

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,180

When you search the
library databases

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00:00:03,180 --> 00:00:06,735

such as CINAHL, Web of
Science, and PubMed,

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00:00:06,735 --> 00:00:09,705

you may be asked to
use Boolean operators.

4

00:00:09,705 --> 00:00:11,940

But what are they? There are

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00:00:11,940 --> 00:00:17,535

three basic Boolean
operators AND, OR, and NOT,

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00:00:17,535 --> 00:00:19,050

and they are used to link

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00:00:19,050 --> 00:00:20,760

your search terms together.

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00:00:20,760 --> 00:00:22,740

By using these terms you

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00:00:22,740 --> 00:00:24,660

can either broaden or narrow

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00:00:24,660 --> 00:00:26,010

your search terms in

11

00:00:26,010 --> 00:00:28,875

a database and search
more effectively.

12

00:00:28,875 --> 00:00:31,950

For example, let's say
we're doing research on

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00:00:31,950 --> 00:00:35,305

vaccines and perhaps
also the flu shot.

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00:00:35,305 --> 00:00:36,560

How would we go about

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00:00:36,560 --> 00:00:38,615

searching for this topic?

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00:00:38,615 --> 00:00:40,760

One way we could
do this is to

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00:00:40,760 --> 00:00:43,475

search for each
term separately.

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00:00:43,475 --> 00:00:46,160

If we go into
CINAHL and search for

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00:00:46,160 --> 00:00:48,200

just "vaccines" we retrieve

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00:00:48,200 --> 00:00:51,450

almost 49,000 results.

21

00:00:55,000 --> 00:00:57,500

Alternatively, we could do

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00:00:57,500 --> 00:00:59,750

a similar search
for "flu shot".

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00:00:59,750 --> 00:01:01,220
Conducting that search for

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00:01:01,220 --> 00:01:02,405
flu shot we've achieved

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00:01:02,405 --> 00:01:06,090
just under 650 results.

26

00:01:06,790 --> 00:01:09,170
However, our results will

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00:01:09,170 --> 00:01:10,820
change if we start
implementing

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00:01:10,820 --> 00:01:13,190
our Boolean operators
and run a search

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00:01:13,190 --> 00:01:16,770
for vaccines AND flu shot.

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00:01:24,030 --> 00:01:26,335
Here our search retrieved

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00:01:26,335 --> 00:01:28,465
just over 500 results.

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00:01:28,465 --> 00:01:30,340
Why is this? This is

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00:01:30,340 --> 00:01:32,770
because when you use

the operator AND

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00:01:32,770 --> 00:01:34,705
our results are narrowed.

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00:01:34,705 --> 00:01:36,340
We retrieve the results

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00:01:36,340 --> 00:01:38,395
where vaccines AND flu shot

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00:01:38,395 --> 00:01:39,955
appear in the citation.

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00:01:39,955 --> 00:01:41,530
Basically, the places where

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00:01:41,530 --> 00:01:43,930
both terms overlap.

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00:01:43,930 --> 00:01:47,320
Alternatively, if we
use the operator

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00:01:47,320 --> 00:01:48,940
OR we should anticipate

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00:01:48,940 --> 00:01:50,980
seeing our result increase.

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00:01:50,980 --> 00:01:52,720
Because OR will include

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00:01:52,720 --> 00:01:54,790
any instances that vaccine

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00:01:54,790 --> 00:01:57,265
appears, flu shot appears,

46
00:01:57,265 --> 00:01:59,680
OR they both appear
in the citation.

47
00:01:59,680 --> 00:02:02,280
As you can see vaccines

48
00:02:02,280 --> 00:02:04,130
OR flu shot produces

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00:02:04,130 --> 00:02:06,875
more than 49,000 results.

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00:02:06,875 --> 00:02:09,590
The final Boolean
operator is NOT.

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00:02:09,590 --> 00:02:11,600
A word of caution. NOT

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00:02:11,600 --> 00:02:13,490
should be used
thoughtfully and

53
00:02:13,490 --> 00:02:15,980
sparingly and only
after conducting

54
00:02:15,980 --> 00:02:18,605
multiple searches
using AND and

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00:02:18,605 --> 00:02:21,755
OR often not will eliminate

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00:02:21,755 --> 00:02:23,840

relevant results
simply because

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00:02:23,840 --> 00:02:26,495

the term appeared
somewhere in the citation.

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00:02:26,495 --> 00:02:28,310

NOT is used to remove

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00:02:28,310 --> 00:02:30,680

results that contain
a specific term.

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00:02:30,680 --> 00:02:32,660

So if we want articles
that are about

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00:02:32,660 --> 00:02:35,435

vaccines but NOT
about the flu shot,

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00:02:35,435 --> 00:02:39,575

we would search for
vaccine NOT flu shot.

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00:02:39,575 --> 00:02:41,150

Our results would
be limited to

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00:02:41,150 --> 00:02:43,700

a more focused list.

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00:02:43,700 --> 00:02:47,450

Here we are only
seeing articles about

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00:02:47,450 --> 00:02:49,640

vaccines that
do NOT contain

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00:02:49,640 --> 00:02:52,580

the term flu shot
in the citation.

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00:02:52,580 --> 00:02:54,860

But remember, NOT can

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00:02:54,860 --> 00:02:57,545

limit relevant results too.

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00:02:57,545 --> 00:02:59,420

Now that you understand how

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00:02:59,420 --> 00:03:01,280

Boolean operators work, you

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00:03:01,280 --> 00:03:02,660

can begin applying them to

73

00:03:02,660 --> 00:03:04,040

your searches to both

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00:03:04,040 --> 00:03:06,990

broaden and narrow
your results.