

Boolean Operators

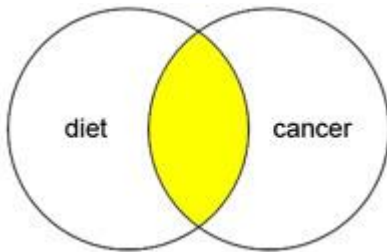
Boolean Operators

Boolean Operators help to focus your search by linking your search terms. There are three words that are used as Boolean connectors, **AND**, **OR** and **NOT**.

Boolean AND

AND locates records containing both terms. For example, a subject search on "diet **AND** cancer" locates records that contain information on both diet and cancer as indicated by the overlapping yellow area below.

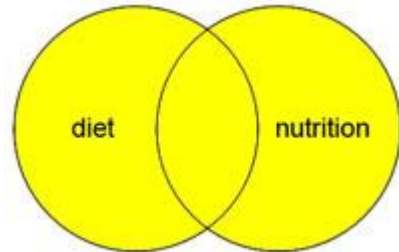
Use **AND** to combine two ideas when both are important to our search



Boolean OR

OR locates records matching any or all of the specified terms. For example, a search on "diet **OR** nutrition" locates records that contain information only about diet, records only about nutrition, and records that contain information on both diet and nutrition. **OR** expands your search.

Use to include synonyms or alternate terms in your search.

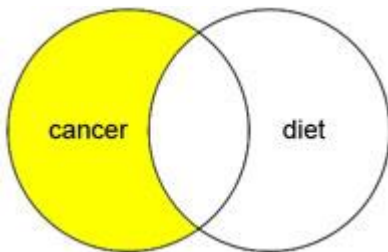


Boolean NOT

NOT locates records containing the first term but NOT the second. For example, a search on "cancer **NOT** diet" locates records only about cancer, and excludes any records about diet that also contain information about cancer.

Excludes records containing the second term.

Caution! It's easy to exclude relevant items.



Boolean Operator Examples

Boolean Operator	Examples	Retrieves
AND	children AND poverty diet AND cancer	AND combines different terms when both must be present. Use AND to narrow a search.
OR	children OR youth cats OR dogs Generation X OR Generation Y	OR combines either synonymous terms when at least one must be present. OR also locates records that contain information on all the terms selected. Use OR to broaden a search.
NOT	juvenile NOT crime Richard Nixon NOT Watergate Men NOT women Richard Nixon - Watergate	NOT eliminates irrelevant terms from a search. Use NOT when you want to exclude all records that contain a term. A - sign can also be used to limit