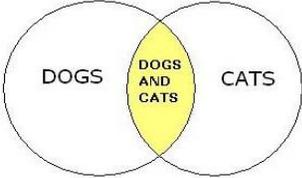
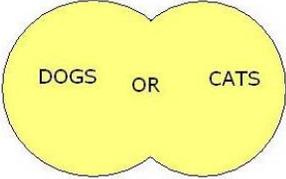
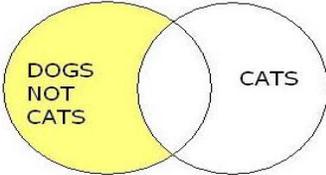


Searching Databases

The following tips/techniques apply to most, but not all, article/journal databases and some to Google Scholar.

Always check the **HELP** option in the database you are using to learn more details.

<p>Boolean Operators</p> <p><u>must</u> be capitalized</p>	<p>AND</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find sources containing two or more ideas. • AND narrows your search. • Only items containing both words will result. • You can use AND many times in one search. • Many databases automatically assume AND between terms. <p>Examples : wrist AND splint pain AND electrotherapy</p>
	<p>OR</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use when searching for synonyms. • OR broadens your search. • Items containing either word will result. • You can use OR many times in one search. <p>Examples: splint OR orthotic OR brace acl OR “anterior cruciate ligament”</p>
	<p>AND & OR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform a complex search using both AND / OR by using parentheses around OR synonyms. <p>Example: (exercis* OR sport*) AND (teen* OR adolescen* OR “young adult”) AND motivat*</p>
	<p>NOT</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exclude words from your search <p>Example: dementia NOT alzheimer’s</p>

<p>Phrases</p>	<p>“ ”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enclose phrases in quotation mark to search as one term in the exact adjacent order. (find these exact words in this exact order) <p>Example: "nerve stimulation" "stem cell research"</p>
<p>Truncation</p>	<p>*</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common symbol used to replace any number of letters at the ends of words. Also called stemming. • Helps find singulars, plurals, and variant beginnings or endings of words. <p>Example: therap* finds therapy, therapies, therapist, therapeutic</p> <p>Example: *sorption = adsorption, absorption, resorption</p> <p>! But beware that truncation (or truncating too soon) can give you results that may not work.</p> <p>Example: *ation finds hydration, relation, creation, separation, + + +</p>
<p>Wildcards</p>	<p>? ! #</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similar to truncation, wildcards substitute a symbol for one or more letters of a word within the word. Each database may use a different symbol for wildcard. <p>Example: wom!n = woman, women</p> <p>orthop?dic = orthopedic, orthopaedic</p>
<p>Proximity</p>	<p>NEAR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many systems use proximity operators for more advanced searching. • NEAR/x finds records within a specified number of words of each other • Other similar operators: N, W, ADJ – varies by database. • Example: football W3 concussion finds documents where these terms are within 3 words of each other.
<p>Limits</p>	<p>limits vary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most databases let you limit search results by a variety of attributes: author, title, date of publication, publication type etc. Check the sidebars on your results page to explore options. • You can also limit your search to specific field, like the title and abstract, to narrow your search.