



Database search operators: quick reference guide

[A-Z list of databases](#)

DATABASE GUIDE	EBSCO EBSCO Guide	Engineering Village: Compendex Guide	Factiva Guide	JSTOR Guide	LexisLibrary Guide	Westlaw Guide
Truncation	*	*	*	~ *	!	*
Wildcard	?	?	?	*	*	*
Proximity <i>(Where x represents a number)</i>	N x for near Also W x for within a set number of words See guide for further details.	NEAR /x for searching proximity in any order. ONEAR /x for searching proximity with a specified order. See guide for further details.	There are 4 different types of proximity search on ProQuest platforms such as Factiva. Please see guide for details.	NEAR x See guide for further details.	There are 3 different types of proximity search on LexisLibrary. Please see guide for further details.	West law has 4 different types of proximity search which it calls 'Grammatical connectors'. Please see guide for further details.
Phrase searching	"/" See guide	"/" or {} See guide	() See guide	"/" See guide	Phrase search is the default unless other operators are present in the search. See guide for further details	"/" See guide
Stop words	See guide	See guide	See guide	See guide	See guide	See guide

For more information on searching these databases and others see '[Getting results: guides to searching databases](#)'.



Search operator's quick reference guide for medical and science databases

[A-Z list of databases](#)

	OVID (Medline, PsycINFO, Embase etc., full list) OVID Guide	EBSCO EBSCO Guide	ProQuest ProQuest Guide	Web of Science WOS Guide	Scopus Scopus Guide	Pub Med PubMed Guide	Cochrane Wiley Guide
Truncation	\$ or *	*	*	*	*	*	* <i>Variants are automatically searched.</i>
Wildcard	?	?	?	? <i>for 1 character</i> \$ <i>for 1 or 0 characters</i>	?	N/A	? <i>Used to match a single character.</i> * <i>Used to match multiple characters.</i>
Phrase Searching	"" Only needed where phrase contains stop words.	"" Stop words will be ignored.	""	"" Or ()	"" Or { }	""	""
Stop words	Ovid Stop Words	EBSCO Stop Words	N/A	WOS Stop Words	Scopus Stop Words	PubMed Stop Words	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.](#)'