

# Advanced search

The **Advanced search** is a powerful tool to search for entities that match multiple criteria, throughout a genealogy.

The screenshot shows a web application window titled "Kennedy". At the top, there is a search bar with "Kennedy x" and navigation icons. Below this is a toolbar with icons for play, stop, refresh, and settings. The main interface has two tabs: "Multi-Criteria" (selected) and "By Tag".

Under the "Multi-Criteria" tab, the "Number of results: 1" is displayed. Below this are two checkboxes: "From Multi-Criteria results" and "From By Tag results".

The search criteria are as follows:

- Person:** Two empty dropdown menus.
- Spouse:** A dropdown menu with "bouvier" selected and another empty dropdown menu.
- Birth:** Two date ranges. The first is "bet" (between) with a calendar icon, a dropdown menu, and the year "1910". The second is "and" with a calendar icon, a dropdown menu, and the year "1940".
- Death:** Two date ranges. The first is "bet" with a calendar icon, a dropdown menu, and empty fields. The second is "and" with a calendar icon, a dropdown menu, and empty fields.
- Place:** A single empty dropdown menu.
- Occupation:** A dropdown menu with "us" selected.

Below the criteria are several checkboxes for filters:

- ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ sex unknown
- ☐ Married ☐ Multi married ☐ Single ☐ Divorced ☐ All but

At the bottom, a results list shows one entry: [\[I104\]](#) [KENNEDY, John Fitzgerald](#) (°29 May 1917 +22 Nov 1963) (I104)

The result list can then be exploited in other Ancestris tools, in particular be positioned on the [geographical map](#), be [exported in a specific Gedcom file](#), be used in the [Find/Replace tool](#), [be marked as special entities](#), or be used for the [Information Sheets of Individuals/Families](#) report.

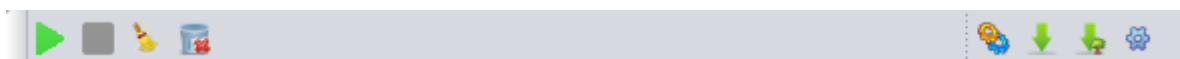
# Description

The Advanced search offers two different search modes:

- **Multi-criteria mode**
  - Search according to a set of predefined properties
  - Multiple criteria
  - Among the genealogy individuals
  - The result of the search is a list of individuals
- **Property mode**
  - Search according to any property
  - Single criteria
  - Among all the properties of the genealogy
  - The result of the search is a list of properties, grouped by entity

## Toolbar

The toolbar works in the same way for both search modes.



### Start Search Button

This button launches the search according to the criteria entered in the visible tab, and displays the results underneath.

The number of results found is shown in the upper right corner of the visible pane.

### Cancel Search Button

This button stops the search if it should last for too long.

### Clear Search Criteria Button

This button resets the criteria and clears all fields.

The criteria previously entered is kept in the different drop-down menus of each of the search tabs.

## Clear Search Criteria History Button

This button clears the history of the drop-down menus. A confirmation request is made before deleting.

## Run reports Button

This button runs reports using the list of individuals in the results.

## Export result entities to a text file

This button exports the result individuals to a new separate text file.

It is therefore possible to **export selected individuals as a list**.

## Export results into a new Gedcom file button

This button exports the result individuals to a new separate Gedcom file.

It is therefore possible to **export selected individuals** to a Gedcom file that can then be sent to another person.

This can also be achieved using the "[\*\*File/Save as\*\*](#)" menu.

## Change Settings Button

This button opens the Search Settings panel which lets you to set the following options:

- **Maximum number of results displayed:** limits the number of results to the first 'n' found. The default value is 5000
- The checkbox **Case sensitive** forces the search to match upper and lower case letters.

## Multi-Criteria

The Multi-criteria tab searches for individuals according to the predefined criteria displayed.

☐ From Multi-Criteria results
 ☐ From By Tag results

Person

Spouse

Birth    1910  
 and   1940

Death     
 and

Place

Occupation

☐ Male
 ☐ Female
 ☐ sex unknown

☐ Married
 ☐ Multi married
 ☐ Single
 ☐ Divorced
 ☐ All but

The first two check boxes are used to limit the search to the previous results found, either from the Multi-Criteria tab, or the By Tag tab. This allows you to refine searches based on previous searches.

