Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT) are fundamental to database logic. Use them between your search terms to combine or exclude keywords, which will produce more focused results.

**Use AND in a search:**
- To narrow your results
- Tell the database that ALL search terms must be present in the result records
- Example: college athletes AND compensation

![Venn diagram showing college athletes and compensation](image)

- The darker blue area of the Venn diagram represents the results for this search

**Use OR in a search:**
- To search for two or more similar concepts (synonyms)
- To broaden your results
- Tell the database that ANY of your search terms can be present in the result records
- Example: cloning OR reproduction

![Venn diagram showing cloning and reproduction](image)

- The gray shaded area of both circles of the Venn diagram are the results for this search because either search term can be present

**Use NOT in a search:**
- To narrow your results by excluding words from your search
- Example: ecology NOT pollution

![Venn diagram showing ecology and pollution](image)

- The blue area of the Venn diagram represents the results for this search because the term pollution is excluded

Reference: