

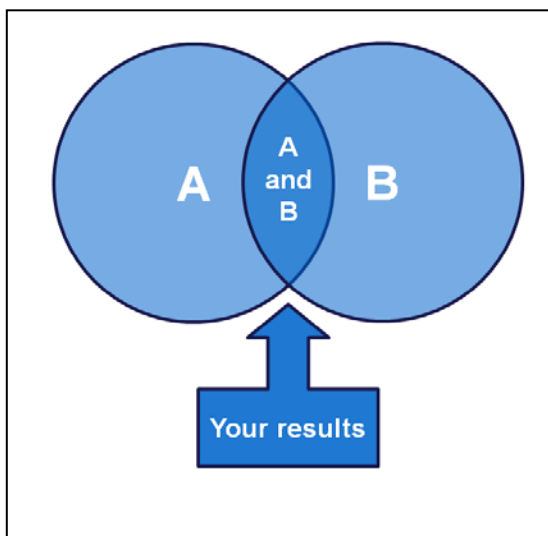


### Boolean Operators are

- Words used to connect terms and phrases to search for information.
- They include the words AND, OR, NOT, and occasionally XOR.
- They can be used with search engines, online library catalogs, databases, etc.

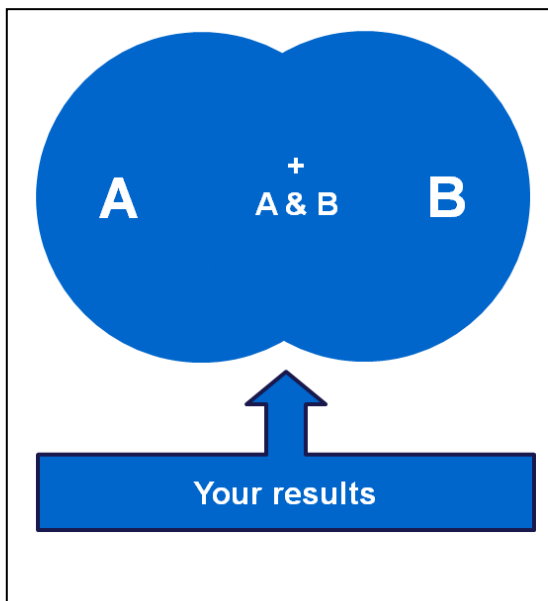
### AND

- Combines search terms to find occurrences of both in a set of results.
- A search for “A and B” will get results that will include both.



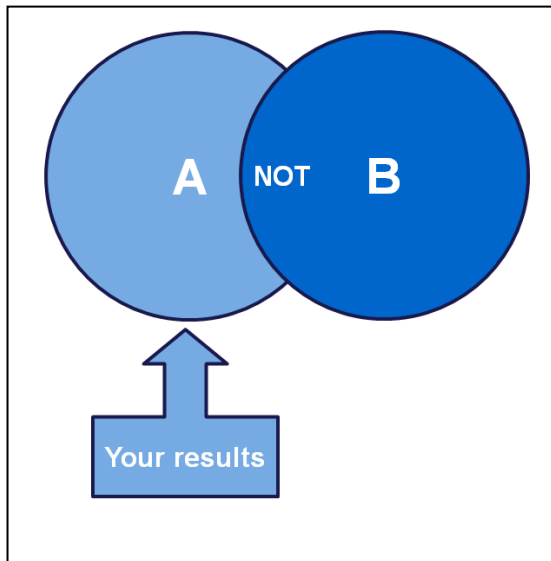
### OR

- Searches for ALL occurrences of all terms used.
- Searching for “A or B” will get results that include A, B, and A & B combined.



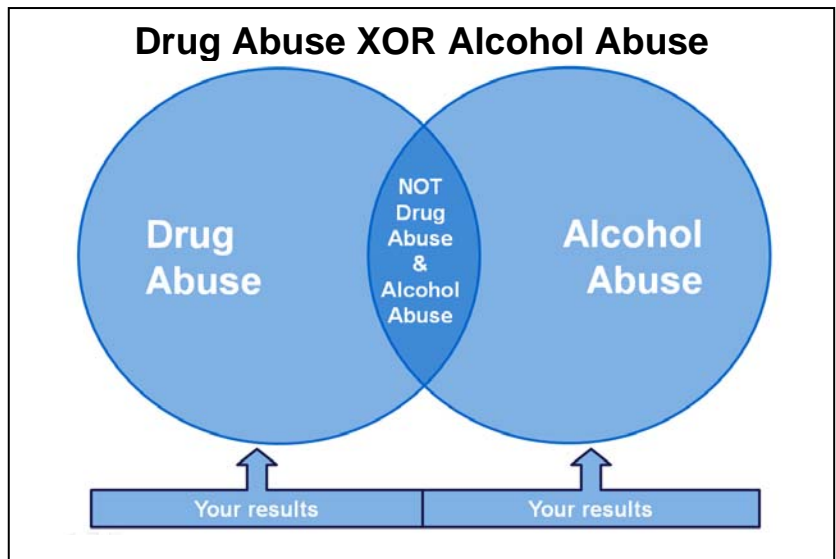
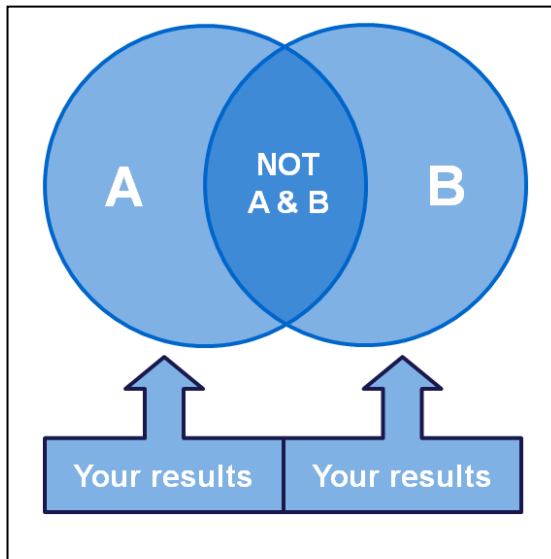
## NOT

- Searches for the 1<sup>st</sup> term, but excludes results that include the 2<sup>nd</sup> term.
- “A not B” will find A, but will eliminate any results where A & B are found together.



## XOR

- Searches for the 1<sup>st</sup> term or the 2<sup>nd</sup>, but will exclude occurrences of both.
- A search for “A xor B” will get results that will include A or B, but not A and B together.



## Using Boolean Operators

- Words and phrases used to search for information should have some logical relationship or connection, such as drug abuse and alcohol abuse.
- OR can be used to search for spelling variations, e.g., theater OR theatre, or synonymous terms, e.g., influenza OR flu.
- NOT can be used as a qualifier or to establish context, such as “aliens NOT extraterrestrials,” or “viruses NOT computers.”
- XOR can be used to search for one or another word or phrase, but not occurring together.

## Searching Tips

- Some search engines and databases assume the use of “AND,” e.g., Google.
- Others may assume “OR,” such as LexisNexis.
- Most will provide options to select which to use, such as our catalog and EBSCOhost databases.
- See the Help sections for individual search tools for more information on how that particular resource conducts searches.

## Was this information helpful?

- Do you have any questions?
- Let us know how we're doing.
- Send an e-mail to [lrc@rpcc.edu](mailto:lrc@rpcc.edu) to tell us.
- Please be as specific as necessary.
- Tell us what you like and/or dislike about this tutorial and our services in general.
- Your comments are appreciated.

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