

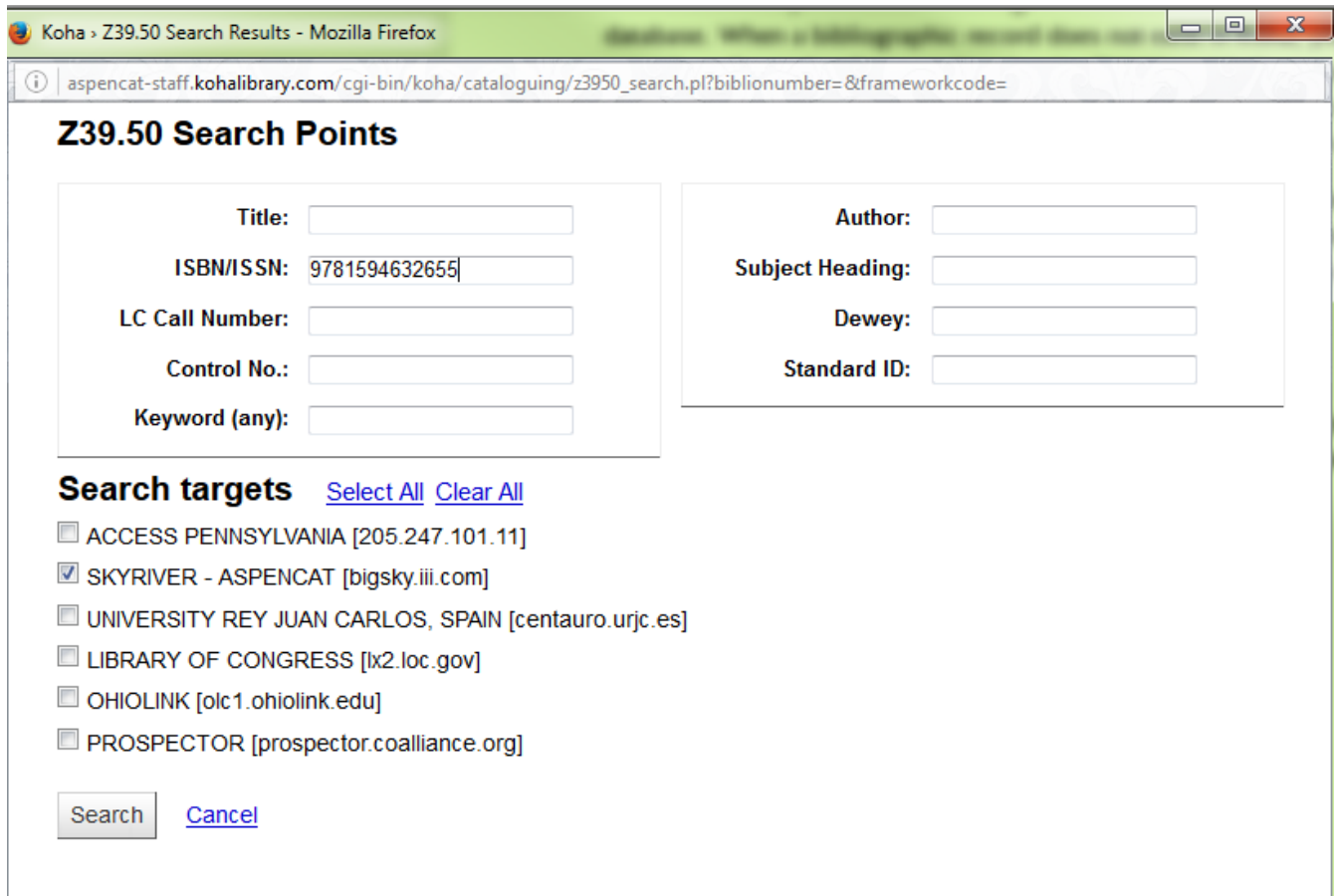
AspenCat – Z39.50 Troubleshooting

AspenCat libraries use the Z39.50 tool to import quality bibliographic records into Koha. You should always search for existing records in Koha before importing records into the database. When a bibliographic record does not exist in Koha, you should always attempt a number of searches for records using the Z39.50 tool before resorting to creating a unique MARC record for your item. Records returned through the Z39.50 tool meet certain cataloging standards and should be the preference for libraries to use.

