In EDS, you can use three types of wildcard characters in your search terms. The question mark (\?) matches exactly one letter. The pound or hash sign (#) matches zero or one letter. The asterisk (*) matches multiple letters. Use wildcards to create searches where there are unknown characters, multiple spellings or various endings. None of the wildcards can be used as the first character in a search term.

**Question-mark wildcard**

To use the ? wildcard, enter your search terms and replace each unknown character with a ?. For example, type `ne?t` to find all records containing `neat`, `nest` or `next`.

Trailing question marks (?) will be automatically stripped from all words in a query, as shown below:

- Appendicitis: is surgery the best option? --> Appendicitis: is surgery the best option
- k??? --> k

**Pound/hash wildcard**

To use the # wildcard, enter your search terms and place # where an alternate spelling might contain an extra character. For example, type `colo#r` to find all citations containing `color` or `colour`.

Trailing # will be automatically stripped from all words with a prefix less than 3 characters.

- c# --> c
- na# --> na
- ddd# --> ddd# (no stripping, prefix greater than 2 characters)

**Note:** When using the pound/hash (#) wildcard, plurals and possessives of that term are not searched. For example, when running a search for the term `colo#r`, the terms "colors" and "colours" will not be searched (which they are by default when using the singular "color" or "colour" without a wildcard operator).

**Asterisk wildcard** (also called Truncation symbol)

To use the asterisk (*) wildcard, enter the root of a search term and replace the ending with an *. For example, type `comput*` to find the words `computer` or `computing`. The asterisk (*) may also be used between words to match any word. For example, 'a midsummer * dream' will return results that contain the exact phrase, 'a midsummer night's dream.'

**Special cases for advanced users**

If you want to use a question mark as a wildcard at the end of a word, you need to precede the ? with # as shown below:

- boss#? --> boss#? (no stripping, preceding # wildcard)
- k??#? --> k??#? (no stripping, preceding # wildcard)
To use # at the end of a prefix less than 3 characters, you need to immediately preceded it by another # or ?.

- d## --> d## (no stripping, preceding # wildcard)
- d?# --> d?# (no stripping, preceding ? wildcard)
- dd?# --> dd?# (no stripping, preceding ? wildcard)