

Keyword Searching

U.S. Conn Library

Keyword Searching looks for your search term in the author, article title, subject, and abstract fields.

Example: You are interested in finding articles about the use of pets as therapy animals, especially with children. *Possible Keywords:* pets, therapy, children

Keyword Search Techniques:

Use search operators, or Boolean commands, to link search terms using the words AND, OR, and NOT:

AND - the statement ***pets and therapy and children*** searches for records containing all three terms.

- Use **AND** to retrieve records containing **all** search terms. All terms must be in each record retrieved.
- Use **AND** to narrow your search and retrieve fewer records.

OR - the statement ***children or adolescents*** searches for records possessing either of the words or both of the words.

- Use **OR** to retrieve records containing **either** or **both** search terms.
- Use **OR** to broaden your search and retrieve a greater number of records.
- Use **OR** for synonyms.

NOT - the statement ***children not adults*** searches for records including the word children but excluding the word adults.

- Use **NOT** to exclude certain items from your search.

Use special symbols:

Parentheses () - allow you to combine operators.

Example: *(children or adolescents) and pets* retrieves records containing the word *pets* and either or both of the other search terms.

Truncation * - Finds variations and plurals of a word.

Examples: *child** finds *child* and *children*
*pet** finds *pet* and *pets*

Quotes " " - allow you to search for an exact phrase.

Example: *"pet therapy"*

Wild Card ? - Use wild cards to substitute for characters in the spelling of a word.

Example: *adole??ent* will find *adolescent*

Sample Full Search Statement: pets and therapy and (child or adolescent)*