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TLDR:

FFSSE is a software to search on fanfiction.net in ways filters on the website won't allow.

What FFSSE **can't** do:

- Search by characters and pairings. (outside of word search in description)
- Search for fics less than 60k words in size.
- Search in languages other than English.
- Download fics for offline reading.

What FFSSE **can** do:

1. Search by any custom wordcount and descendingly sort by wordcount.
2. Search, excluding/including more than two words and/or genres.
3. Assign custom tags to fics and thus exclude them from default search results.
4. Filter out user recommendation pages from stuff you've already tagged.
5. Search for new and trending fics.
6. Search by wordcount/reviewcount ratio.
7. Automatically hide fics with too big review to favourite ratio.
8. Present fic meta information in a more readable state than original.

Please note that if you only need 1 and 2 you will be better served at Scryer which is an excellent online alternative search engine for fanfiction.net

Why even use it?

I've written this app once I realized ffnet won't allow me to sort by wordcount and it kinda scaled from there. Pretty soon I realized I am sick of re-reading through the same search results thousand times over as well. Pressing through wildly jumping fic meta information like genres, wordcount etc. also didn't help. If you are like me - the app is for you.

How does it work?

FFSSE has an offline database of most active fandoms on ffnet relevant up to March 2017 and tools to update it. Once new fics have been loaded you can search inside the new stuff. If you need something specific, some minor fandom, you can always load it manually through the app.

Getting started.

Launch the app via **ffsse.exe** Once you've launched it, let it process default database file into your personalized DB for approximately a minute. During this time the app will be unresponsive. Once it's finished, you will be greeted by the main window.

If you immediately just press big green search button it will perform a search inside all of the the currently available fandoms based on current sort criterion.

Complete Active Unfinished No Genre Randomize

Order by: **WCRC-R** Bias: None Fav/Review ratio < 2.5

FavrateCut: 11.07.2016 4

In this case wordcount/reviewcount ratio.

The results will appear to the right of the search parameters.

ffnet sane search engine

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Fandoms Tags Recommendations

Anime/Manga WIFE selected fandom

Normal Crossovers

Track

Load Selected Fandom 12.07.2017 Cutoff 60k Word Ignore updatedate

Ignore tags Search

Persona Series
Mass Effect
High School DxD/ハイスクールDxD
Star Wars
Sokina
Fate/stay night
Evangelion
Ranma
One Piece
Gundam Wing/AC
Sailor Moon
Bleach
Naruto

This keeps a list of your last accessed fandoms for quick navigation.

Min. Words 60000 Max. Words

MaxFics 10 MinFaves 50

Complete Active Unfinished No Genre Randomize

Order by: WCRC-R Bias: None Fav/Review ratio < 2.5

FavrateCut: 11.07.2016 4

+Genre -Genre +Words -Words Custom Longest Running Activate Reload Section Data

Load All Tracked Fandoms

Rebuilding

M Harry Potter At chapter: 0 Of: 300

Hermione Granger returns to Hogwarts to help rebuild the shattered castle the summer after the war. She and the other summer resident - and eventually their friends - have to come to terms with how the war broke more than just the walls of the building. Follows multiple Hogwarts students through '8th year' and one additional year of early adulthood. COMPLETE.

Words:263374

Genre: Romance, Hurt, Comfort

Tags: +

Pub:11/08/2015 Upd:12/05/2016

Poison Pen

T Harry Potter At chapter: 0 Of: 32

Harry has had enough of seeing his reputation shredded in the Daily Prophet and decides to do something about it. Only he decides to embrace his Slytherin side to rectify matters.

Words:74506

Genre: Drama, Humor

Tags: +

Pub:04/12/2009 Upd:21/06/2010

The Mating Frenzy

M Naruto At chapter: 0 Of: 33

After the attacks by Orochimaru and the Sand, Konoha's population is dangerously low. Desperate times call for extreme measures, and Tsunade issues a priority 5 class mission to every Leaf ninja: to pair off and start making babies!

