

## Keyword Searching

U.S. Conn Library

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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)*