

Efficient Search Strategies: using the Boolean Operators and other tricks to obtain better results!

Boolean operators:

We can use Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT) to combine different keywords to precise our research subject or thematic concept. To do this, access the advanced search section of most search engines. Also very useful to combine different search fields (title, author, subject, etc.) for precision.

Truncation:

Using the asterisk symbol (*) at the end of the root of a word will save you precious time because in one search term, you will get in your results all the words that share the same root (words that begins with the same letters). This way, you'll get the noun, verb, adjective, plural version of each term instead of having to combine each term with the OR Boolean operator to obtain in your results at least one of these possibilities.

In information systems, there is some strategies that can help you be more efficient in your research, here are a few examples:

My Search Results :	My Search Strategy :	Explanations :
Too many results !	AND (ET &)	Use the AND operator to combine more than one keywords and/or concepts so the search engine can find them all together Example : 1 st concept : " mental health " AND 2 nd concept : elderly
	NOT (SAUF SANS -)	Use the NOT operator to exclude a keyword and/or concept from your results because it is irrelevant Example : jaguar NOT car
	"Exact Expression"	Use the quotation marks to find expressions or two keywords together Example : "climate change"
	Choosing the right field	Use the right field of search (Title, Author, Subject, etc.) for precision
	Other limitations	Limit your results by publication date, publication type, targeted age group or language preferences
Too few results !	OR (OU /)	Use the OR operator so the search engine will find at least one of the keywords and/or concepts used
	Using synonyms terms and/or antonyms	Think about other keywords or concepts the author or researcher might have used and also, the words that are trending at the moment Example : "school dropout" OR perseverance OR "school success"
	Truncation*	Use truncation (*) to have in your results all the word variants : noun, plural, verb, adverb, adjective, etc. Example : stud* to get in your results studies, study, student, students, etc.



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