Words:70171

Genre: Humor, Parody

Tags: +

Pub:25/07/2006 Upd:23/11/2007

Like Brothers

T Harry Potter At chapter: 0 Of: 41

ABANDONED. Minerva McGonagall steps in on the awful night the Potter are killed and arranges to have Harry Potter raised by Sirius Black and his somewhat cousins, the Malfoys. Draco and Harry grow up as almost brothers and everything - everything - is different. Gryffindor!Draco. Dramione. AU. I WILL NEVER AGAIN UPDATE THIS.

Words:97690

Genre: Romance

Tags: +

Pub:05/07/2015 Upd:12/12/2016

Simply Irresistible

T Harry Potter At chapter: 0 Of: 30

Draco gave a cocky grin. "I am going to give you a makeover." "I'm sorry what?" "You

Genre: Romance, Humor

Fic result legend

The screenshot shows a fic result legend for 'Rebuilding'. It includes a title, a rating of 'M', a green checkmark, the fandom 'Harry Potter', and a chapter indicator 'At chapter: 0 Of: 300'. There are navigation links for chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. The main text describes the fic as being about characters after the war, coming to terms with the war's impact, and following multiple Hogwarts students through '8th year' and an additional year of early adulthood. It is marked as 'COMPLETE'. A wordcount of 263374 is shown. On the right, there is a 'Genre' box with 'Romance', 'Hurt', and 'Comfort' listed, and a 'Tags' box with a green plus sign. Below the tags, it shows 'Pub:11/08/2015' and 'Upd:12/05/2016'.

Clicking on the title in this box will open the fic inside your default browser.

Noteworthy elements:

1. ESRB rating
2. visual update date indicator
3. completeness indicator
4. fandom indicator
5. chapter you are reading at
6. genre/tag box
7. published/updated indicator
8. wordcount

Rating is pretty much self-explanatory.

On the **update** indicator the pen will be

- gray for fics that haven't been updated in a year
- yellow for fics that haven't been updated in 6 months
- green for fics that updated recently

Completeness indicator is either a gray or green check mark. Green means fic has been marked as completed by author. Note, that not all authors do it when you set your search filters.

Fandom indicator will contain one more more relevant fandoms.

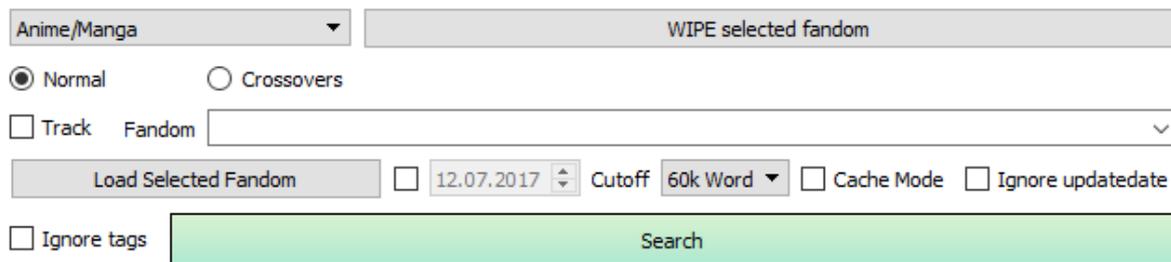
You can assign a **chapter** you've stopped at at chapter indicator.

Genre/Tags box contains either genres detected for this fic. Or tags you've assigned it. To switch between them - click on either "Genre" or "Tags"

Published/Updated indicator is on the bottom right at number 7. Pls note that it will only update once you've updated the fandom data.

Selecting fandom

Fandom selection is done via this block:



The screenshot shows a web interface for selecting a fandom. At the top, there is a dropdown menu set to "Anime/Manga" and a button labeled "WIPE selected fandom". Below this, there are two radio buttons: "Normal" (selected) and "Crossovers". A "Track" checkbox is followed by a "Fandom" input field. Below the input field are several controls: a "Load Selected Fandom" button, a date selector set to "12.07.2017", a "Cutoff" dropdown set to "60k Word", and checkboxes for "Cache Mode" and "Ignore updatedate". At the bottom, there is an "Ignore tags" checkbox and a large green "Search" button.

