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# Article Search Strategies

# Selecting your Keyword(s)

Identify keywords or terms from your topic. When possible, identify additional keywords from related issues that you would like to address in your paper.

Look at the sample topics below and identify how we can pullout keywords.

## Sample Topics

Should DDT be re-approved for use in the wake of recent bedbug outbreaks across the country?

**Keywords:** DDT, Bedbug, side-effect/environment

Should juvenile offenders be tried and punished as adults?

**Keywords:** Juvenile Offender; Punishment

# Selecting your Keyword(s) continued...

## Sample topics

Social Media usage limits workplace productivity and contributes to lost earnings.

Keywords: Social Media; Workplace; Productivity

What are the social consequences of physical and verbal abuse and social neglect for children's life chances and socialization opportunities?

Keywords: Abuse/Neglect; Children; Social consequences

Genetic testing can be used to diagnose birth defects in the developing fetus or to determine if someone possesses the genetic defects which would predispose them to develop certain diseases later in life, such as Huntington's chorea or early onset Alzheimer Disease. What are some of the ethical implications of genetic testing?

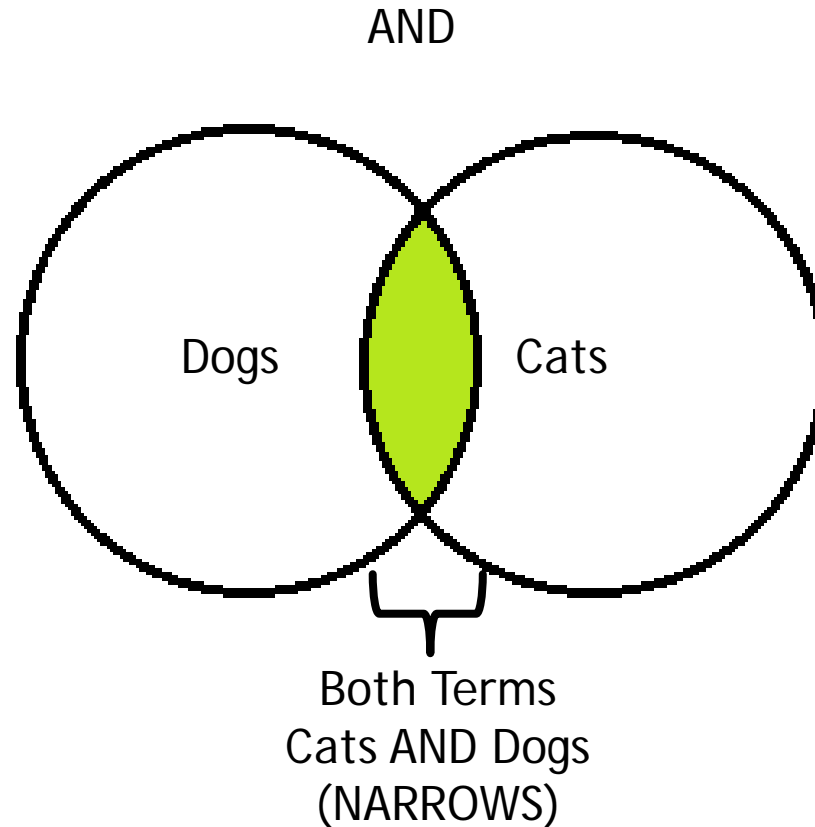
Keywords: Genetic testing; Ethical implications; Birth defects

# Boolean Operators

Use Boolean Operators to help connect your search terms in order to broaden or narrow your search results.

## AND

Use **AND** to combine your search terms and narrow your search. This is useful when you want to ensure that two or more terms appear in each article. Cats **AND** Dogs will appear in all articles.



Sample search:

homelessness **AND** youth **AND** drugs

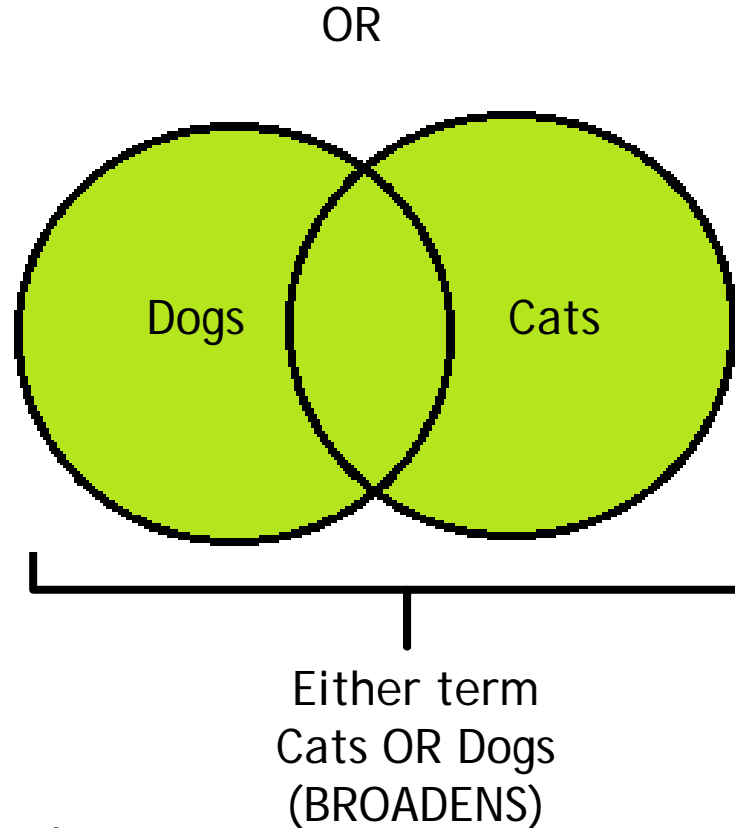
All articles retrieved will contain the three terms used

