PDF Content Search

User Manual

Version 1.13 — February 2026

Jürgen Koller Software GmbH

Contents

Keyboard Shortcuts

iOS Integration

Technical Details

Frequently Asked Questions

Contact & Support

Introduction

PDF Content Search is a macOS app for full-text search in scanned documents. The app uses OCR (Optical Character Recognition) to extract text from PDFs, images and other document types, making them fully searchable.

All data stays on your Mac — no documents are uploaded to the cloud.

Supported File Formats

- **PDF** (including scanned documents without a text layer)
- **Images** (JPEG, PNG, TIFF, HEIC)
- **Text files** (TXT, RTF)
- **Office documents** (Pages, Numbers, Keynote, Word, Excel) — via cloud service

Getting Started

Installation

PDF Content Search is available on the Mac App Store or as a direct download.

Adding Folders

1. Launch the app and select **File → Add Folder** (⌘N)
2. Choose a folder containing your documents
3. The app automatically begins text recognition on all files

Progress is shown in the status bar at the bottom. Depending on the number and size of your documents, initial processing may take some time. The estimated time remaining is displayed.

Starting Your First Search

Once processing is complete (or even while it's still running), you can use the search field in the upper right corner (⌘F). Enter a search term — results appear instantly in the list.

Search

Basic Search

Enter one or more words into the search field. The app searches the entire recognized text of all documents in the selected folder. All entered words must appear in the document.

Phrase Search

Enclose multiple words in quotation marks to search for an exact phrase:

```
"invoice from January"
```

Supported quotation marks: `"..."` , `'...'` , `«...»` , `„..."`

Excluding Words

Place a minus sign before a word to exclude documents containing that word:

```
invoice –cancelled
```

Finds all documents containing "invoice" that do not contain "cancelled".

Combined Search

Phrases and exclusions can be combined:

```
"lease agreement 2024" –termination utilities
```

Finds documents with the exact phrase "lease agreement 2024" and the word "utilities", but without "termination".

Date Range Filter

The search can be narrowed to a specific time period via the search options. You can filter by creation date, modification date or content creation date.

The active date filter is displayed in the search bar and can be removed from there.

Fuzzy Search

Fuzzy search also finds matches with typos, OCR errors or different spellings (e.g. "Mueller" and "Müller"). This option can be enabled in the settings.

Partial Word Search

The search also finds partial matches. The search term "ship" will also find "shipping" or "shipment".

Search Settings

The following options can be adjusted in the settings under **Search**:

- **Start search after X characters**: Prevents inaccurate results when search terms are too short
- **Colored search results**: Highlights matches in the document preview
- **Animate search results**: Visual highlighting of matches
- **Limit number of search results**: Speeds up search by limiting the number of results

Document View

Navigation

Click on a search result in the list to open the document in the detail view. Matches are highlighted in color.

Action	Shortcut
Next result	⌘G
Previous result	⌘ ⇧ G
Next page	⌥↓
Previous page	⌥↑
Last page	⌘↓
First page	⌘↑

Zoom

Action	Shortcut
Zoom in	⌘+
Zoom out	⌘-
Fit height	⌘Ä
Fit width	⌘#

Text Recognition (Manual)

Draw a rectangle on any document to start text recognition for that area. The recognized text appears in the transcript column on the right (⌘T to show/hide).

QuickLook and Finder

- **Space**: QuickLook preview of the selected document
- **Return**: Reveal the document in Finder

User Interface

Sidebar

The sidebar shows all added folders and allows quick switching between different document collections. Show/hide with ⌥⌘1.

Path Bar

At the bottom, the path bar shows the location of the selected document. The path bar can also be used for navigation. Enable it in the settings under **Appearance**.

Status Display

The status display at the bottom shows processing progress:

- File structure initialization

- Database synchronization

- Processing progress with time estimate

- "Done" when all documents have been processed

Settings

Appearance

- **Theme**: Dark, Light or automatic (system setting)

- **Show path bar**: Shows the path of the selected item

- **Status display**: Progress/activity indicator at the bottom

Performance

- **Use all CPU/GPU resources**: Speeds up processing but may temporarily slow down your Mac

- **Low resolution images**: Saves disk space but reduces OCR accuracy

Data

- **Cache all files**: Improves navigation speed (must be enabled before adding new folders)

- **Show recent scan items**: Shows recently processed files

- **Show trashed items**: Shows items deleted via the iOS app

- **Prevent sleep**: Prevents your Mac from sleeping during data processing

Cloud Service

The cloud service can be enabled for processing Office documents (Pages, Numbers, Keynote, Word, Excel). This makes previews and search results available for these file types as well.

Keyboard Shortcuts

Function	Shortcut
Search	⌘F
Next result	⌘G
Previous result	⌘⇧G
QuickLook	Space
Reveal in Finder	Return
Toggle sidebar	⌥⌘1
Toggle transcript	⌘T
Focus left	←
Focus right	→
Next page	⌥↓
Previous page	⌥↑
First page	⌘↑
Last page	⌘↓
Zoom in	⌘+
Zoom out	⌘-
Fit height	⌘Ä
Fit width	⌘#
Add folder	⌘N

iOS Integration

With the iOS app **PDF Cnt Search** you can scan documents on the go and sync them with the Mac app.

To connect: Share the searchable folder via the Mac app. Use the displayed link on your iOS device to access the folder.

Technical Details

Search Index

PDF Content Search uses its own search index based on SQLite Full-Text Search (FTS). The index is completely independent of macOS Spotlight and is managed exclusively within the app.

When a folder is added, every document is processed via OCR and the recognized text is stored in the local index. Changes to files are automatically detected and the index is updated accordingly.

OCR Engine

Text recognition uses Apple's Vision framework at the highest accuracy level. This works entirely locally — no data is sent to external servers.

Privacy

- All documents stay on your Mac
- The search index is stored locally
- No registration required
- No analytics or tracking data
- OCR processing runs locally via Apple's Vision framework

Spotlight Integration

PDF Content Search operates independently of Spotlight. The app does not create or read a Spotlight index. The advantage: the app can also search scanned PDFs that Spotlight would only see as images.

Finder Tags

Finder Tags are currently not supported.

Frequently Asked Questions

How long does initial processing take?

This depends on the number and size of your documents. The app shows a time estimate in the status bar. You can already search while processing is still running — results are updated continuously.

Can I search multiple folders at once?

Yes. Add as many folders as you like via **File → Add Folder**. The search covers all added folders.

Are password-protected PDFs supported?

Encrypted or password-protected PDFs cannot be processed. The app displays a corresponding notice.

What happens when I move or delete files?

The app detects changes to the file system. Deleted files are removed from the index, moved files within the monitored folder remain searchable.

Where is the index data stored?

By default, in the app container on your Mac. When uninstalling the app, this data is removed as well. If you have configured an external data folder, the index data remains there even after uninstallation.

My Mac slows down during processing — what can I do?

Disable the option "Use all CPU/GPU resources" in the settings. Processing will take longer, but your Mac remains responsive.

Contact & Support

For questions or issues, reach support via the app: **Help → Request Support**.

Jürgen Koller Software GmbH Wilhelmstr. 5, 74072 Heilbronn, Germany

Phone: +49 7131 9244166 Email: info@juergenkoller.software Web: juergenkoller.software

PDF Content Search — Find any amount, any IBAN, any word.