Research Skills

Boolean Operators

For further research assistance access the Wahlstrom Library website via the myUB Portal.

**Ask a Librarian via Chat:** Available when the Library is open through the Library website.

**E-mail a Librarian:** reference@bridgeport.edu

**Call a Librarian:** 203-576-4747

**Walk-ins welcome, no appointment needed!**
What are they?

Boolean Operators are used in Boolean Logic, which is the process of using AND, OR, or NOT in combination with multiple keywords to manipulate how the database searches for those keywords.

AND

AND narrows down search results. When placed between each keyword, AND tells the database to only search for articles that contain ALL of the keywords.

OR

OR broadens search results. While the AND only searches for articles with ALL of the keywords, OR searches for items with at least one of them.

NOT

NOT removes specific articles from search results. If you type NOT before keywords, the database will remove any article containing that keyword. Beware, this could remove useful articles.

IMPORTANT

You can use as many Boolean Operators as you like, including combining different types into a single search. Combining these operators is what creates the most useful search results.

Examples

The AND tells the database you only want articles talking about the budget deficit AND the United States. Articles missing either of these keywords will not show up in the results.

The OR locates articles about heart attacks OR myocardial infarctions. These are generic and medical terms for the same medical condition.

The NOT is tells the database to find all of the articles about special education that do NOT mention the United States.