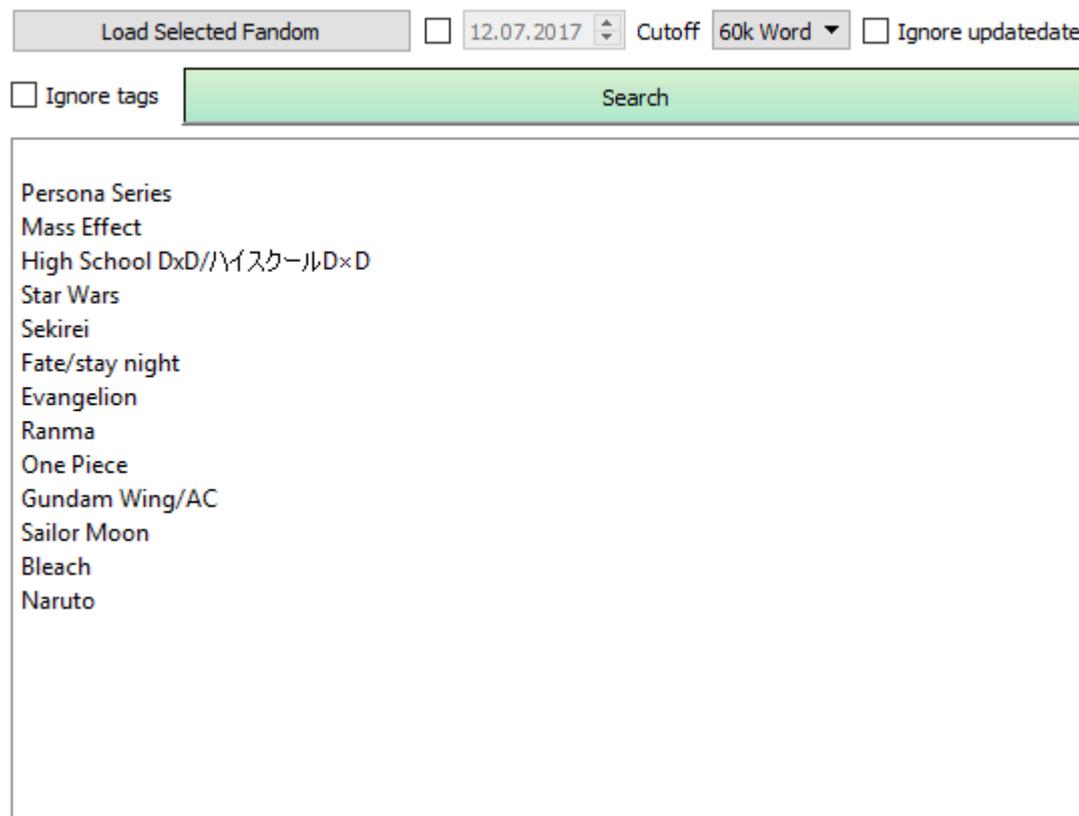
It works the same as ffnet search. You select the **category** (as in Anime/Books... etc) then select if you want to look inside just **normal** fics or **crossovers**, enter the fandom name into **Fandom** edit box and press **Search**

Note: If the fandom edit box is empty it will display **everything** possible based on current filter regardless of fandom.

Note: Fandom edit box has **auto complete** so you don't need to type exact name, just start typing and it will likely suggest something.

Recent fandoms

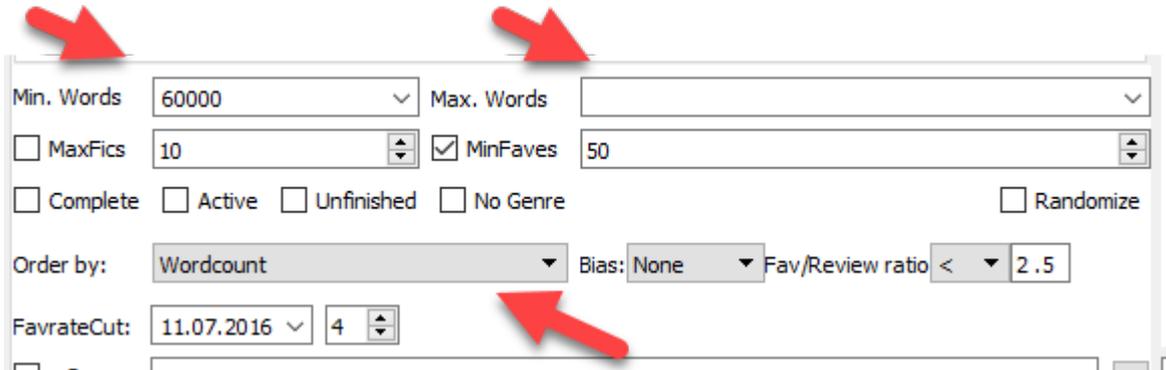
The default use case for this app assumes that you will be frequently doing searches within the same set of fandoms. Therefore, to speed things up a bit every fandom that you search in will be stored inside "Recent fandoms" list below the search button. Clicking in this list will automatically insert the respective fandom name into the "search" edit box.



