Current Developments on the zbMATH Interface

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Like every year, zbMATH’s staff of editors and developers has introduced new ideas and useful tools to enrich our database and provide the users with an easier and comfortable experience while using zbMATH. These developments have considered the great feedback of the mathematical community and other users of zbMATH, e.g., librarians.

New search options for authors and serials

Perhaps it has happened to you that looking for the articles of a certain author you find the work of other authors having the same name(s). Any additional information, like a middle name, could be really helpful in finding the author you are looking for. We have introduced some new fields (commands) that you can use in the author tab using one-line search. These fields are “ln” (last name) and “fn” (first name). Suppose that you are interested in an author called Wei Li. Then you can type the following commands in the author tab (one-line search): ln:Li fn:Wei. You will find 72 author profiles that correspond to that name1 (in this case, Li and Wei could be both first name and surname). If we now invert the order fn:Li ln:Wei we find 14 author profiles. Compare this with the 122 results that we find if we just search for Wei Li in the author tab. In these cases or when the authors are exact homonyms, any additional information, such as mathematical area, or the profile in external databases like the Mathematics Genealogy Project, allows us to correctly distinguish them. If you already know exactly which author you are looking for, then it is really useful to use her/his personal author identifier “ai”. You can also do a structured search in the author tab. This structured search looks like this:

As a final remark, you will notice that the documents structured search also has a few changes.

New filters and facets at the zbMATH interface

zbMATH now has some new filters that are displayed after you make a query. Among these filters you will find Document Type (serial articles, collections articles, books), Reviewing State (reviewed, title only, pending, scanned review), Biographic Reference, Software, and Volume (this filter appears when all results of your search belong to the same serials). Furthermore, when you load a series profile, you find the facet “Latest Issues”, where it is possible to check the content of the latest volumes.

1 Based on the current index on February 3rd 2019.
In addition, you will notice the new look of the results page when you perform a serials query.

**zbMATH on Twitter**

Social networks have proved capable of reaching worldwide a great number of users. Recently, zbMATH has created an account on Twitter. Here you can check on news about zbMATH, important mathematical news, information about mathematicians, history, and some anecdotes. You can find us at @zbMATH, or you can click at the twitter icon at the page footer of zbMATH.

**MSC2020: work in progress**

After the feedback of the mathematical community, the common effort between zbMATH and Mathematical Reviews is going forward to revise and improve the current Mathematics Subject Classification (MSC) schema. Several concrete proposals and modifications are already being considered by both staffs. The results of this work will be announced at the end of this year.

*Photo and CV of the author can be found in previous Newsletter issues.*