The Z39.50 tool can often experience errors, particularly when performing an initial search for a bibliographic record by any number of search terms. This document provides some troubleshooting information that will instruct you on how to circumvent issues and errors with the tool and import quality records more frequently.

No Results Error

Specifically, you'll often come across an error when you're searching the SkyRiver database for records to import. Whether you've searched an ISBN, a title, or author and limited your search to the SkyRiver "Search target" as seen here:



Koha > Z39.50 Search Results - Mozilla Firefox

aspencat-staff.kohalibrary.com/cgi-bin/koha/cataloguing/z3950_search.pl?biblionumber=&frameworkcode=

Z39.50 Search Points

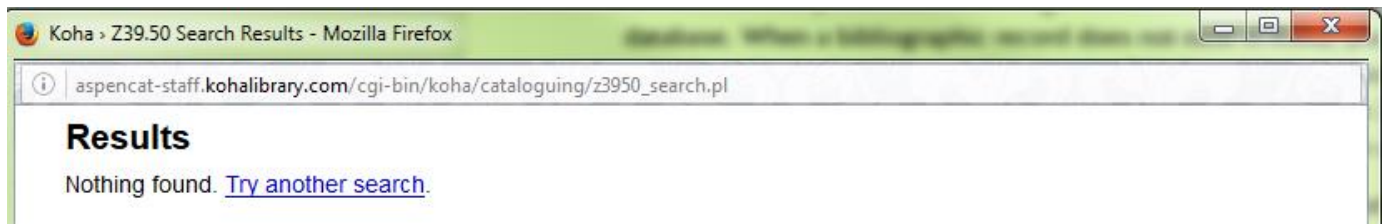
| | | | |
|-----------------|--|------------------|----------------------|
| Title: | <input type="text"/> | Author: | <input type="text"/> |
| ISBN/ISSN: | <input type="text" value="9781594632655"/> | Subject Heading: | <input type="text"/> |
| LC Call Number: | <input type="text"/> | Dewey: | <input type="text"/> |
| Control No.: | <input type="text"/> | Standard ID: | <input type="text"/> |
| Keyword (any): | <input type="text"/> | | |

Search targets [Select All](#) [Clear All](#)

- ACCESS PENNSYLVANIA [205.247.101.11]
- SKYRIVER - ASPENCAT [bigsky.iii.com]
- UNIVERSITY REY JUAN CARLOS, SPAIN [centauro.urjc.es]
- LIBRARY OF CONGRESS [lx2.loc.gov]
- OHIOLINK [olc1.ohiolink.edu]
- PROSPECTOR [prospector.coalliance.org]

[Cancel](#)

You'll often return this error:



SkyRiver and the other search target databases likely DO have records available for import, but because of the bug, the search targets aren't returning any results on their first pass.

When this error is returned to you, go "BACK" in the Z39.50 pop-up browser window by pressing the "Backspace" key on your keyboard or by right-clicking in the pop-up window to bring up the browser controls (using Firefox, which is our preferred browser to use with Koha) and go "Back."

When you go "BACK" in the browser window, you'll be returned to your original query (with the same values still filled in the field), which you can then resubmit to the Z39.50 search. Selecting few more search targets may also force results to appear. SkyRiver is our preferred target, however you will return quality records from OHIOLINK and ACCESS PENNSYLVANIA. Once you resubmit your query, you should be returned some results. You may have to go back and resubmit your query many times.

We recommend clicking the "Try another search" hyperlink, especially if you're not returning any SkyRiver results on your fourth or fifth pass. If you use this process, you'll need to fill in your search fields again and submit the query.

Other Searching Tips

We recommend that you search for records first by ISBN. If you find that you're not returned results by ISBN, then either an author or title search is the next best option. Simple keyword searches in the Z39.50 may return too many results, however if you are looking for a record for a specific item type, you would search that item type in the "Keyword" field e.g. book or CD.

Similarly, if you are performing a title search and are hoping to narrow results by using an author as an additional search term, specify the title in the 'Title' field and enter the author's name as additional term in the keyword field.

Search punctuation is not effective in the Z39.50 tool e.g. quotations around phrases or asterisk to enable truncation.

We recommend actually clicking on the “Search” button at the bottom of the search tool instead of pressing enter to execute the search. We have found in some cases that clicking the “Search” button will properly execute the search.