The other criteria are explicit with the four first fields being the last and first names of the searched individual or his/her spouse.

If several criteria are filled in, all conditions must be met.

In the example above, we are looking for all individuals whose spouse's name is "Bouvier", born between 1910 and 1940, and having the "US" letters in their occupation.

If you want to reverse a set of conditions, simply check the "All but" box.

The choice for the criteria family status looks throughout the life of the individual for the following statuses:

- **Married:** individuals have been married at least once
- **Multi-Married:** individuals have been married at least twice
- **Single:** individuals have never been married
- **Divorced:** individuals have been divorced at least once

## By Tag

The By Tag tab searches for all the properties of the genealogy that meet a certain criterion.

Like described above, the first two checkboxes allow you to combine successive searches.

## Search value

- The first field is the search criteria. It is a string of characters to be looked for.
- The **Use regular expressions** checkbox, when checked, asks Ancestris to interpret the search criteria as a search pattern, also called a **regular expression**. See the examples in the [Usage section](#) and check the internet for [Regular Expressions](#).
- The "..." drop-down menu, located on the left, offers examples of the main regular expressions used.

## Search tag

- The field is the name of the Gedcom property, or tag, on which the search must be carried out.
- The **Include sub-properties** check box, when checked, asks Ancestris to also display matching values in the sub-properties of the indicated property.
- The "..." drop-down menu on the left allows you to choose among frequently used properties.

## List of results

The list of results is displayed in alternating colors by entity, to better locate the different lines of the same entity, especially for the results of the search by property.

Each result can be clicked. It will display the corresponding entity in the other Ancestris views and editors.

As said at the top of this page, the list is usable in other views and tools.

- In the [Geographic map](#) view to view the features found on the map
- In the [Save As](#) function to make a Gedcom file extract
- In the [Find / Replace](#) function to make a targeted text replacement

- In the **Special Individual marking** tool

Items can be copied and pasted using Ctrl+A, Ctrl+C and Ctrl+V

One or several items in the list can be selected. Click on an item to select it. Maintain the Shift key and press click to select a range of items. Press Ctrl+A to select all results.

Once selected, items can be copied using Ctrl + C and Ctrl+V for copy and paste.

