

Advanced Searching in Online Resources: Better Search Results are Easier Than You Think!

Search	Proquest	WorldCat	SIRS Discoverer and Issues Researcher
Exact phrase	Quotation marks Two word queries assume AND Ex: ad campaign = ad AND campaign		Quotation marks
Truncation			
Asterisk (*)	Replace 1 or more characters Use at beginning, end or middle of word Comput* = computer, computing, computation etc....	Minimum of first 3 characters of word followed by * Securit* = security, securities, securitization etc... Limited to 50 index entries—error message will result if search is too general.	Truncation includes alternate word endings such as plurals and tense variations in your query.
Wildcard			
Pound sign (#)		Represents single character Wom#n = woman and women Used after first 3 characters	
Question mark(?)	Represents a single letter Cannot be used to begin a word T?re = tire, tyre, tore etc... Can string multiple ?? together Ad???=added, adult, adopt etc...	Alone or with a number equals from 0-9 additional characters Colo?r = color, colour, colonizer, colorimeter Colo?1r=color or colour Used after first 3 characters	

Proximity/Adjacent Terms			
With (W)		<p>W (with)—finds words in the order typed with specified number (1-25) number of terms between them</p> <p>aluminum w wiring = records containing first aluminum and then wiring with no words between</p> <p>aluminum w2 wiring = records with aluminum first and then wiring with no more than 2 words between</p>	
NEAR/# or n/#	<p>Looks for words in any order within specified number of words apart</p> <p>Nursing NEAR/3 education</p>	<p>n or near between two terms to search for records containing both terms</p> <p>n and number (1-25) between two words to search for records with both terms in any order</p>	
PRE/n or P/n	<p>want these words in a certain number of words but first word needs to be first</p> <p>computer NEAR/3 careers</p>		
Proximity			<p>In SIRS Issues Researcher: Advanced search >> Proximity search option within 5, 10 or 15 words</p>
Plurals			
Plus (+)		<p>Searches –s or –es</p> <p>Search+ = search or searches</p> <p>If form changes use “OR”</p> <p>Mice = mice OR mouse</p>	

Additional Search Resources:

- Bergson-Michelson, Natasha, "Search Engine Results as the First Defense of Authority." *Knowledge Quest* 38.3 (2010): 9-13.(free online here: <http://tothepointresearch.com/publications/predict>)
- Bergson-Michelson, Natasha, "Wikipedia as a Steppingstone Resource." *To the Point Research*. 24 May 2010. (<http://searchme.typepad.com/search-me/2010/05/wikipedia-as-a-steppingstone-resource.html>)
- Predictive search webinars (<https://sites.google.com/site/gwebsearcheducation/invitation-to-next-webinar>)
 - Webinars are archived. Tasha Bergson-Michelson will be presenting some upcoming sessions.
- Proquest Advanced Search webinars (recorded or live—need to register):
- <https://proquestmeetings.webex.com/mw03071/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=proquestmeetings&service=6>
- Russell, Daniel M., SearchReSearch (<http://searchresearch1.blogspot.com/>)
 - Weekly search challenge plus other search posts
- Schrock, Kathy, "Boolean machine" (<http://kathyschrock.net/rbs3k/boolean/>)
 - Visualize the effect of Boolean operators on a search
- "Teaching the Ten Steps to Better Web Research" by Dulcinea Media (<http://www.slideshare.net/sweetsearch/teaching-the-ten-steps-to-better-web-research>)
 - Where to search
 - Try several searches
 - Dig deep for best results
 - Think before you search
 - Make search engines work for you
 - Question—don't believe everything you read!
 - Primary sources
 - Verify source—who published?
 - Why was article written
 - When was information written/last revised?
- Valenza, Joyce, "I hope you'll search (with skill): a revised letter to my grads." *Never Ending Search*. (<http://blog.schoollibraryjournal.com/neverendingsearch/2011/06/08/i-hope-youll-search-with-skill-a-revised-letter-to-my-grads/>)