

Archive Search

Archive Search Operation

Archive search provides you with a simple and intuitive way of searching across multiple archive repositories in the BBC. These repositories hold either high-res or low-res content, or in the case of Fabric the information about the tape held in the BBC archive. At the most basic, on "All" you can simply enter a free text search of a programme title, contributor name or a subject you are interested in, for example searching on "Ronnie Barker + BAFTA"

For phrase searching you can use search control words to refine your search. For example searching on "Climate AND (Flood OR Drought)" will return items containing Climate and either Flood or Drought. For a full list of these search control words click on the question mark at the top of the screen.

You can filter your search results using the options on the left hand side of the screen. From here you can select only content that is playable, or narrow this down further so you can see content that is available as high resolution. You can also filter by BBC series, archive source system and Channel.

Use the drop-down arrow to the right of the search box to select specific dates or date ranges.

If you have found something you are interested in, and there is a digital asset, you can quickly scrub through it or play it. Clicking on the title will show you more details about the programme, including additional metadata.

To download the high resolution clip you will need to have access to the source system it comes from, but later in the year, you'll be able to do high resolution clipping straight from Archive Search itself.

But maybe at this stage you only want to source browse files. From Archive Search you can clip and export browse content really simply.

To do this open the content you are interested in, and navigate through the video either by using the scroll bar directly under the video, or by navigating through the key frames. Use the mark in and out points, and then hit create sub clip.

You'll then see this dialogue box. Hit create clip and you are done!

Once you have created the clips, you'll find them under the clips menu at the very top right hand of the screen.

Click on that and you'll be able to view and download your clips. These clips are low res clean clips and will exist in your clips menu for 30 days.

If your search returns "no preview" this means the content is not available digitally, and it's still only available on tape.

If you work for public service or studios you can launch Fabric, and order the tape in the normal way.

If you work for an Indie, click on "View in all systems" and you can raise a tape enquiry that looks like this.

Other search options are available if you want to conduct a more targeted search. For example selecting People in the drop down, returns contributor results. More information on advanced searching can be found through help.

You now have over 75% of the BBC's archive at your fingertips.

Enjoy!