

# Using the Standard Search



The standard search box in the top bar of the XNAT application can help you quickly find the data element you want to work on.

Many experienced XNAT users quickly adopt this as one of their favorite shortcuts for navigating their data. However, its behavior differs from the now-ubiquitous Google-style search boxes that proliferate in the web today. Here's a quick introduction to how XNAT Search works.

## Accepted inputs

The standard search sends a quick query to the XNAT database, looking to match a project, subject or experiment to one of the following conditions:

- ID = [entry], or
- Title = [entry], or
- Alias = [entry], or
- Keywords **LIKE** [entry]

If you send an entry that finds multiple matches, you will get a disambiguation results page. For example, searching for "001" in [XNAT Central](#) yields the following results:

Your search matched 6 entries.

The matches are grouped below by data type. Please select the pertinent entry.

Subjects
<a href="#">+ Upload Sample (1)</a>
<a href="#">+ surfmask_smpl (1)</a>
<a href="#">+ DicomRT Samples (1)</a>
<a href="#">+ project (2)</a>

  

MR Sessions
<a href="#">+ NCIGT_Functional_Neuro (1)</a>

## Standard Search Limitations



XNAT Standard Search is not a sophisticated natural language search tool. Searching for "GLIOMA" will not return any results, even though there is a publicly accessible project on XNAT Central with an ID of "IGT\_GLIOMA", and the word "gliomas" in the project description. This search fails to find that project because the project ID was not equal to the search term. Refer to the conditions above.

## Alternative Search Options

The standard XNAT home page contains a more detailed set of search controls, allowing you to find content by a wider range of conditions. For example, searching for "glioma" on XNAT Central using the search function on the Projects tab successfully locates the IGT\_GLIOMA project.



CENTRAL currently contains 490 projects, 3844 subjects, and 5447 imaging sessions.

**Projects** Subjects MR PET CT

ID:  Name:  Description:

Keywords:  Investigator: (SELECT)

This search interface differs from the top bar in that it produces a **data table** as its search result, rather than trying to take you directly to the best-fit result page. Here is the resulting format of the previous search:

**Search 1**

<< first < prev **1** next > last >> 200  1 of 1 Pgs (1 Rows)

Filter(s): Title LIKE glioma

ID	Title	Description
<a href="#">IGT_GLIOMA</a>	<a href="#">NCIGT Intra-operative MRT Glioma Resection</a>	This is a collection of 33 publicly available MR data sets containing brain tumors (gliomas). Each data set contains multiple MR acquisitions