# Boolean Operators

Use Boolean Operators to help connect your search terms in order to broaden or narrow your search results.

## OR

Use **OR** to connect search terms and broaden your search. This is useful when searching for synonyms or similar terms. Cats OR Dogs will retrieve articles that talk about either Cats, Dogs, or both



For example:

youth **OR** teenagers **OR** adolescent

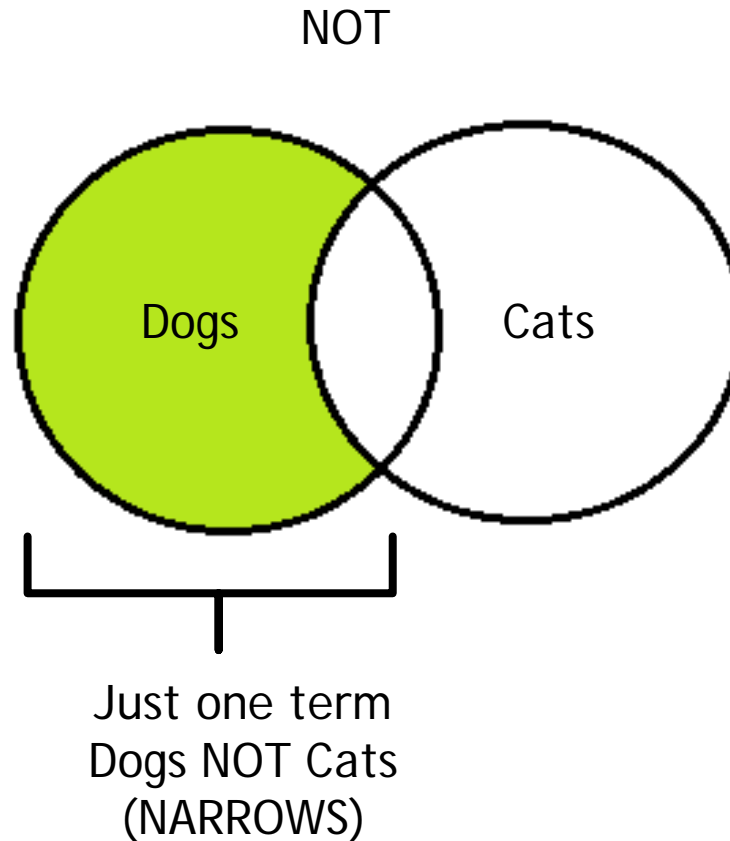
Articles retrieved will contain one, two or all three terms used.

# Boolean Operators

Use Boolean Operators to help connect your search terms in order to broaden or narrow your search results.

## NOT

Use **NOT** to exclude a term from your search results. Dogs NOT Cats will retrieve only articles that mention dogs and eliminate ANY article that talks about Dogs AND Cats.



For example:

eating disorders **NOT** anorexia nervosa

Articles retrieved will contain information about eating disorders, but will exclude the term *anorexia nervosa* .

# Boolean Operators

Use Boolean Operators to help connect your search terms in order to broaden or narrow your search results.

