NamUs 2.0
User Guide:
Advanced Searching
Advanced Searching of NamUs

All registered users can perform advanced searches of the NamUs system; however, unless the user is a registered, vetted professional user (e.g., Law Enforcement, Medical Examiner, or Coroner), searches will be limited to publicly-viewable fields in NamUs case files.

Advanced searches allow users to create queries to search missing, unidentified, or unclaimed person cases matching customized criteria. Every field in the NamUs database can be searched, according to the user’s view permissions in the system, using checkboxes, pre-populated pick-lists, and keyword searches. Keyword searching can be further refined using Boolean operators such as “and”, “or”, and “not”.

Performing an Advanced Search

To begin an advanced search of the NamUs database, from your dashboard, click on the search icon next to the case type you wish to search:

After clicking the search icon, an Advanced Search screen will open, allowing users to enter criteria in one or more search fields:

Missing Persons Search
Note that with the addition of criteria to the search, the “Possible Results” box in the upper right will dynamically change to show the number of results that will be returned if the search is executed by clicking the “Search” button at the bottom of the screen.

**Enhanced Search Capabilities New to NamUs 2.0**

NamUs 2.0 allows users to select multiple checkboxes to expand searches when descriptors such as eye color, hair color, race/ethnicity, etc. are uncertain, or users want to expand their search to include additional possibilities.
Certain “type ahead” fields allow the user to begin typing criteria which will prompt the creation of a pick-list that is populated with data that is currently available in published NamUs case files.

Other search fields allow users to select multiple options from a pre-populated list of standard demographic descriptors, such as hair color and eye color. Simply click the down arrow to view the pick-list options, select an option, then repeat to add additional criteria to your search.
Boolean operators allow users to create powerful, complex searches. By using the “and” operator, searches can be run to locate cases that contain one or more keywords in any order within a section of the case file. For example, the search shown below would return cases with the terms “black nylon jacket”, “jacket with black stripes”, “orange jacket and black pants”, etc.

By enclosing search term in quotation marks, users can limit searches to an exact phrase or string of words. For example, the search shown below would return cases with descriptors such as “tattoo of blue rose on left shoulder” or “blue rose tattooed on right ankle”.

To group terms for even more sophisticated searches, enclose each group of terms in parentheses, as shown below. Note the green “Searching For” prompt below the search box will provide a recap to assist in visualizing your search and expected results.
Displaying Search Results

Upon running a search, results will be displayed in list view, with the number of search results recapped at the top of the list.

By clicking the “Gallery” icon in the top right of the screen, search results can be viewed in gallery view, which includes thumbnail images when available.
By clicking the “Map” icon in the top right of the screen, search results can be viewed in an interactive Google map which allows users to pan and zoom to adjust their view. Users can click individual case links within the map to view the case file in NamUs.

Users can also hover over individual case numbers on the map to see a snapshot of details for each case. Clicking on the case number in this pop-up will take the user to the full NamUs case file.
Revising Advanced Searches

After running any search, users can click “Revise Search” to adjust their search criteria. This link takes users back to the advanced search page with all of their previous criteria still pre-populated so they can add, remove, or adjust any search parameters.