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!
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 is how you narrow down your search results. When placed between two keywords, AND tells the database that you only want to see articles that contain both keywords.

**OR**

OR is how you broaden search results. While the AND only shows you articles with all of the keywords, OR will show you *at least one* of them.

**NOT**

NOT is how you *remove* certain articles from your search results. If you type NOT keywords, you are telling the database to remove any article that contains that keyword.

**IMPORTANT**

You can use as many of each type of Boolean Operator, and each of the different types, as you want in a single search. Combining these is what creates the most effective search results.

Examples

Here, the AND is saying you only want to see articles that talk about the budget deficit AND the United States. Important if you don’t want articles about budget deficits in different countries.

The OR in this example helps you locate articles about heart attacks and myocardial infarctions, the generic and medical terms for the same medical condition.

The NOT is telling the database you want all of the articles about special education that do NOT mention the United States, because that is not a country you’re concerned with for your assignment.