationYear>1991</publicationYear>
<vendorPrice>58.0</vendorPrice>
  <vendorDescription>Fine in Fine dustwrapper. Unread. The last Castle Rock story. First Edition
  cloth.</vendorDescription>
</Book>
</searchResults>
```

Sorting Search Results - sortorder

The parameter **sortorder** is an optional parameter that indicates how the request result should be sorted. The parameter accepts a sort order number value; those values are listed below. If this parameter is not provided, the default sort order will be by price, ascending.

Sort order integer	Description
0	Newly listed books first
1	Price descending
2	Price ascending. This is the default sort order

3	United Kingdom Sellers first
4	Author names descending
5	Author names ascending
6	Book title descending
7	Book title ascending
8	German sellers first
9	French sellers first
10	Spanish sellers first
11	Italian sellers first
15	Book seller rating descending
17	Total price (book price + shipping) ascending

Sample search request URLs containing the 'sortorder' Parameter:

- **Example 1:**
Search for the ISBN '0451172817' and specify results to be sorted by highest to lowest list price
<http://search2.abebooks.com/search?isbn=0451172817&sortorder=1&clientkey=<your client key here>>
- **Example 2:**
Search for the ISBN '0451172817' and specify results to be sorted by the highest to lowest rated sellers
<http://search2.abebooks.com/search?isbn=0451172817&sortorder=15&clientkey=<your client key here>>

Specifying Currency and Country Codes

Parameters regarding countries and currencies are all specified with a three letter currency or country ISO code conforming to ISO 3166-1 alpha-3 and ISO 4217 standards.

Standardized Three Letter Country Codes (ISO 3166-1 alpha-3):

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISO_3166-1_alpha-3

Standardized Two Letter Country Codes (ISO 3166-1 alpha-2):

http://www.iso.org/iso/country_codes/iso_3166_code_lists/english_country_names_and_code_elements.htm

Standardized Currency Codes (ISO 4217):

http://www.iso.org/iso/support/faqs/faqs_widely_used_standards/widely_used_standards_other/currency_codes/currency_codes_list-1.htm

Limiting the Number of Search Results

The number of matching search results returned for each request can be controlled by the **maxresults** parameter.

If not provided in the search request, the default number of search results returned will be 50.

The maximum number of results that can be returned is 2000.

Sample search request URL containing the 'maxresults' Parameter:

- **Example 1:**

Search for the ISBN '0451172817' and limit the output to include 25 results

<http://search2.abebooks.com/search?isbn=0451172817&maxresults=25&clientkey=<your client key here>>

Interpreting Error Messages

Validation Errors

Example - Entering an invalid parameter:

Misspelling a search parameter, i.e. "sororder" for "sortorder".

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<searchResults>
  <messages>Invalid parameter name provided: sororder</messages>
</searchResults>
```

Example - Entering a malformed parameter value:

Parameter value entering in an incorrect format, i.e. " isbn-01-234567-34" for "0123456734".

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<searchResults>
  <messages>Invalid ISBN value provided: isbn-01-234567-34</messages>
</searchResults>
```

Example - Entering an invalid value for a numeric field with minimum and maximum limits:

Entering a 'maxresults' parameter value of 2500.

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<searchResults>
  <messages>Illegal value for maxresults: 2500. Value must be an integer between 0 and
2000</messages>
</searchResults>
```

Example - Entering an invalid value for a numeric field with a minimum limit only:

Entering -20 for 'minprice,'

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<searchResults>
  <messages>Illegal value for minprice: -20. Value must be an integer greater than or equal to
0</messages>
</searchResults>
```

Example - Entering an invalid parameter value:

Entering 'big' instead of 'long' for 'outputsize'

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<searchResults>
  <messages>Invalid outputsize parameter specified (big).</messages>
</searchResults>
```

Example- Entering more than 1 value for the same parameter:

Entering multiple values for the parameter 'outputsize': i.e., outputsize=big&outputsize=long

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<searchResults>
  <messages>Too many outputsize parameters specified.</messages>
</searchResults>
```

Example - Entering a blank word in a primary search field:

Entering a non-searchable word, such as NOT, in the author search parameter.

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
```

<searchResults>

<messages>Words such as "the", "&", "in", etc. are not searched. Please enter some "content" words, i.e. nouns or verbs and try again.</messages>

</searchResults>

Example - Entering a minprice greater than maxprice:

Entering 30 for minprice and 20 for maxprice

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>

<searchResults>

<messages>Please enter only whole numbers greater than zero in the 'Price' fields. The 'max' value must be larger than the 'min' value.</messages>

</searchResults>

Authentication Errors

If an invalid or unrecognized client key is included in the search request, then an "http status code 401 (SC_UNAUTHORIZED)" error message will be returned.

Service Level Errors

If the Search Web Service is unresponsive, then an "http status code 503 (SC_SERVICE_UNAVAILABLE)" error message will be returned.

Search Web Services Quick Guide

The AbeBooks Search Web Services (SWS) is a great tool affiliates can use to give their visitors relevant content in real-time. Here are some good things to keep in mind:

- Shipping to the country you need
- Pricing in the currency you need
- Returned result details

The questions and answers below will help you understand which query parameters to use.

****Important: Please note that the parameter names are always lower case and are case sensitive, while the parameter values are case insensitive, except for the clientkeyparameter, which is case sensitive.**

Q. How do I include shipping to the country I want?

A. Include the "destinationcountry" parameter using the two or three letter ISO country code. The default value for this parameter is USA. See three-letter country codes:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISO_3166-1_alpha-3

Q. How do I include prices in the currency I want?

A. You must include the ISO currency code ("currency" parameter) in the original search.

**Important:

- ISO country codes here

http://www.iso.org/iso/support/faqs/faqs_widely_used_standards/widely_used_standards_other/currency_codes/currency_codes_list-1.htm

We recommend only using three letter ISO codes instead of two letter codes.

If you are currently using two-letter ISO country codes, please note that as of August 1 2008, we don't accept two-letter country code "gb"; please send "uk" instead. If this is corrected in the future we will retain backwards-compatibility with "uk"

Q. What is the difference between the listing price and the vendor currency?

A. The listing price is the price as seen on the .com site (unless specified for another currency). When you receive the search results back you will see a field called "vendorcurrency". The vendor currency is the currency in which the vendor uploaded their inventory in. So, for example, if a US vendor uploaded their inventory in US dollars, the listing price and the vendor price would match. If you have used the currency parameter, the listing price is in the currency you specified, not the "vendorcurrency."

Q. How do I use SWS for visitors to different AbeBooks' domains (eg. www.abebooks.de)?

A. As our system does not currently have different SWS for each of our domains there are two steps to this process. Essentially, it is the same linking structure as with the AbeBooks.com site, but just a different top level domain.

- #1 You must include the ISO currency code ("currency" parameter) in the original search.
- #2 When the search is returned you need to then take the url and change the .com to one of our other domains such as .de, .co.uk, .fr etc.

This will return all AbeBooks listings in the currency you want on the domain you want.

If you want to return only listings from vendors in a specific country, you must include the ISO country code ("vendorlocation" parameter) in the original search.

Q. Can I request results for books in only new or only used condition?

A. Yes. See page 4 of the SWS end user guide for complete details. The parameter to specify new or used books only is "bookcondition"