

MERLOT Material Search Web Service

Version: 1.3 (April 28, 2009)

URL: <http://www.merlot.org/merlot/materials.rest>

Type: Restful web service

Required parameters:

- licenseKey: string

Optional control parameters:

- firstRecNumber: int – start receiving from this record number, 0 if not specified. Values greater than 10 will give no results. Values greater than 0 will decrease the size of the returned set.
- size: int – how many results to return, 10 if not specified, maximum value is also 10. The value of 10 is actually 10 minus firstRecNumber so that only the first ten results of any search are retrievable in the MERLOT basic web service search.
- totalCountOnly: boolean – if true only return the header with the totalCount populated
- sort: string – sort the result, valid options are: overall, title, author, dateCreated, peerReviewAvgRating. If not specified defaults to overall

Optional search query parameters:

Note that only one of anyKeyWords, allKeyWords and exactPhraseKeyWords can be true in any search.

- keywords: string – List of words separated by space. Finds the data matching any of the keywords (unless specified otherwise using anyKeyWords, allKeyWords or exactPhraseKeyWords parameters).
- anyKeyWords: boolean – (default) if true search for the data matching any of the keywords
- allKeyWords: boolean – if true search for the data matching all of the keywords
- exactPhraseKeyWords: boolean – if true search for the data containing the exact phrase specified by the keywords
- title: string – filter on title
- description: string – filter on description
- creativeCommons: boolean – if true return only materials that have creative commons license. If false or not specified – return all materials whether they have CC license or not
- author: string – looks for the string in contributors' first name, last name and organization



Results:

The root element is: <merlotMaterialSearchWebService> and the namespace is:
<http://www.merlot.org/merlot/materials-rest>

Next comes <status> element with the values 'ok' or 'failed'
Results with the status ok:

```
<summary>
  <totalCount>number</totalCount>
  <resultCount>number</resultCount>
  <lastRecNumber>number</lastRecNumber>
</summary>
```

Where

totalCount – total number of results for a given query
resultCount – number of results returned in the <results> element
lastRecNumber – number of the last record in the <results> element

Results element:

```
<results>
<material>
  <title>string</title>
  <URL>string</URL>
  <authorName>string</authorName>
  <creationDate>long</creationDate>
  <description>string</description>
  <detailURL>url</detailURL>
  <creativecommons>boolean</creativecommons>
</material>
....
</results>
```

Where

title – title of the material in MERLOT
URL – direct url to the material
authorName – name of the author of the material
creationDate – when the material was submitted to MERLOT. In the format of the number of milliseconds since 1 Jan 1970, 00:00:00 GMT
description – description of the material
detailURL – url of the material in MERLOT
creativecommons – indicates whether the material is under the Creative Commons License



Results with the status failed:

```
<error code="401">  
<message>Invalid license key</message>  
</error>
```

Error codes: 401 – invalid license key
500 – internal server error



Example Queries

<http://www.merlot.org/merlot/materials.rest?licenseKey=validLicenseKey>

Returns first 10 materials sorted by overall rating.

<http://www.merlot.org/merlot/materials.rest?licenseKey=validLicenseKey&firstRecNumber=4&size=5>

Returns 5 materials, starting from the 4th material sorted by overall rating.

<http://www.merlot.org/merlot/materials.rest?licenseKey=validLicenseKey&size=5&keywords=merlot&creativecommons=true>

Returns maximum 5 first materials that have word 'merlot' in their title, description or url and also have Creative Commons License.

<http://www.merlot.org/merlot/materials.rest?licenseKey=validLicenseKey&size=5&keywords=merlot%20chemistry&creativecommons=false>

Returns maximum 5 first materials that have word 'merlot' or 'chemistry' in either their title, description or url regardless whether they have Creative Commons License or not.

<http://www.merlot.org/merlot/materials.rest?licenseKey=validLicenseKey&size=15&description=yesterday&title=native>

Returns maximum 10 (10 is max returned) first materials that have word 'yesterday' in their description and 'native' in their title.

Controlling keywords examples:

<http://www.merlot.org/merlot/materials.rest?licenseKey=validLicenseKey&size=5&keywords=virtual+chemistry>

Returns maximum 5 first materials that either have word 'virtual' or 'chemistry' in their title, description or url

<http://www.merlot.org/merlot/materials.rest?licenseKey=validLicenseKey&size=5&keywords=virtual+chemistry&anyKeywords=true>

Same as previous example query

<http://www.merlot.org/merlot/materials.rest?licenseKey=validLicenseKey&size=5&keywords=virtual+chemistry&allKeywords=true>

Returns maximum 5 first materials that have both word 'virtual' and 'chemistry' in their title, description or url

<http://www.merlot.org/merlot/materials.rest?licenseKey=validLicenseKey&size=5&keywords=virtual+chemistry&exactPhraseKeywords=true>



Returns maximum 5 first materials that exactly have the 'virtual chemistry' phrase in their title, description or url

