To get the best possible results while searching Library resources, use these Boolean operators and search modifiers with your keywords. They'll help you communicate exactly what you want (and don’t want) to the database.

**BOOLEAN OPERATORS**

**AND**
- internet AND bullying AND teenagers
  - The database will look for articles that contain each word: internet, bullying, and teenagers.
  - You’ll get fewer and more relevant results if you add more words with **AND**.

**OR**
- “artificial intelligence” OR AI
  - The database will look for articles that use the term “artificial intelligence” or the word AI...or both!
  - You’ll get more search results as you add more words with **OR**. Try this with synonyms.

**NOT**
- anorexia NOT bulimia
  - The database will ignore any articles using the word after **NOT** (in this case, bulimia).
  - You’ll get fewer and more relevant results as you exclude words with **NOT**.

**SEARCH MODIFIERS**

**QUOTATION MARKS**
- “predictive policing”
  - The database will only give you articles that use this exact phrase, rather than articles that use the words predictive or policing separately.

**ASTERISK**
- child*
  - The database will search for any word that starts with child, including children or childhood.

**PARENTHESES/BRACKETS**
- supply AND (chain OR network)
  - The database will understand how you want your words and Boolean operators to be combined: the word supply, plus either the word chain or the word network, or both.

Need help figuring out your search strategy? Contact a librarian. Email us at refdesk@nu.edu, or call us toll-free at 1-866-NUACCES x7900.
BOOLEAN OPERATORS: LET’S VISUALIZE WHAT’S GOING ON

The shaded portion of these diagrams represent the results you’d get using each operator.

**AND**
- Stress
- College
- Must have both words

**OR**
- Stress
- College
- Either Word

**NOT**
- Stress
- College
- Just one word

BRING IT ALL TOGETHER

Here’s what your search might look like if you’re using Boolean operators and search modifiers:

![National University Smart Search](image)

(stress OR anxiety) AND (college OR "higher education") AND student

- Everything
- Peer-Reviewed Articles
- Books
- Videos
- Journals

The database will search for articles about the stress or anxiety that a student might experience in college.

Clicking on the “Advanced Search” link in some major databases will give you more options for using Boolean operators. For example, here’s what it looks like in EBSCOhost:

![EBSCOhost](image)

If you need more space to write your keywords, most databases have a button or link to add more search boxes.