BOOLEAN TERMS EXPLAINED

- Boolean terms connect your search words together to narrow or broaden your results.
- There are three basic Boolean terms: AND, OR, and NOT.

**Using AND**

Use AND in a search to:

- narrow your results
- require ALL search terms to be present in the results
- example: cats AND dogs

Search results will retrieve the center, dark overlap area – information that contains both cats and dogs in the results.

**Using OR**

Use OR in a search to:

- broaden your results
- allow ANY search terms to be present in the results
- example: cats OR dogs

Search results will retrieve everything in both circles, about cats only, dogs only and cats and dogs together.

**Using NOT**

Use NOT in a search to:

- exclude words from your search
- narrow your search to ignore implied concepts
- example: cats NOT dogs

Search results will retrieve only information on cats and nothing that mentions both cats and dogs in the same source.