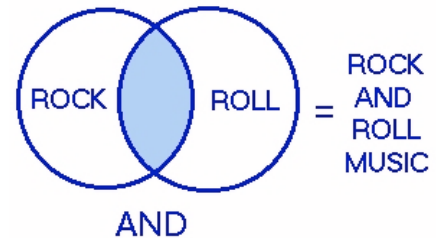


Database Search Tips: Grant Select and COS (Community of Science)

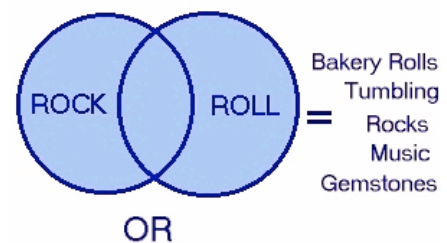
Boolean operators*

Boolean operators are terms that connect and define the relationship between keywords (search terms). The three Boolean operators are AND, OR and NOT.

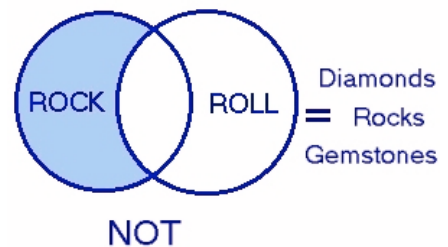
A search for “Rock” **AND** “Roll” will give you results where both of these items are present in the part of the record being searched.



A search for “Rock” **OR** “Roll” will give you results that contain “Rock,” “Roll,” or both of the terms. This means you will have more results, but they may not be in the context you anticipated.



A search for “Rock” **NOT** “Roll” will give you results that only contain “Rock.” This makes sure that none of your results will be about rock and roll music.



Additional search syntax:

Use quotation marks (“”) to indicate a phrase.

Examples:

“rock and roll”
“library science”

This insures that you will find the concept you are looking for and not a record about rolling rocks up a hill or libraries where scientists work.

Use a wild card to ensure you are searching for multiple versions of a term. The most common wild card is the asterisk (*)

Examples: *hea** -- searches for "heat", "heart", "health", "healing", "healthcare", etc.

**Adapted from Bowling Green State University Libraries: <http://www.bgsu.edu/colleges/library/infosrv/lue/boolean.html>*

Tips for each database

Grant Select

Grant Select pre-determines your Boolean operators. For each of the text search fields, the default operators are:

- Keyword: AND
- Description: OR
- Requirements: OR
- Restrictions: OR

Note that the keywords field is the only field that uses AND as the operator. You don't have to type the operator between words, but because Grant Select does not search on words three letters or less, you cannot change the operators in the free text fields.

Grant Select also does not recognize syntax like * or "". It automatically searches for all stem versions of a word.

Check your Subject Headings

Sometimes, opportunities will be indexed using subject headings that you may not have thought of using. When you examine the results from your initial search, look at the subject headings from opportunities that are appropriate to see what other headings you might want to add to your search to get good results.

Search under multiple Program Types

Grant Select only lets you choose one program type at a time for your search. Make sure to search under headings that might be similar. You might find good opportunities under "Scholarship" that you didn't see under "Fellowship."

Search Broadly

Grant Select works best when you search broadly and browse the results. Start with a simple search using these fields:

1. location
2. subject headings
3. program type
4. maybe one keyword

COS (Community of Science)

Specificity

The *Advanced Search* in COS allows you to create very specific searches based on your academic interests and eligibility. The best way to start searching is by using the controlled Search Fields.

Begin by selecting criteria for the two default fields:

1. Activity Location: Choose more locations to select at the State level (recommended for domestic funding)
2. Citizenship

Then add the following:

3. Keywords: Choose browse keywords to select keywords from the keyword folders
4. Requirements
5. Funding Type: If you are unsure what to choose, start with *Training or Scholarship or Fellowship*

When you search, you will see criteria to limit by on the left hand side of the search screen. Look at the popular keywords to see which one you choose appears most often, or if any there are popular keywords that you did not select. You may want to refine your search and add these keywords.

Always check the keywords listed in a record to see which keywords are giving you good results and which keywords you may want to drop from your search. You also may want to broaden keywords to less specific concepts to see more results. For example, if you did not get results searching on the keyword "Violent Crime," you may want to broaden that keyword to Criminology for more results.

Qualifiers

COS also includes qualifiers for some search criteria. These are options such as "Unrestricted" or "Unspecified" that appear under the scroll menu for Citizenship or Residency. These options are turned on by default. You can choose to de-select them for your search, but keep in mind this will narrow your results.