How Do I Search the Catalogue?

The catalogue records of our Manuscripts and Archives material can be found within Stella Search, our main online Library catalogue.

There are two entry points to Stella Search to search Manuscripts and Archives catalogue records.

Number 1

The main Stella Search interface is where users can search across the entirety of the Library’s collections, drawing in a vast range of material from ancient manuscripts to e-books. Entering your search term will return the Library’s holdings relating to that search term.

From here you can control what types of material you want to see and choose to refine your search to specific Library collections through the facets located on the left side of the screen. For example, if you are interested in the Irish composer Brian Boydell you can search his name in Stella Search. This will return results across all Library collections. If you are specifically interested in material held in Manuscripts and Archives, within the Library Collections facet you can click Manuscripts and Archives, and this will refine the results to that collection.
Alternatively, you can refine material by **Format** type. So, if you want to only see our manuscript holdings related to Brian Boydell, click the **Manuscript** format type. This will refine the search to just manuscript material.

**Number 2**

Another way to search our catalogue is through the portal contained on the Manuscripts and Archives webpage. Once a term is searched for it will bring you to Stella Search. The difference here is that this portal already has the **Manuscripts and Archives** collection pre-selected. So, searching through this portal will allow you to immediately refine your search to the **Manuscripts and Archives** collection.
Hierarchical Collections

Some of our collections are comprised of many hundreds or thousands of individual items that together make up a collection. These are often catalogued hierarchically and divided down into smaller sections and each of the individual records are available in Stella. For convenience and ease of use, some of these collections have had all their records amalgamated into a descriptive list. Where available, this will be located at the top-level record. For example, within the Brian Boydell collection it will be located at IE TCD MS 11128; within the Tom Murphy collection it will be located at IE TCD MS 11115, and so on for collections that have a descriptive list. The descriptive lists can be accessed by clicking the button ‘Click here to access Finding Aid’ within the records.