## Usage

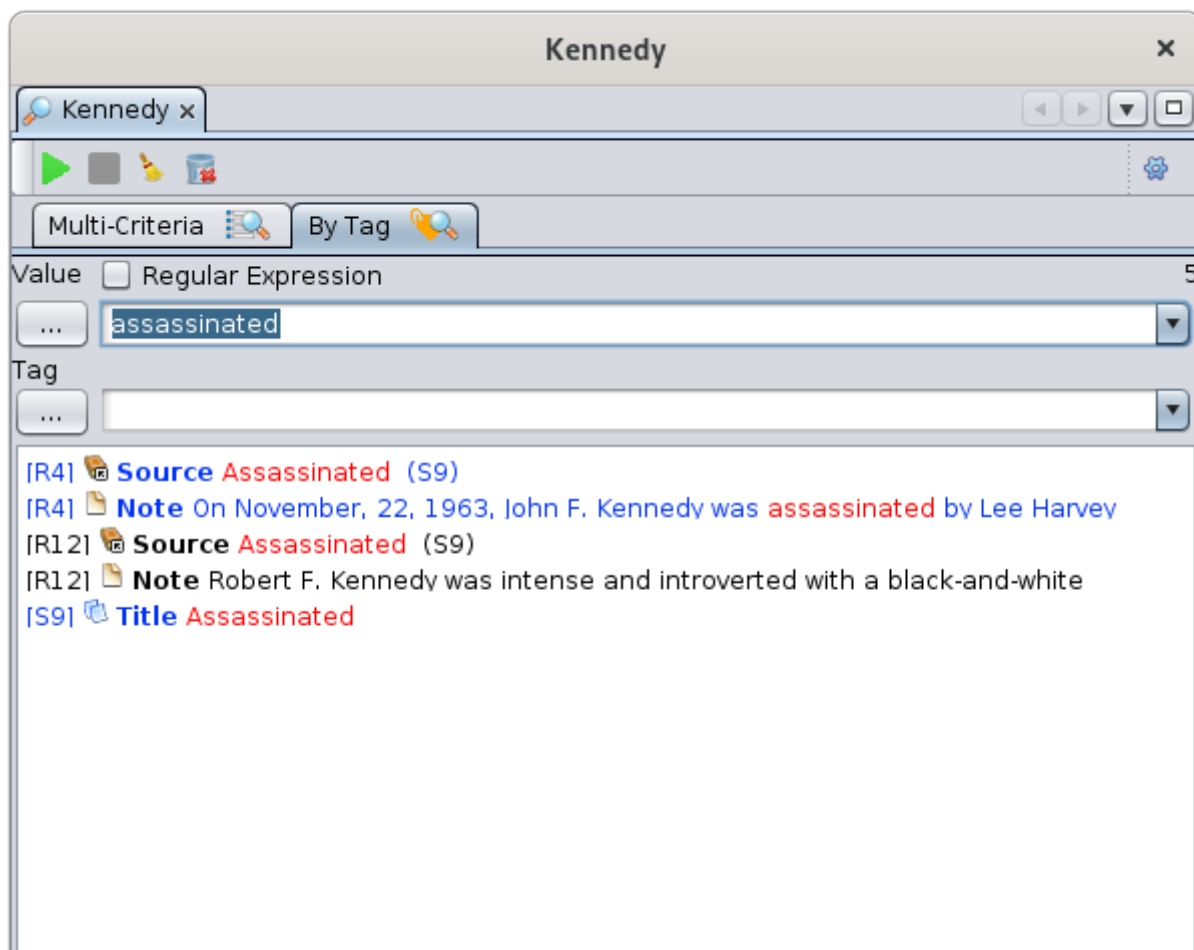
The Multi-Criteria search is quite explicit. You have an example at the top of this page. We don't go into more details here.

On the other hand, searching by Property requires a few examples.

## Search for a text anywhere

The following example searches for the word "assassinated" in the whole genealogy.

There are 5 properties located in 3 entities that meet the criteria.



## Search for a particular name

The following example searches for all names containing the word "John".

In the genealogy, the name of an individual is a property registered with the label NAME.

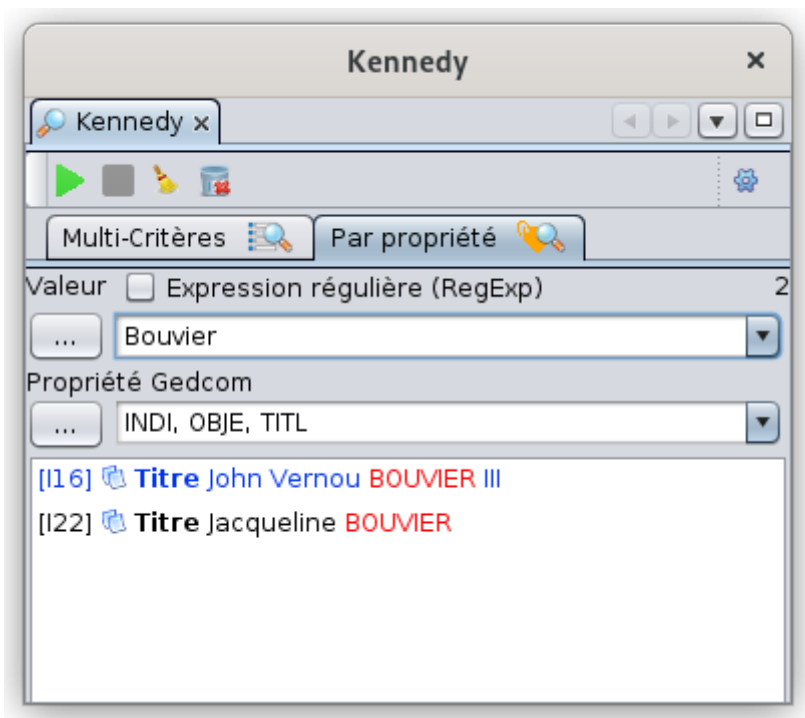
You can find out the name of a label by looking at the [Gedcom editor](#) since in this editor each line starts with the name of the label.

