Boolean Operator Search Tips

Use Boolean Logical Operators (AND, OR, and NOT) to narrow or broaden a search.

Use **AND** to narrow your search by including two or more terms.

**Sample Exercise:**
You want to find information on both bulimia and anorexia.
  • At the main menu choose WORD or KEYWORD search.
  • Type *bulimia and anorexia*

The dark area in the center represents documents that contained both terms. The gray area on either side represents documents that were discarded because they only contained one of the terms.

Use **OR** to broaden your search by including either of at least two terms.

**Sample Exercise:**
You want to find out what the library or database has on either cowboys or cowgirls.
  • At the main menu choose WORD or KEYWORD search.
  • Type *cowboys or cowgirls*

The dark area in both circles represents documents that contain either term.

Use **NOT** to narrow your search by excluding terms.

**Sample Exercise:**
You want to find information on the zeppelin (not Led Zeppelin).
  • At the main menu choose WORD or KEYWORD search.
  • Type *zeppelin not led*

The dark area in the left circle represents documents that contain the selected term, zeppelin. The gray area represents discarded documents containing the term 'led'.

Use **NESTING** to combine Boolean Logical Operators in one search.

**Sample Exercise:**
You want to find out about Navajo or Apache medicinal practices.
  • At the main menu choose WORD or KEYWORD search.
  • Type *(navajo or apache) and medicine*