

Boolean Searching

Boolean searching is a means of refining your search results by specifying the relationships between search terms. The primary Boolean operators are AND, OR, NOT. These operators work in the library's online catalog (OPAC) and in most Sawyer Library subscription databases.

“AND” operator narrows the search:

“AND” limits your search by requiring all terms to be in each search result.

A search for:

poverty and addiction
retrieves results with **both terms present**.

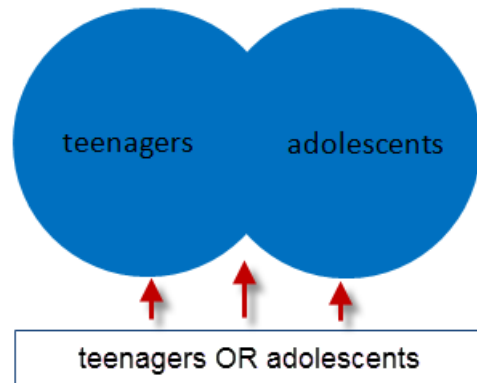


“OR” operator expands the search:

“OR” requires results that contain either one or both terms.

A search for:

teenagers OR adolescents
retrieves either or both terms.



“NOT” operator narrows the search:

“NOT” precedes keywords that must be excluded from the search results.

A search for:

addiction not alcohol eliminates alcohol from the results.

