

Boolean Operators

- Search terms required by library databases
- Not the same as keyword searching

AND

What it does: Combines search terms. Needed in almost all databases!

What to type: history AND Yukon

What you'll get: Results that must have both words

OR

What it does: Searches similar words at the same time

What to type: First Nations OR Indians OR Aboriginal

What you'll get: Results that have at least one of the words and cover more of the materials available

NOT

What it does: Excludes search results

What to type: real estate AND Yukon NOT potatoes

What you'll get: Results that have only what you want, excluding items that contain certain keywords.

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What it does: Finds words with multiple variations. Wild card for the end of a word.

What to type: behavi*

What you'll get: Results that include multiple spellings of the required word; like American versus Canadian, plural, etc.

?

What it does: Finds words with multiple variations. Wild card for the middle of a word

What to type: wom?n

What you'll get: Results that include multiple spellings of the required word; like American versus Canadian, plural, etc.

“”

What it does: Searches an exact phrase

What to type: “climate change”

What you'll get: Results that eliminate any results that have the same words but aren't from the area of interest.

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What it does: Specifies the order of the search.

What to type: (First Nations OR Indians) AND Yukon

What you'll get: Without brackets, the database will combine search terms incorrectly.