

## Some Search Strategies

<b>AND</b>	Connect words with <b>AND</b> to tell the database <b>ALL</b> the search terms must be present. You usually 'AND' individual concepts together. Narrows your search results.
<b>OR</b>	Connect words together with <b>OR</b> to tell the database that <b>ANY</b> of the search terms can be present. You usually 'OR' synonyms for a concept together. Broadens your search results.
	NOTE: if you use a combination of AND and OR operators in a search, enclose the words to be "ORed" together in parentheses. (concuss* OR "traumatic brain injury" OR tbi) AND (treat* OR therap*)
<b>phrase searching</b>	Enclose search terms in quotation marks to search as a phrase - those terms in the exact adjacent order. "nerve stimulation" "traumatic brain injury" "compulsive behavior"
<b>truncation *</b>	Common symbol used to replace any number of letters at the end or beginning of a word. Trims a keyword down to its root – or stem – and then searches for variations of this stem. Also called stemming. Different databases use different symbols. * most common, but could be \$ or ? addict* finds addict, addicts, addiction, addictions, addictive, addicting, addicted concuss* finds concuss, concussed, concussion, concussions, concussive
<b>Wildcards?</b>	Allows you to search for different spellings of a word in one search. Put a symbol (most common is ?) in place of the letter that creates the different spelling. behavio?r finds behavior, behaviour organi?ation find organization, organisation wom?n finds woman, women, womxn, womyn
<b>synonyms</b>	There may be a variety of ways to describe a concept. Searching multiple terms will expand your search. Medical databases may define and use Medical Subject Headings [MeSH] also. "brain swelling" OR "intracranial edema" OR "cerebral edema" OR brain edema [mesh] exercise OR movement OR "physical activity" OR training OR conditioning OR "working out" teen* OR "young adult" OR youth OR adolescen*