Title

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lookfor — Search for string in variable names and labels

Description

lookfor helps you find variables by searching for *string* among all variable names and labels. If multiple *string*s are specified, lookfor will search for each of them separately. You may search for a phrase by enclosing *string* in double quotes.

Quick start

Search variable names and variable labels for the phrase "my text" regardless of case

    lookfor "my text"

Search for "word1" or "word2"

    lookfor word1 word2

Syntax

> lookfor *string* [*string* [...]]

Remarks and examples   stata.com

▷ Example 1

lookfor finds variables by searching for *string*, ignoring case, among the variable names and labels.

```
. use http://www.stata-press.com/data/r15/nlswork
(National Longitudinal Survey.  Young Women 14-26 years of age in 1968)
. lookfor code
              storage   display   value
variable name   type    format    label      variable label
───────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────
idcode          int     %8.0g                NLS ID
ind_code        byte    %8.0g                industry of employment
occ_code        byte    %8.0g                occupation
```

Three variable names contain the word code.

```
. lookfor married
              storage   display   value
variable name   type    format    label      variable label
───────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────
msp             byte    %8.0g                1 if married, spouse present
nev_mar         byte    %8.0g                1 if never married
```

Two variable labels contain the word married.

```
. lookfor gnp
              storage   display   value
variable name   type     format   label     variable label
```
variable name	storage type	display format	value label	variable label
ln_wage	float	%9.0g		ln(wage/GNP deflator)

lookfor ignores case, so lookfor gnp found GNP in a variable label.

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▷ Example 2

If multiple strings are specified, all variable names or labels containing any of the strings are listed.

```
. lookfor code married
              storage   display   value
variable name   type     format   label     variable label
```
variable name	storage type	display format	value label	variable label
idcode	int	%8.0g		NLS ID
msp	byte	%8.0g		1 if married, spouse present
nev_mar	byte	%8.0g		1 if never married
ind_code	byte	%8.0g		industry of employment
occ_code	byte	%8.0g		occupation

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To search for a phrase, enclose *string* in double quotes.

```
. lookfor "never married"
              storage   display   value
variable name   type     format   label     variable label
```
variable name	storage type	display format	value label	variable label
nev_mar	byte	%8.0g		1 if never married

Stored results

lookfor stores the following in r():

Macros
   r(varlist)   the varlist of found variables

References

Cox, N. J. 2010a. Speaking Stata: Finding variables. *Stata Journal* 10: 281–296.

———. 2010b. Software Updates: Finding variables. *Stata Journal* 10: 691–692.

———. 2012. Software Updates: Finding variables. *Stata Journal* 12: 167.

Also see