The screenshot shows the "Recent fandoms" list below the search button. The list contains the following items: Persona Series, Mass Effect, High School DxD/ハイスクールD×D, Star Wars, Sekirei, Fate/stay night, Evangelion, Ranma, One Piece, Gundam Wing/AC, Sailor Moon, Bleach, and Naruto.

Possible search criteria and ordering

Wordcount will search by wordcount between **minwords** and **maxwords** and will present fics in descending wordcount order. If there is no number in maxwords edit box, it will not limit the fic size.



The screenshot shows a search filter interface with the following elements:

- Min. Words:** 60000 (dropdown menu)
- Max. Words:** (empty dropdown menu)
- MaxFics:** 10 (spin box)
- MinFaves:** 50 (spin box)
- Complete** **Active** **Unfinished** **No Genre** **Randomize**
- Order by:** Wordcount (dropdown menu)
- Bias:** None (dropdown menu)
- Fav/Review ratio:** < 2.5 (dropdown menu)
- FavrateCut:** 11.07.2016 (dropdown menu) and 4 (spin box)

Red arrows point to the **Min. Words** dropdown, the **Max. Words** dropdown, and the **FavrateCut** spin box.

Favourites and **UpdateDate** work in the same way as **wordcount** but order on amount of faves and last updated date respectively.

Note: FFSSE doesn't have search on **Reviews** and **Follows** as these stats are more or less pointless.

Fav Rate is a sorter to search for currently trending fics. I.e. fics that are fairly recent and have a good favourite/daysrunning ratio and have been updated recently. The cutoff on what to consider "recent" is regulated by **FavrateCut**. The desired ratio value can be changed at **FavRatio**.

WCRC-R is a sorter on **wordcount/reviewcount** ratio I stole from [this article](#).

Rec Count sorts on amount of times fic appears in favorites of your tracked recommenders. (more on this later)

Filtering out stuff

FFSSE can limit search results on

Wordcount.

Allows upper and lower limits. Please note that default update mechanism won't ever pull anything below 60k words.

Completeness.

Fics that has been marked Complete by authors.

Active or not.

Fic is considered active if it has been updated during last year.

Genre inclusion/exclusion

Separate multiple genres in respective edit boxes by whitespaces. Note that tickboxes must be checked for the exclusion to work.

For example:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> +Genre	<input type="text" value="Adventure"/>	...
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> -Genre	<input type="text" value="Drama Angst Tragedy"/>	...

Words inclusion/exclusion

Separate choices in respective edit boxes by whitespaces. This is the only way app currently has to search for characters and filter out slash. Works same as genre.

Genre availability.

At some point you will likely arrive to a point where top search results will mostly be “**no genre**” That is because some authors don't bother setting one and really screw up with your searches. Unticking the respective checkbox allows to exclude such fics from results entirely.

Minimum favourites

Everyone has their own idea of what to consider a crap fic... :)

Review count bias

There is a certain set of fanfiction readers called “**fangirls**” There is also a certain set of fanfics that will likely attract such fangirls. Coincidentally, from my experience, most of the fanfics with reviewCount/favouriteCount > 2 means fic have too much fangirls to be any good. I am not forcing you to use this filter but it helps :)

