

# Search Strategies

## Keywords and Boolean Logic

When searching in databases, construct search statements. Search statements use keywords and Boolean logic to help the database return very specific results. Let's take a look at how to write one.

Keywords are the most important terms to search. You can pull these from your research questions. You may also want to include terms related to your keywords and your search. The asterisk truncates a word, meaning that the search results will include any iteration of the root word. The quotation marks tell the database to search for an entire phrase or series of words. Boolean operators and, or, and not widen or narrow your search. And narrows your search by returning results that include all of the keywords it connects. Or widens a search by allowing you to link similar concepts. A database search will return results that include at least one of the terms connected by or. The not operator will cut a term out of your search results. Boolean logic in search statements can make your searches much more powerful because you are telling the database exactly what to look for.