**Database search operators: quick reference guide**

[A-Z list of databases](http://www.library.manchester.ac.uk/search-resources/databases/)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **DATABASE GUIDE** | [**EBSCO**](https://help.ebsco.com/interfaces/EBSCO_Guides/EBSCO_Interfaces_User_Guide/Searching_with_Boolean_Operators)[EBSCO Guide](https://help.ebsco.com/interfaces/EBSCO_Guides/EBSCO_Interfaces_User_Guide/How_do_I_create_a_proximity_search) | [**Engineering Village: Compendex**](http://help.engineeringvillage.com/Content/Boolean_Operators.htm)[Guide](http://help.engineeringvillage.com/Content/Boolean_Operators.htm) | [**Factiva**](http://media2.proquest.com/documents/factiva_user_guide.pdf)[Guide](http://media2.proquest.com/documents/factiva_user_guide.pdf) | [**JSTOR**](http://support.jstor.org/core-functionality/2015/10/1/how-to-use-boolean-logic-in-your-search-or-give-it-up-for-george-boole)Guide | [**LexisLibrary**](http://help.lexisnexis.com/tabula-rasa/publisher/booleanconnectors_ref-reference?lbu=us&locale=en_us&audience=user)[Guide](http://help.lexisnexis.com/tabula-rasa/publisher/booleanconnectors_ref-reference?lbu=us&locale=en_us&audience=user) | [**Westlaw**](https://lscontent.westlaw.com/images/content/WLNT%26CSearching.pdf)[Guide](https://lscontent.westlaw.com/images/content/WLNT%26CSearching.pdf) |
| **Truncation** | **\*** | **\*** | **\*** | **~****\*** | **!** | **\*** |
| **Wildcard** | **?** | **?** | **?** | **\*** | **\*** | **\*** |
| **Proximity***(Where x represents a number)* | **N**x for nearAlso**W**x for within a set number of words[See guide for further details](https://help.ebsco.com/interfaces/EBSCO_Guides/EBSCO_Interfaces_User_Guide/How_do_I_create_a_proximity_search). | **NEAR/**x*for searching proximity in any order.***ONEAR/**x*for searching proximity with a specified order.*[See guide for further details](http://help.engineeringvillage.com/Engineering_Village_Help_Left.htm#CSHID=search_tips_quick.htm|StartTopic=Content%2Fsearch_tips_quick.htm|SkinName=svs_evillage). | There are 4 different types of proximity search on ProQuest platforms such as Factiva. Please [see guide for details](http://media2.proquest.com/documents/factiva_user_guide.pdf). | **NEAR x**[See guide for further details](http://support.jstor.org/core-functionality/2016/7/21/referencelibrarian). | There are 3 different types of proximity search on LexisLibrary. Please [see guide for further details](http://help.lexisnexis.com/tabula-rasa/publisher/booleanconnectors_ref-reference?lbu=us&locale=en_us&audience=user). | West law has 4 different types of proximity search which it calls ‘Grammatical connectors’. Please [see guide for further details.](https://lscontent.westlaw.com/images/content/WLNT%26CSearching.pdf) |
| **Phrase searching** | **“”**[See guide](https://help.ebsco.com/interfaces/EBSCO_Guides/EBSCO_Interfaces_User_Guide/How_are_phrases_searched) | **“”**or **{}** | **()**[See guide](http://media2.proquest.com/documents/factiva_user_guide.pdf) | **“”**[See guide](http://support.jstor.org/core-functionality/2016/7/21/referencelibrarian) | Phrase search is the default unless other operators are present in the search.[See guide for further details](http://www.lexisnexis.com/help/global/NZ/en_NZ/connect_frameset.asp) | **“”** |
| **Stop words** | [See guide](https://help.ebsco.com/interfaces/EBSCO_Guides/EBSCO_Interfaces_User_Guide/How_are_phrases_searched) | [See guide](http://help.engineeringvillage.com/Engineering_Village_Help_Left.htm#CSHID=search_tips_quick.htm|StartTopic=Content%2Fsearch_tips_quick.htm|SkinName=svs_evillage) | [See guide](http://media2.proquest.com/documents/factiva_user_guide.pdf) | [See guide](http://support.jstor.org/core-functionality/2016/7/21/referencelibrarian) | [See guide](http://www.lexisnexis.com/help/global/NZ/en_NZ/gh_terms.asp#priority) | [See guide](https://lscontent.westlaw.com/images/content/WLNT%26CSearching.pdf) |

