

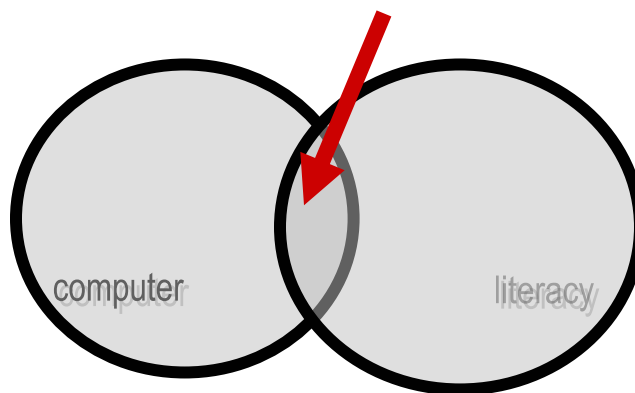
BOOLEAN SEARCHING AND TRUNCATION

If your search terms yield either too few or too many results in a database, try constructing your search by using **Boolean operators** or a **truncation symbol**.

Boolean operators--

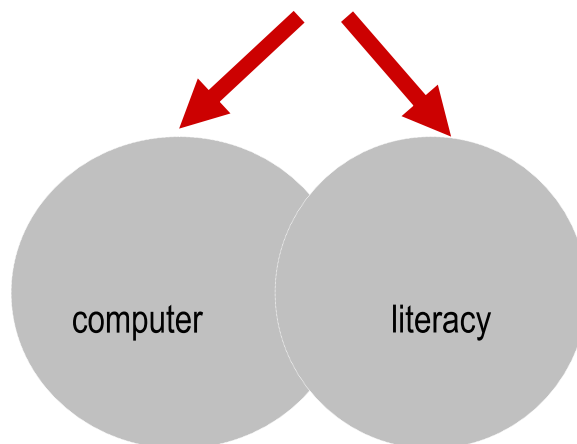
Boolean logic (named after George Boole, a 19th century mathematician) defines logical relationships between terms in a search. The Boolean search operators are: **AND**, **OR** and **NOT**. You can use these operators to construct a very broad or very narrow search.

Boolean AND



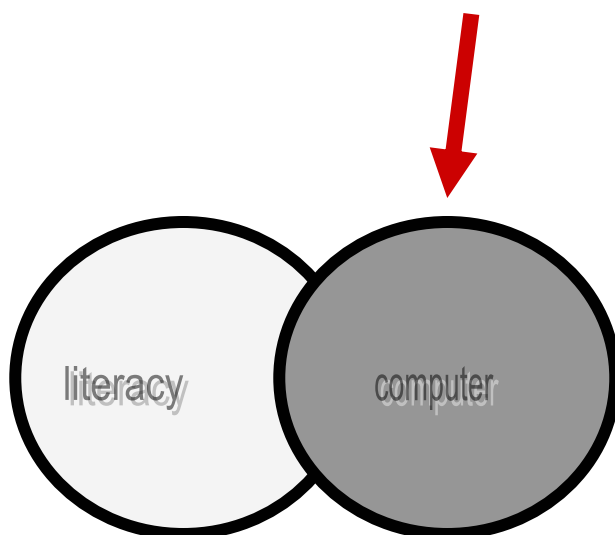
Use AND to narrow a search. Both terms must be present in search results. Example: A search for **computer AND literacy** will retrieve only records containing **both computer and literacy**.

Boolean OR



Use OR to expand a search. Either search term will be present in each search result. Example: A search for **computer OR literacy** will retrieve records containing **either computer or literacy**.

Boolean NOT



Use NOT to exclude a term. Search results with the first term will be retrieved. Results with the second term will not be retrieved. Example: A search for ***literacy NOT computer*** will retrieve records ***with literacy and exclude any that also contain computer.***

-----For a fun interactive tutorial on Boolean Searching check out:
<http://library.nyu.edu/research/tutorials/boolean/boolean.html>

Truncation (*) symbol--



Use the truncation symbol to create searches where there could be various endings to your term. (In other words, truncate or shorten your term). Truncation is frequently represented by an asterisk (*). To use it, enter the root of a search term and replace the ending with an *.

For example, comput* will retrieve:

- compute
- computer
- computing
- computation, etc!

Many databases such as EBSCOhost use (*) for truncation. Other databases may use other common truncation symbols such as (#) or (?)