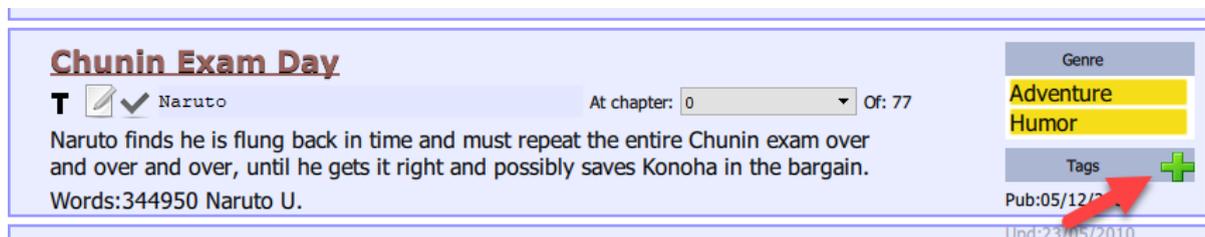
Order by: ▼ Bias: ▼ Fav/Review ratio > .

Permanently removing fics from default search results

One of the main reasons you want to use FFSSE. Once you've read a fic it will only waste your time appearing in search results. Once you've read 500 fics finding **anything** new and good within default searches becomes hell. FFSSE can help you out.

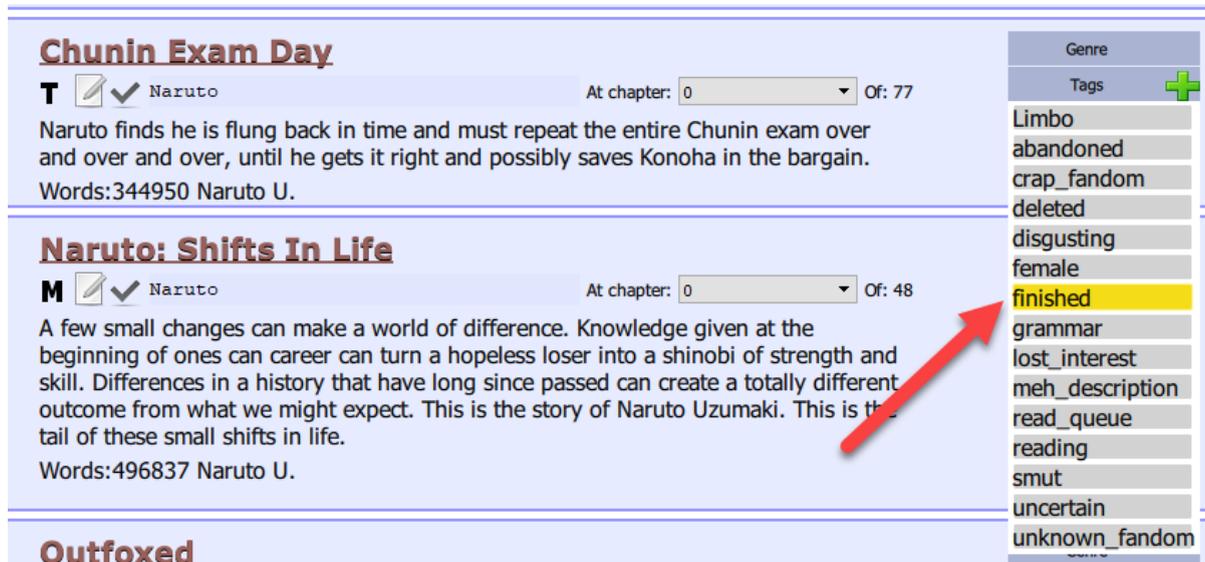
You can assign **tags** to fics. Any fic that has a tag assigned is removed from all further searches unless **ignore tags** checkbox is checked. Lets do an example.

Say, we have Perfect Lionheart's **Chunin Exam Day** A fic you've likely read long ago (given you even need this app) and you don't want to see it in your searches anymore. First, you click on green **plus button** to the right of Tags



The screenshot shows the top of a fic page for "Chunin Exam Day". The title is in red. Below it, there's a "T" icon, a pencil icon, and a checkmark icon, followed by "Naruto". To the right, it says "At chapter: 0 Of: 77". The main text reads: "Naruto finds he is flung back in time and must repeat the entire Chunin exam over and over and over, until he gets it right and possibly saves Konoha in the bargain." Below that, it says "Words:344950 Naruto U.". On the right side, there's a "Genre" section with "Adventure" and "Humor" listed. Below that is a "Tags" section with a green plus button. A red arrow points to the plus button.