For more information on searching these databases and others see ‘[Getting results: guides to searching databases’](https://www.escholar.manchester.ac.uk/learning-objects/mle/packages/getting-results/).

**Search operator’s quick reference guide for medical and science databases**

[A-Z list of databases](http://www.library.manchester.ac.uk/search-resources/databases/)

|  | **OVID** (Medline, PsycINFO, Embase etc., [full list](http://www.library.manchester.ac.uk/search-resources/databases/o/dbname-377136-en.htm) )[OVID](http://site.ovid.com/site/help/documentation/osp/en/index.htm#CSHID=titledis.htm|StartTopic=Content/titledis.htm|SkinName=OvidSP_WebHelp_Skin) Guide | **EBSCO**[EBSCO Guide](https://help.ebsco.com/interfaces/EBSCO_Guides/EBSCO_Interfaces_User_Guide/How_do_I_create_a_proximity_search) | **ProQuest**[ProQuest](http://proquest.libguides.com/home) Guide | **Web of Science**[WOS](http://images.webofknowledge.com/WOKRS523_2R2/help/WOS/contents.html) Guide | **Scopus**[Scopus](https://help.elsevier.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/2330/p/8150/incidents.c%24portal_account_name/24058) Guide | **Pub Med**[PubMed](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK3827/table/pubmedhelp.T.stopwords/) Guide | **Cochrane**[Wiley Guide](http://www.cochranelibrary.com/dotAsset/fcddca60-21ef-4fd4-b0a7-8d705d9b7e60.pdf) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Truncation** | **$** *or* **\*** | **\*** | **\*** | **\*** | **\*** | **\*** | **\****Variants are automatically searched.* |
| **Wildcard** | **?** | **?** | **?** | **?***for 1 character***$***for 1or 0 characters* | **?** | N/A | **?***Used to match a single character.***\****Used to match multiple characters.* |
| **Proximity**  | Ovid proximity guide | [EBSCO proximity guide](https://help.ebsco.com/interfaces/EBSCO_Guides/EBSCO_Interfaces_User_Guide/How_do_I_create_a_proximity_search) | ProQuest proximity guide | Web of Scienceproximity guide | Scopus proximity guide | Pub Med proximity guide | Cochrane proximity guide |
| **Phrase Searching** | **“ “**Only needed where phrase contains stop words. | **“ “**Stop words will be ignored. | **“ “** | **“ “***Or***()** | **“ “***Or***{}** | **“ “** | **“ “** |
| **Stop words** | [Ovid Stop Words](http://resourcecenter.ovid.com/site/products/fieldguide/umda/Stopwords.jsp) | [EBSCO Stop W](https://help.ebsco.com/interfaces/CINAHL_MEDLINE_Databases/CINAHL_and_MEDLINE_FAQs/stop_words_in_EBSCOhost_medical_databases)ords | N/A | [WOS Stop W](https://images.webofknowledge.com/WOK46P9/help/WOS/ht_stopwd.html)ords | [Scopus Stop W](http://help.elsevier.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/7351/p/8150)ords | [PubMed Stop W](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK3827/table/pubmedhelp.T.stopwords/)ords | Only operators **AND**, **OR**, **NOT**, **NEAR**, and **NEXT** are treated as stop words. |

 If you’re looking for information on MeSH see ‘[Making a MeSH of things](http://subjects.library.manchester.ac.uk/ld.php?content_id=19514466).’