## AND & OR

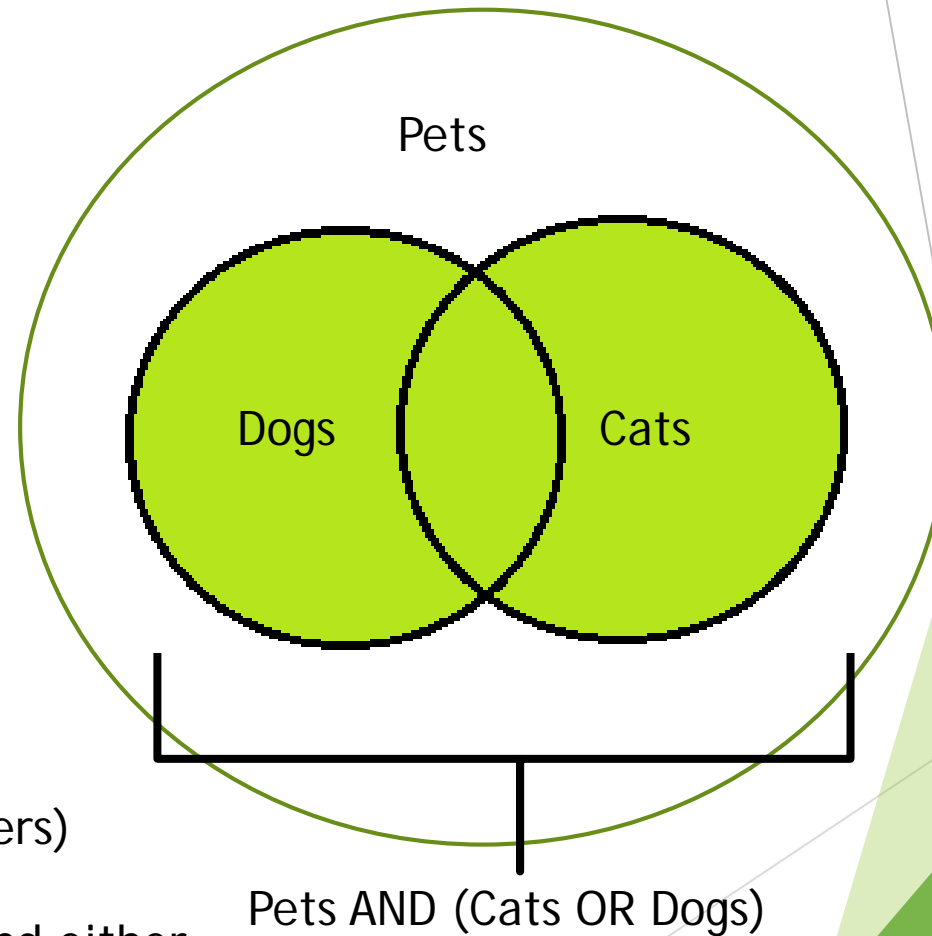
Use both **AND** & **OR** for advanced searching.

**AND** narrows your search by combining two terms, while **OR** broadens your search to encompass similar/synonymous terms. **Pets AND (Cats OR Dogs)** will retrieve articles that talk about **Pets AND** mentions either **Dogs OR Cats**.

For example:

homelessness **AND** (youth **OR** teenagers)

All articles retrieved will contain homelessness and either one or both terms in the bracketed phrase.



# Use Truncations to Broaden your Search

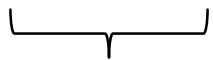
Add the truncation mark \* to the end of the root of a word e.g. adolescen\*. This broadens your search to include all words that begin with the root e.g. adolescent, adolescents, adolescence.

The \* is useful when appended to the singular form of a word in order to get both the singular and plural forms.

For example: *child*\* will retrieve articles that include the keywords *child*, *children*.

Further Examples

Psycholog\* = Psychology, Psychologist, Psychological, Psychologically



Root of word



# Limit to Peer-Reviewed Articles

Peer-reviewed journals are distinguished from magazines and newspapers by a number of characteristics:

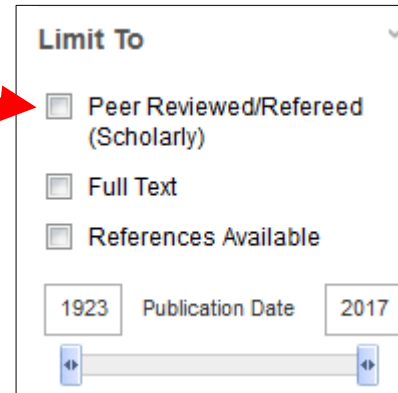
- ▶ They have editorial boards made up of experts in the field.
- ▶ Articles are research-based.
- ▶ Articles end with a list of references.
- ▶ Language is specialized, in keeping with the language of the discipline.

By contrast, magazines are geared towards the general public. They are often glossy, have advertisements, and do not include reference lists. See the document about [scholarly journals](#) for more details

# Limit to Peer-Reviewed Articles

Most databases provide the option to limit your search results to peer-reviewed journal articles.

Peer Reviewed  
Journal Limiter



The image shows a 'Limit To' dropdown menu with three options: 'Peer Reviewed/Refereed (Scholarly)', 'Full Text', and 'References Available'. A red arrow points to the first option. Below the options is a 'Publication Date' range from 1923 to 2017 with a slider.

Limit your search to peer-reviewed journal articles if your research assignment requires the use of scholarly articles.

The terms peer-reviewed, refereed and scholarly are used interchangeably.

# Note Subject Headings

When you find articles that are suitable for your paper, check the subject headings assigned to them (listed on the detailed record screen). These subject headings are the words used by the database to describe the concepts you are researching. Use them to achieve better search results.

When the search term you used initially is not listed in the subject headings, try another search, using the subject headings that address your topic.

For example: in the [Academic Search Complete](#) database, the subject heading used for

*body language* = *nonverbal communication (psychology)*

KEYWORD                      SUBJECT HEADING

# Check the Reference List for Additional Citations

Check the reference list at the end of peer-reviewed articles for additional books and articles you may want to use to further your research.

## References

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