BY BRUCE GREGG #248

USBC Supplement Global Search

In each of the USBC's five major categories covering beer cans and tin over cardboard (TOC) signs are dropdown menus with a unique search feature described below.

Go to bcca.com > More > USBC Supplement page > click to access USBC Supplement [1]. The **Global Search** feature is located at the bottom of the *Search* dropdown menu [2].

The format is the same as the individual search pages. The *Global Search* looks only for parameters that are common within each database, i.e., those listed under *Custom Search.* Your first step is to select the *Data Source(s)* you want (from 1 to 5) [3]. As an example, I have chosen Volume 1 and Tin Over Cardboard. The *Custom Search* parameters are Brewery = National, Brew = Ale and State = MD [4]. The sort took 3 seconds and identified 2 TOCs and 7 can images [5]. If you wish to see the details, click on an image. A second click on the image will bring up the 5-view screen.

Your searches are limitless and may be based on what you collect or what stirs your interest. Common searches may be directed toward City or State, a Specific Brewery, or a Brand, i.e. Ale, Beer, etc.

The fourth column under *Global Can Search* is *Output Display*. This will help with your viewing. The default settings are *Canidentifier* and 8 output columns [6]. Choosing a number less than 8 may give you a better view. Just click on the adjacent down arrow for a look.

The following list displays the number of items (cans or TOCs) currently in each of the Data Source(s).

V1 — Volume 1	7908
V2 — Volume 2	9778
TOC — Tin Over Cardboard	830
INT — International	16320
NCDB — New Cans Database	32883

When searching, the more *Data Source(s)* you select, the more time it will take. The little circle in the top bar of your screen will indicate that it's still searching.

Current NCDB information is a proof-of-concept display from not so long past when there were fewer than 50,000 cans and only a portion of the can images in place. We're working on transferring the NCDB to the USBC Supplement.

The *Global Can Search* has a *Predefined Searches* choice on the upper left [7]. While this selection is beneficial to searches in the individual categories, we don't yet know what best to place here. User suggestions are welcome at btgregg@earthlink.net. Improvements can always be made.

Two final thoughts. The title Global Can Search was changed recently to *Global Search*, since we've added TOCs to the Supplement and will likely be adding additional non-can items at some point. And lastly, there are now well over 1,000,000 data fields within the USBC Supplement. This is quite an asset for the BCCA.