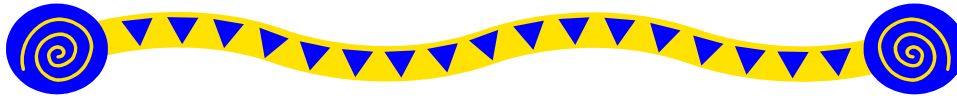


Boolean Searching



Database contents must be searched according to the rules of computer database searching. Much database searching is based on the principles of Boolean logic. Boolean logic refers to the logical relationship among search terms.

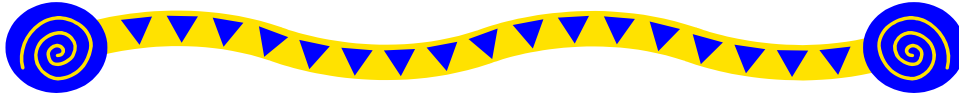
For complex topics, use the Boolean logic operators to locate relevant information quickly and exclude non-relevant information.

Boolean logic consists of three logical operators:

Boolean Operators	Sample Search Topic	Diagram of Search Results
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AND 	<p>What is the relationship between poverty and crime?</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OR 	<p>Information about college</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NOT 	<p>Information about cats which does not include information about dogs.</p>	

Modified from: State University of New York, University at Albany, "Boolean Searching on the Internet: A Primer in Boolean Logic", <http://library.albany.edu/internet/boolean.html> (ONLINE), March 3, 2004.

Designing your own Boolean Search



Information Question: What information are you looking for?

Keywords: List keywords in your information search.

Boolean Search: Use Boolean Logic operators to design your Boolean search.

EXAMPLE:

Information Question: What water purification systems are currently used?

Keywords: Water
Purification Systems

Boolean Search: Water AND Purification Systems

