

Elasticsearch functionality in Clowder

There are three ways to utilize Elasticsearch via Clowder:

1. Using the `/api/search` endpoint
2. Using Search box in the upper right of Clowder
3. Going to Explore > Advanced Search

We want to make sure there is consistency in behavior across these methods as much as possible.

`/api/search`

- documented in Swagger
- automatically handles spaces in phrases via parsing request string
- **?query=**
 - supports some regular expressions e.g. `.*`
- **?resource_type=file|dataset|collection**
- **?field=**
 - metadata field name, "metadata." prefix not required
- **?datasetid= ?collectionid= ?tag=**
- example parsing:
 - <http://localhost:9000/clowder/api/search?field=Alternative Title&query=foo bar>
 - Searching Elasticsearch: `{"bool":{"must":[{"regexp":{"metadata.Alternative Title":"foo bar"}}]}}`

`/search` (via Search box)

- poorly documented
- by default, searches `_all` indexed fields
 - id, name, creator, parent_of, child_of, description, tags, comments, metadata
 - `_all` will not delve into nested objects by default, so useless for metadata unless user specifies a field as shown below
- general idea was to support basic : notation for being more specific
 - for nested objects like metadata, `metadata.fieldname` notation is required
- example queries:
 - banana
 - "baby carrots"
 - `metadata.Favorite Fruit:banana`
 - `metadata.Favorite Snack:"baby carrots"`
 - `metadata.Fruit:banana metadata.Favorite Snack:"baby carrots"`
- **should we support this kind of notation? to what extent?**
 - would be nice if the same features were available to both API and search box

`/metadata/search` (a.k.a. Advanced Search)

- easier to use visually
- limited to metadata fields
- supports space filtering