

Library Searcher Vocabulary

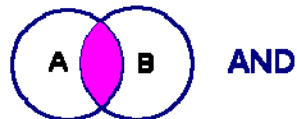
Use the following search techniques to expand or narrow your search in the electronic databases, library catalog, and Internet.

1. Boolean Operators (AND, OR, and NOT)

Definition: Boolean operators to connect keywords and help to pinpoint your search.

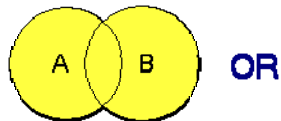
AND – by linking words with *and*, you are telling the search engine that you want results that include *all* the keywords in a document.

Example: *computers AND security* will return documents that contain both terms.



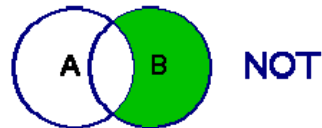
OR – by linking words with *OR*, you are requesting documents that include *any* of the keywords.

Example: *travel OR tourism* will return documents that contain one or both keywords.



NOT- by linking words with *NOT*, you are specifying that you want documents that include the first term but not the second.

Example: *Cherokee NOT jeep* returns documents that contains the first term but not the second



2. Truncation (* ?)

Definition: involves shortening a keyword to its root and adding a special character (* ?) to allow for searching all variations. The (*) is the most common symbol used in our electronic databases. Use the (?) symbol when searching our library catalog.

Example: *commerc** will find *commerce commercial commercially*

3. Search Phrases (“ ”)

Definition: To focus your search, link terms that must appear together. Quotation marks “ ” are often used to define a phrase.

Example: “sports utility vehicles” “human rights” “Golden West College”

What are Scholarly Articles?

Your research assignment sometimes requires that you include articles from "scholarly" journals. Many online databases do not make a distinction between scholarly sources and popular magazines. Check the chart below.

Scholarly Articles (Professional)	Popular & News Magazines
Major function: to report on original research, including experiments, analysis on particular topics for an academic audience	Major function: to entertain and/or inform readers on current events and popular topics
Authors: Research, scholars, or academics write the articles.	Authors: Writers are paid to write the articles or work for the publication as employees.
Audience: Professors, researchers, college students	Audience: General, children, teens, adults.
Credibility: Research articles must be reviewed by a "jury" of experts before they are published. Sometimes referred to as "peer reviewed" or "refereed."	Credibility: Articles are generally evaluated by staff editors rather than experts in the field.
Examples: American Journal of Nursing, Science, Journal of the Medical Association (JAMA)	Examples: Rolling Stone, Sports Illustrated, Newsweek, Time
Bi-monthly, quarterly, yearly publication by a professional organization or scholarly publisher (like a university press)	Published more regularly: daily, weekly or monthly by a commercial enterprise or corporation.
Articles are often times long and use particular vocabulary depending on the discipline (slang)	Articles are sometimes short and written for a general audience.
Graphs, tables, and charts are used.	Pictures, glossy photos, and animation are used.
Quotations, paraphrases, & citations are abundant.	No citations or works cited page is given.
Articles are reviewed by a panel of "peers" prior to publication	Articles published by a specific deadline.
Some-if any- advertisements that are scholarly in general	Advertisements are prevalent throughout each page, including products & services.

TIP: EBSCO Host lets you Search by "Peer Reviewed" articles.

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