

Use Boolean Operators when searching the databases

Boolean Operators are used to connect **and** define the relationship between your search terms. When searching electronic databases, you can use Boolean operators to either narrow **or** broaden your record sets.

The three Boolean operators are **AND**, **OR** and **NOT**.

And – HIV **and** AIDS

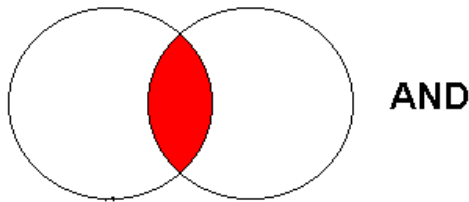
Or - HIV **or** AIDS
Rodent **or** rat

Not - HIV **not** AIDS
Colour **not** color
Children **not** infants

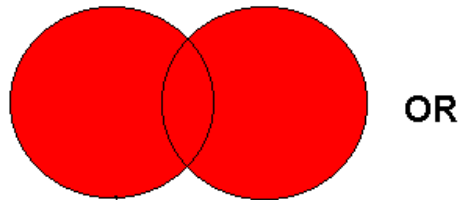
Boolean Operators: an Example

Example : HIV ----- AIDS

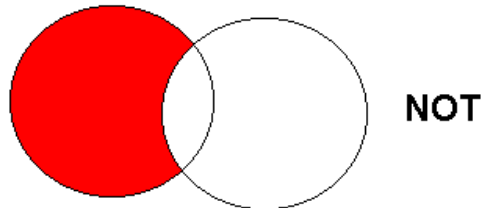
The result using the Boolean operator



Retrieves results containing both words.



Either, or both words.



Excludes results that contain the second term

Wildcards

Wildcards – are represented by a question mark **?** or a pound sign **#**

- an alternate spelling may contain an additional character.

For example:

colo**#**r, the result will include the words color **and** colour

? - replaces the unknown character.

For example:

organi**?**ation - the result could be organis**a**tion or organiz**o**tion

ne**?**t - the result could be nest**s**, next**x** or neat**a**t

Truncation

Truncation – is represented by an asterisk *.

To use a truncation, the root word will be used and the truncation will replace the end of the word.

For example:

computer, comput*, the result could be computerisation, or computing

Truncation can be used between words to match any word.

For example:

A long* to freedom; the result will be A long walk to freedom
or :

A midsummer* dream, the result will be A midsummer night's
dream