

Boolean and Other Searches

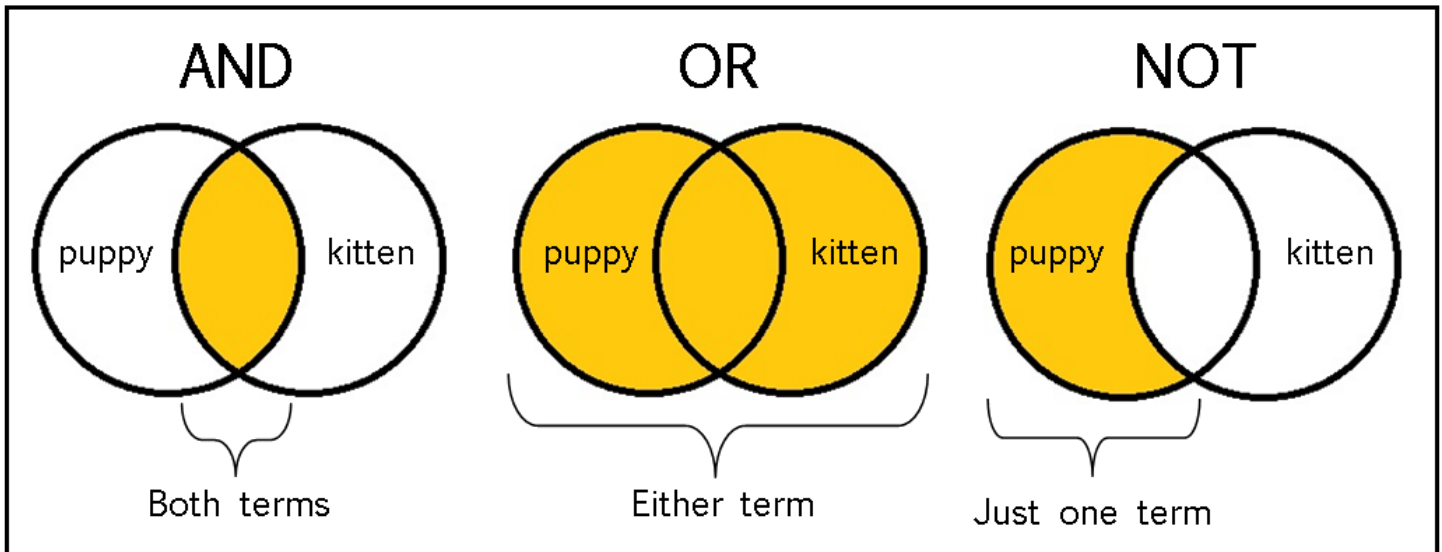


Diagram by Crossett Library at Bennington College. "Research Resources at Crossett: Using the Databases." Retrieved 23 January 2023. <https://libraryguides.bennington.edu>

AND—retrieves resources that contain ALL the terms; it **NARROWS** the search

Shows resources with puppy and kitten, but not resources with just puppy or just kitten

OR—retrieves resources that contain ANY of the terms; it **BROADENS** the search

Shows resources with puppy, resources with kitten, and resources with both puppy and kitten

NOT—eliminates resources that contain the **SECOND** term; it **NARROWS** the search

Shows resources with puppy, but eliminates resources with kitten in them

Truncation—used where you want to search for many forms of a word, including plurals and singular words, so you put a symbol, often at the end of a word. OGS catalog uses * which is common.

- **train*** - will retrieve train, trains, trained, training, trainer, and others

You can also use * in other parts of a word. The * can represent multiple letters and can help with alternate spellings including alternate surname spellings.

- ***train** - will retrieve train, strain, restrain, constrain, eyestrain and others
- **St*rt** - will retrieve Stuart and Stewart...and also Stockport and others
- **colo*r** - will retrieve color and colour
- **colo*r*** - will retrieve color, colors, colored, colour, colours, coloured

Wildcards—symbol used where you are not sure of the exact spelling or you want to search a variety of spellings. Typically only represents 1 letter. Also helps with plural forms of words. OGS catalog uses a ? which is common. It does not use ! or #

- **wom?n**- will retrieve woman and women
- **license?**- will only retrieve license, licenses, licensed
- **licen?e**- will retrieve license and licence
- **f?rm** - will retrieve farm, firm, and form