

Depending on which Boolean operators you use you can narrow down your search results by removing unwanted information, or increase them by including more relevant results.

Use AND to limit search results: For example: *Migration AND Pattern AND Scotland* to find instances where these three words appear together on the page, but will ignore results where only one, or two search terms is present.

Use NEAR to narrow results even further: The NEAR operator is used for results where the search terms appear in the same sentence or paragraph of the document. For example *Pattern Recognition NEAR Protein Structure* will yield any instances where those two words appear in the same sentence or paragraph.

Use OR to increase search results: For example *Juvenile OR Delinquent OR Youth OR Teen* will yield any instances of these terms in one set of results. Using OR is a good way to increase your search results using synonyms.

Use a minus sign, or NOT, to ignore search terms: For example *Conservation -Marine* to remove all results containing the word *Marine*. Sometimes it might be written *Conservation NOT Marine* or depending on the search engine sometimes *Conservation AND NOT Marine*. This is a good way to remove recurring irrelevant results from your search.

Use an asterisk to truncate terms: For example *Bio** will search for the words Biology, Biotechnology, Biosphere, Biologist etc.

Use a wildcard (* or ! or ?) to search for multiple spellings: For example *organi?ation* will find instances with the words organisation, and organization. This is useful where British and American spellings differ. Different search engines will use different symbols as wildcards.

Use quotations to narrow your search by looking for an exact phrase: For example *"Endocrine Signalling Molecules"* to find instances of that exact phrasing.

Use parentheses to nest queries together: For example *(Feline OR Cat) AND (Integrative OR Alternative OR Holistic)* allows you to use more than one Boolean operator and reduces the number of times you need to run a search.

Use field searching to get specific: For example *Author: Jung, Carl* will find works by that person, as opposed to works about that person. Other fields common search engines use include *Title, Subject, and Year*.

