

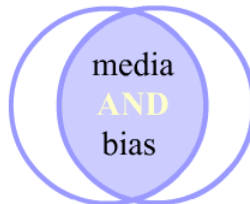
## Boolean Logic, Truncation, and Nesting

### What is Boolean logic and searching?

Boolean searching can really help you find the information you need more efficiently and effectively. Searching using Boolean logic is a way of searching that allows you to link search terms together and/or limit to a specific topic. The words **AND**, **OR**, and **NOT** are the most common Boolean operators that you can use to help structure your searches better.

### AND

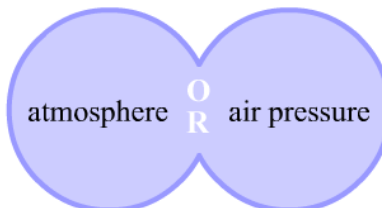
Using AND limits searches by telling the search tool (catalog, database, or search engine) to find items with 2 or more unique terms, and the results **MUST** have all of the terms. The more terms connected by AND, the fewer results will be retrieved. It is also the most commonly used operator. Most search tools use it as the default operator.



*Media AND bias* retrieves items that must have both terms.

### OR

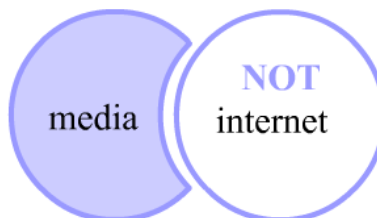
Using OR expands searches by telling the search tool to find items that include any of the search items. At least **ONE** of the terms must be present in each result. It is common to use it when 2 or more terms are used for the same general concept (i.e. teenager or adolescent).



*Atmosphere OR air pressure* retrieves all items that have at least one of these terms.

### NOT

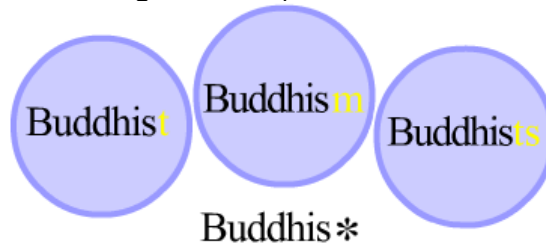
Using NOT restricts searches by telling the search tool to reject items that include certain term(s). NOT finds records with the first term and then excludes records containing the second term. It is useful when a word has multiple uses in different fields, but you are seeking only one of those meanings (i.e. virus not computer).



*Media NOT internet* retrieves all items with media and then removes items from those results that have internet.

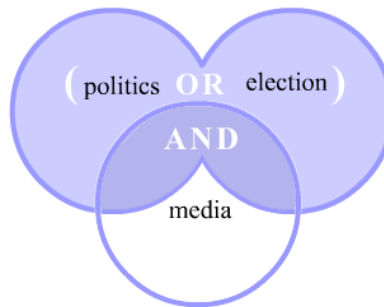
## Truncation

Truncation is the method of searching the root term in one search by using a special symbol which varies by search tool, but the most common truncation symbols are the asterisk (\*) and the question mark (?). This broadens the search by finding all items that at least contain the root term (i.e. educat\* - would search for education, educator, educational, educate, etc. in a single search).



## Nesting

Nesting is necessary when you are using more than one Boolean connector because you need to tell the search tool the order you want items searched. It divides your terms into units like an equation.



***media AND (politics OR election)*** retrieves records that match media that also match either politics OR election.