

Search Strategies

NOTE: Techniques and symbols can vary from database to database. Check the **HELP** option in the database you are using to learn more details.

<p>Phrase Searching</p>	<p>“ ”</p>	<p>Enclose search terms in quotation marks to search as a phrase - those terms in the exact adjacent order.</p> <p>"nerve stimulation" "stem cell research" "breast cancer"</p>
<p>Truncation</p>	<p>*</p>	<p>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> <p>immun* finds immune, immunity, immunities, immunize, immunized, immunizes, immunizations +more</p> <p>*sorption finds adsorption, absorption, resorption +more</p>
<p>Wildcards</p>	<p>? ! #</p>	<p>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> <p>wom!n finds woman, women orthop*dic finds orthopedic, orthopeadic</p>
<p>Proximity</p>	<p>NEAR</p>	<p>Some database platforms 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</p> <p>football W(3) concussion finds documents where these terms are within 3 words of each other.</p>
<p>Nesting</p>	<p>()</p>	<p>Helps structure your search along with Boolean terms. It's like crafting a formula. Helps you specify what you want the database to do.</p> <p>(teen*OR adolescent OR youth OR "young adult") AND depression</p>
<p>Limits</p>	<p>limits vary</p>	<p>Think of how you might limit the scope of your question. Databases usually allow you to filter your search results in various ways. These include: language, type of publication or study, publication dates, age groups, sex, full-text availability</p> <p>You can also limit your search to specific field, like the title and abstract, to narrow your search.</p>