ICGP Library and Information Service

OVERVIEW OF SEARCH LOGIC

(Always check the HELP section of whatever search tool you are using)

Search Tool	Boolean logic	Truncation	Wildcard	Phrase Searching	Proximity Searching	Field Searching	Limits	Thesauri
PubMed	AND OR NOT	*	N/A	" "	N/A	Advanced Search - Use All Fields dropdown menu to select	Pre-defined Limits	MeSH (Medical Subject Headings)
http://www.pubmed.gov								
Google Scholar	+ OR –	N/A	*	" "	AROUND (x)	Advanced Scholar Search	Pre-defined Limits	N/A
http://scholar.google.com								
TRIP	AND OR NOT	*	N/A	" "	N/A	Advanced Search	Date & Filters	N/A
http://www.tripdatabase.com								

Boolean logic: allows you to combine your search terms to either broaden or narrow the retrieval results of a search.

Truncation: allows you to broaden your search by retrieving varying endings of your search terms.

Wildcard: used within a word to search for internal variations of spelling within your search terms.

Phrase searching: allows you to search for an exact phrase using inverted commas.

Proximity searching: allows you to specify the proximity of your search terms. Google's AROUND operator lets you specify how close you want two terms to appear in a web site, replacing "x" with the maximum number of words you want .e.g. obesity AROUND(3) guideline searches for obesity within 3 words from the term guideline.

Field searching: allows you to search for a particular field within the database .e.g. author, title, etc.

Limits: allows you to set parameters in your search resulting in more relevant retrieval.

Thesauri/controlled vocabulary: a set of pre-defined terms assigned by indexers to describe the content of an article.

N/A: not available

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