The result is 28 properties, in 14 entities.



## Search for data localized in a specific tag

For example, if you want to search all media for individuals whose title contains "Bouvier", you would do as indicated below, indicating the full path of the tag INDI:OBJE:TITL by INDI, OBJE, TITL, separated with commas.



You can identify the tag paths using the Gedcom editor.

## Search for first names ending in "hn"

As soon as the search requests differs from "contains the characters", it is necessary to use a regular expression.

In computer science, a **regular expression** is a word that describes a set of words. Regular expressions are also called **regex** (a word suitcase formed from the English regular expression). Regular expressions are derived from mathematical theories of formal languages from the 1940s.

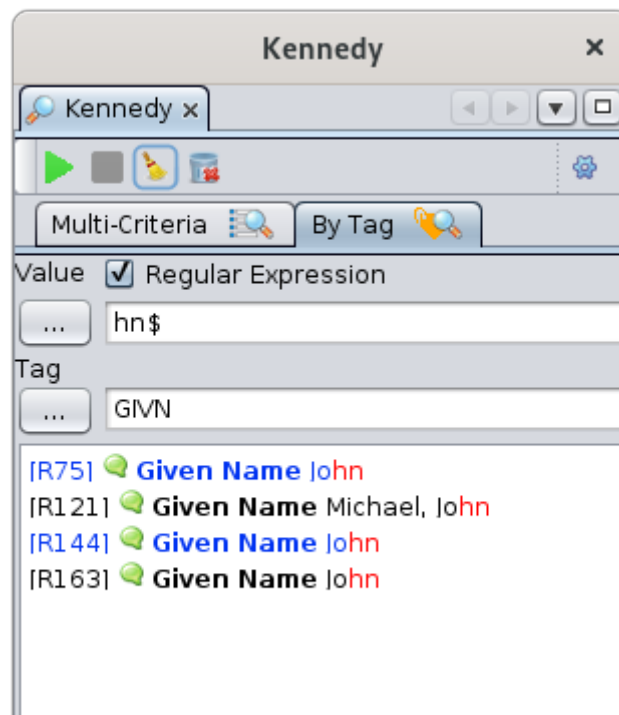
By clicking on the "..." button you have some basic rules for writing a regular expression.

<b>^</b>	beginning of a line
<b>\$</b>	end of a line
<b>.</b>	any character
<b>s</b>	whitespace
<b>X?</b>	X, once or not at all
<b>X*</b>	X, zero or more times
<b>X+</b>	X, one or more times
<b>X{n}</b>	X, exactly n times
<b>X{n,}</b>	X, at least n times
<b>X{n,m}</b>	X, at least n max. m times

- For example, the value `.*` (dot star) looks for all values that are empty or not empty, which actually looks for the existence of a TAG.

- Another example, the word `ex-(a?e|æ|é)quo` describes all words that begin with "ex-" that end with "quo", and that in between have one of the following 3 groups of letters: "a or not" + e, "æ" or "é". So the words "ex-equo", "ex-equo", "ex-aequo" and "ex-aequo" are included. But the words "ex-equo", "ex-aequo", "ex-aeko", "ex-aequo" are not part of it.
- Another example if you want to select pure \_SOSA numbers from \_SOSADABOVILLE numbers: `^[^~]*$` selects all strings that do not include "-" because sosadaboville numbers include a hyphen in them, and would be exclude with this search criteria.

The following example searches for all first names ending in "hn". The regular expression is written "hn\$". And first name matches the GIVN label according to what you see in the Gedcom editor. Click Regular Expression and press Enter.



## Customization

There are no customization elements in this tool.

---

Revision #31

Created 24 May 2020 17:53:12 by frederic

Updated 9 May 2025 06:57:09 by frederic