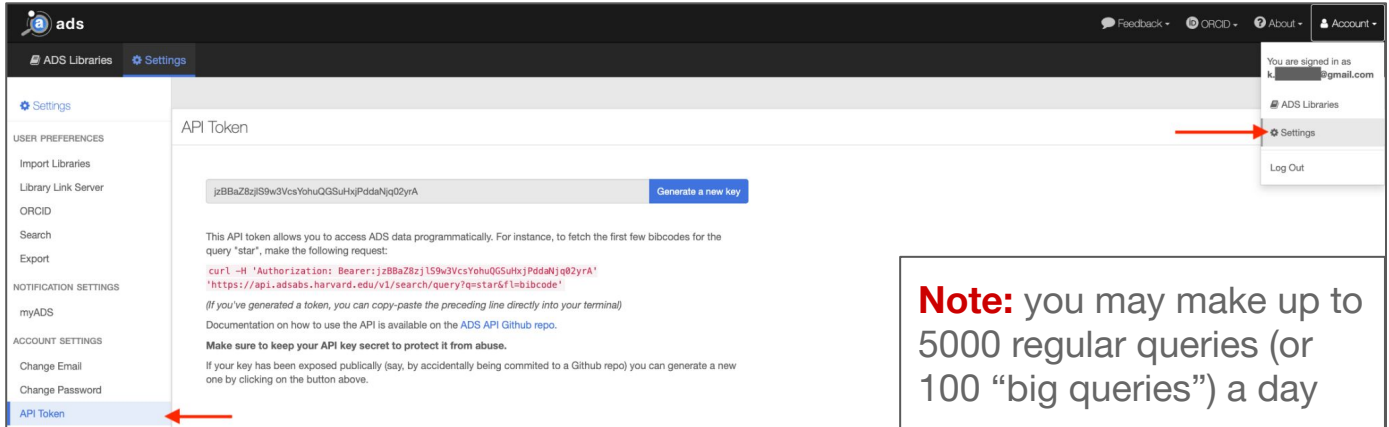


Using the ADS API

1. Get an API token. In your new ADS account, click **Account > Customize Settings**, then click on **API Token** in the left sidebar. Click the **Generate a new key** button - your API token is the long series of letters and numbers in the box.



The screenshot shows the ADS account settings page. The left sidebar has 'API Token' highlighted with a red arrow. The main content area shows the 'API Token' section with a 'Generate a new key' button highlighted with a red arrow. A note box on the right states: **Note:** you may make up to 5000 regular queries (or 100 “big queries”) a day.

2. Choose an access method. There are several ways to make queries using the API; choose the method that works best for you:

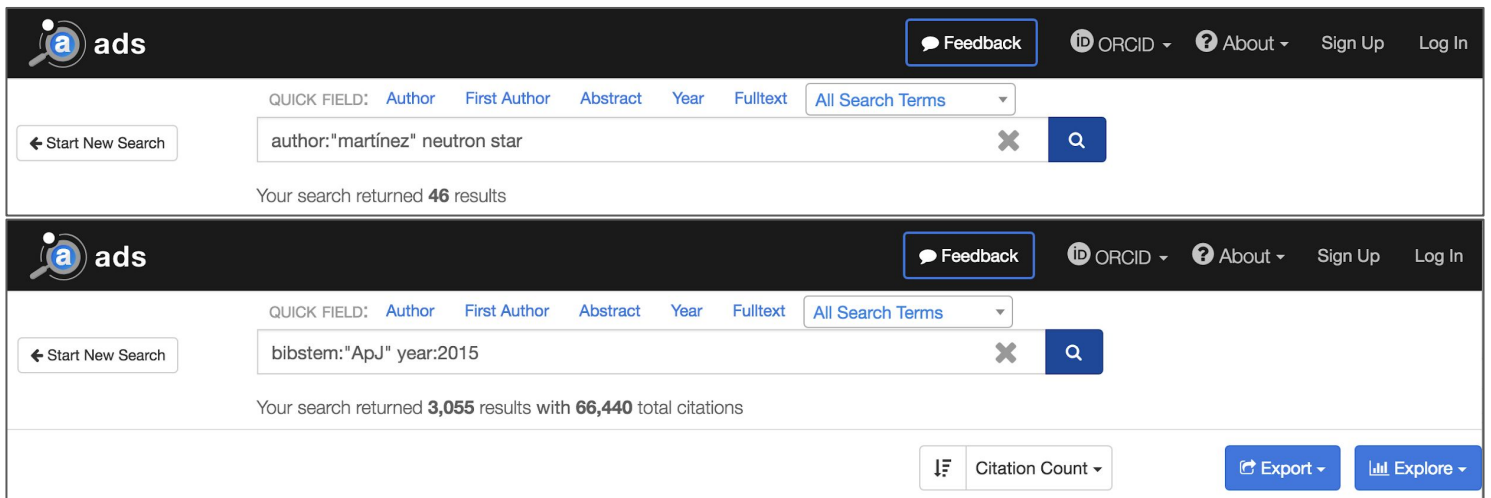
- Command line using `curl`*
 - Best for: quick queries, learning to create API searches
- Python scripts using the `requests`* library
 - Best for: creating scripts, easy translation between command line `curl` requests and Python
- Python scripts using the unofficial ADS library
 - Best for: creating advanced scripts, efficient memory usage

3. Start searching. Searches using the API rely on building and sending URLs, similar to what you’d see in your web browser. Syntax varies based on the access method, but searches with starred (*) access methods need the following:

- Type of call/HTTP method: **GET** (default), **POST**, or **PUT**; check the ADS API documentation (<https://ui.adsabs.harvard.edu/help/api/>) to get the correct method for your type of request
- Your API token, sent as a header (see examples)
- Base URL: <https://api.adsabs.harvard.edu/v1>
- Endpoint: the part after the base URL, separated with front-slashes. This varies based on your request, e.g. `/search` for simple searches
- Query string: for `/search` requests, the URL-encoded query parameters, e.g. `/query?q={search parameters}`
- Example search URL (uses GET method):
<https://api.adsabs.harvard.edu/v1/search/query?q=neutron+star>



ADS API search examples



The first screenshot shows the ADS search interface with the search query "author: martinez neutron star" and a result count of 46. The second screenshot shows the same interface with the search query "bibstem: ApJ year: 2015" and a result count of 3,055 results with 66,440 total citations. Both screenshots show the search bar, navigation tabs, and result counts.

- **Command line, using curl**

```
curl -H "Authorization: Bearer token"  
"https://api.adsabs.harvard.edu/v1/search/query?q=author%3Amart  
%C3%ADnez+neutron+star"
```

```
curl -H "Authorization: Bearer token"  
"https://api.adsabs.harvard.edu/v1/search/query?q=bibstem%3AApJ  
%20year%3A2015&sort=citation_count%20desc"
```

- **Python, using the requests library**

```
import requests  
  
r=requests.get('https://api.adsabs.harvard.edu/v1/search/query?  
q=author%3Amart%C3%ADnez+neutron+star',  
headers={'Authorization': 'Bearer token'})
```

```
r=requests.get('https://api.adsabs.harvard.edu/v1/search/query?  
q=bibstem%3AApJ%20year%3A2015&sort=citation_count%20desc',  
headers={'Authorization': 'Bearer token'})
```

- **Andy Casey's unofficial ADS Python module**

```
import ads  
  
ads.config.token = 'token'  
  
r = ads.SearchQuery(q='author:martinez neutron star')  
r = ads.SearchQuery(q='bibstem:ApJ year:2015',  
sort="citation_count")
```