Then, in the dropdown menu that appears you select **finished**.



The screenshot shows the same fic page as above, but now the "Tags" dropdown menu is open. The menu lists various tags: "Limbo", "abandoned", "crap_fandom", "deleted", "disgusting", "female", "finished", "grammar", "lost_interest", "meh_description", "read_queue", "reading", "smut", "uncertain", and "unknown_fandom". The "finished" tag is highlighted in yellow. A red arrow points to the "finished" tag.

The next time you do a search, **Chunin Exam Day** won't appear in your search list. Do this for every fic you've read or decided not to read and soon your searches will be much less frustrating. I've added a default set of tags but they can be anything really.

Returning back to tagged fics

If you tagged some fics as **read queue** or **reading**, it's likely you want to see those again some day to read them. You need to open **Tags** tab and click on a tag or tags you want to look inside.

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Fandoms **Tags** Recommendations

Anime/Manga WIPE selected fandom

Normal Crossovers

Track

12.07.2017 60k Words Ignore updatedate

Ignore tags

Naruto

42

Fandoms Tags Recommendations

Tag Filters:

[Bad Reviews](#) [Good Limbo](#) [Limbo](#) [abandoned](#) [accumulating](#) [crap](#) [fandom](#) [crap](#) [tags](#) [deleted](#) [discouraged](#) [disgusting](#) [duplicate](#) [factual](#) [mistakes](#) [fangirls](#) [female](#) [finished](#) [grammar](#) [hidden](#) [forgot](#) [laters](#) [lol](#) [lost](#) [interest](#) [mech](#) [description](#) [posequel](#) [oneshots](#) [piqueed](#) [read_queue](#) [reading](#) [rec](#) [revisit](#) [romance](#) [not](#) [uncertain](#) [unknown](#) [fandom](#) [wtf](#)

It's For a Good Cause, I Swear!

T Naruto At chapter: 0 Of: 36

After receiving a time travel Jutsu as payment for a mission, the original four members of Team 7 each get a chance to go back to one event in their life and change it. Surely they will use such an awesome power responsibly...right? Don't count on it.

♥ 5 Words:114594

Pub:29/09/2009
Upd:06/03/2010

Genre Tags finished rec

Chunin Exam Day

T Naruto At chapter: 0 Of: 77

Naruto finds he is flung back in time and must repeat the entire Chunin exam over and over and over, until he gets it right and possibly saves Konoha in the bargain.

♥ 52 Words:344950 Naruto U.

Pub:05/12/2007

Genre Tags finished

Clicking on tags in tag view automatically refilters.

Note: Yes, I am aware that tag section is ugly as hell. This will be fixed... probably...

Note: You can check ignore tags checkbox in main search area to temporarily do full searches regardless of tags.

Ignore tags

Adding new tags

You can add/delete tags via editbox below the tag view

Delete Tag

Add Tag

Assign: Limbo To Fandom Anime/Manga Do It

Just type in the needed tag name and click either **add** or **delete**

Updating offline database

FFSSE comes preloaded with most popular fandoms up to March 2017. To update it, you need to select a fandom as if you want to search in it and press “**Load selected fandom**” The app will start parsing ffnet search pages backwards in time up to the time it has the last update for. It may take *quite* some time for large fandoms like Harry Potter.

Once the processing is complete you will be notified of how many new fics have been pulled from ffnet.

Note: to prevent ffnet from banning you for overtaxing their server the app will only process 2 pages a second at most.

Note: The app treats Normals and crossovers as different sections and they are updated separately depending on what is currently selected in radiobuttons block. **However** if you try to update, for example, Star Wars, it will update *everything* Star Wars. Books, Movies, Anime, etc. Basically it works across subtypes, but not across crossover section.

Note: If there was some error during download, the DB will end up in partial state. What's worse given it works from the top to the bottom subsequent updates won't pull anything you missed. Sorry, don't plan on fixing it anytime soon, but I provide a **workaround**.



These two elements allow you to pull all fics from a certain date (left) up to present time or try reloading the whole fandom (right). Note that you don't need to press the second one for the first to work. **Warning:** reloading the whole Harry Potter fandom will unduly tax ffnet servers and will take a **LONG** time. I don't recommend using this ever. This is why FFSSE comes with preloaded database basically.

