Boolean Operators (Logic Operators)

Boolean operators are *and*, *or*, and *not*.

Search terms may be combined with boolean operators to broaden or narrow a search.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boolean Operator</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</table>
| **And**          | Narrows your search  
Retrieves citations containing BOTH cats AND dogs  
Usually used for unrelated terms |
| **Or**           | Broadens your search  
Retrieves citations containing EITHER cats OR felines  
Usually used for synonyms |
| **Not**          | Narrows your search  
EXCLUDES citations containing moths FROM citations containing gypsy  
May eliminate relevant records |

Truncation and Wildcards

Read the “Help” of the specific database or search engine. Truncation and wildcards are not standardized. Symbols that are commonly used include: !, $, *, ?

**Histor**

Truncation is “the process of cutting off or shortening a keyword.” Truncation finds all suffixes or endings of a word. The entry to the left retrieves: history, historical, histories, etc.

**Am!!ba**

Wildcards replace 1 or 0 characters in a keyword search. The entry to the left retrieves: amoeba or ameba.