Using custom filters

FFSSE come with a number of filters that can only be categorized *just for fun*. These live in custom section below everything else.

FavrateCut: 11.07.2016 v 4

+Genre ...

-Genre ...

+Words ...

-Words ...

Custom Longest Running

By checking this checkbox, you unlock a custom sort element with a number of sections

Longest Running

It hasn't been finished for ages, but for some reason is still being updated.

Behemoth Chapters

Sometimes authors just don't know when to stop. Needs at least two chapters to appear in this filter.

Splinched.

Reverse of Behemoth. Some ppl will always mistake fic site with a chat room and "press enter" accordingly.

Catch'em'All

When "characters" section is so bloated app no longer has enough space for it.

One liners.

After all, how much words in the description does one need to sell a fic to the audience?

Dumped

They *just left it there*. All. In one piece. Well, not necessarily but this filter shows fics that are huge and weren't being active for long.

WARNING: Enabling custom filters screws up EVERY other filter. Make sure it's disabled once you are done playing with it.

Filtering out stuff from author recommendation pages

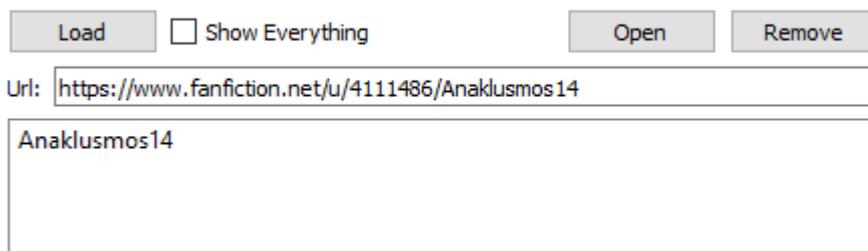
A legit way to find good stuff to read is author rec pages. There is only one problem: a lot of stuff is repeated between authors and reading the whole page looking for new stuff is extremely tedious. Not anymore. With **Recommendations** tab, you can filter out everything that is already tagged in FFSSE

First, you need to open the Recommendations, tab and enter author url there



The screenshot shows the 'Recommendations' tab selected. At the top, there are three tabs: 'Fandoms', 'Tags', and 'Recommendations'. Below the tabs are three buttons: 'Load', 'Open', and 'Remove'. To the right of the 'Load' button is a checkbox labeled 'Show Everything'. Below these elements is a text input field labeled 'Url:' containing the text 'https://www.fanfiction.net/u/1318171/Perfect-Lionheart'. A red arrow points from the right towards the input field.

Then, you press **Load**. Depending on how big the recommendation section is the app might become unresponsive for a while. After the process is finished the author will appear in your recommender list and search results will now contain his recommendations sans the stuff you've already tagged somehow. If you want to see every recommendation regardless of your tags, just check "show everything"



The screenshot shows the 'Recommendations' tab selected. At the top, there are three buttons: 'Load', 'Open', and 'Remove'. To the right of the 'Load' button is a checkbox labeled 'Show Everything'. Below these elements is a text input field labeled 'Url:' containing the text 'https://www.fanfiction.net/u/4111486/Anaklusmos14'. Below the input field, the author name 'Anaklusmos14' is displayed in a separate box.

Note that Load - **reloads from the web** if you only need to open already loaded author - use Open.

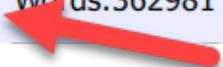
Note: You can have as many recommenders as you like. There are even benefits to having a massive list of authors whose recommendations you like. Once you start accumulating recommenders you will notice that fics in search results will sometimes display **a heart with a number**.

An Aunt's Love

M   Harry Potter At chapter: Of: 73

Harry comes home from school and Petunia is upset at the change in her nephew. Petunia decides to do what she should have been doing all along. Dumbledore had better stay away. Petunia Dursley is upset. Warnings on profile.

 **7** Words:362981 Harry P.



This is the amount of times fic is present in your recommenders list. There is even a special sort filter in main sort menu for this stuff. It's called **Rec Count**.

If you want to see a cumulative list of recommendations of all the authors you've loaded - press **Open Whole List** below the listview