

BOOLEAN SEARCHING 2.

How to Become a Power Searcher



Nancy Woodward
J.D. Verdery Library
Wooster School

Upper School Information Literacy Instruction

Boolean Logic and Computers

- Boolean logic
 - deals with relationships between sets or groups of information.
- Databases
 - are made up of “sets” of information.
- With Boolean we can decide if a “set” is:
 - **Included** in our search terms.
 - **Excluded** from our search terms.

Terms We Need to Know

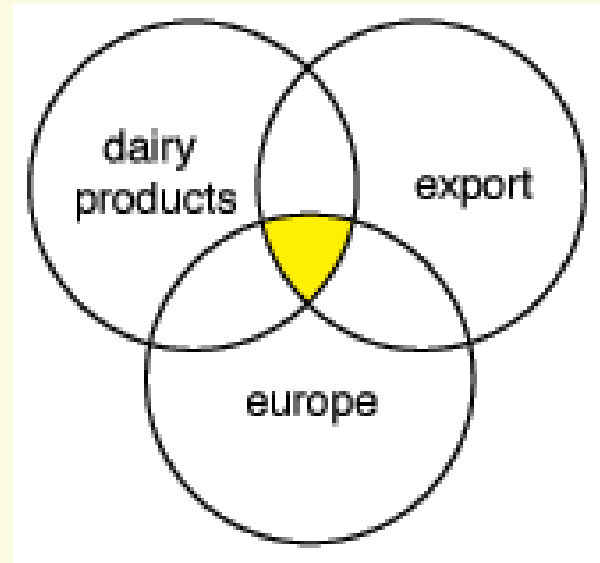
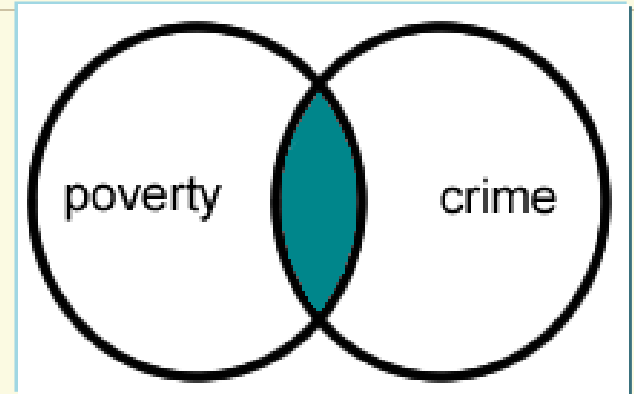
- Search Terms
- Keywords
- Hits
- Venn Diagram
- Boolean Operator
- Database

The Basics

- Most computer based **searching of text** is based on the 3 basic Boolean logic operators.
- AND
- NOT
- OR

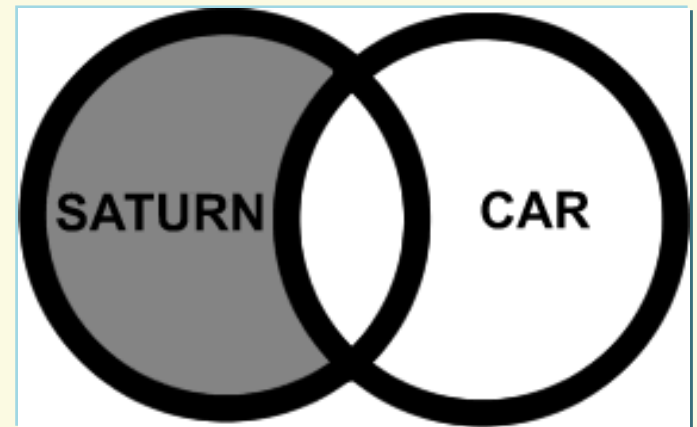
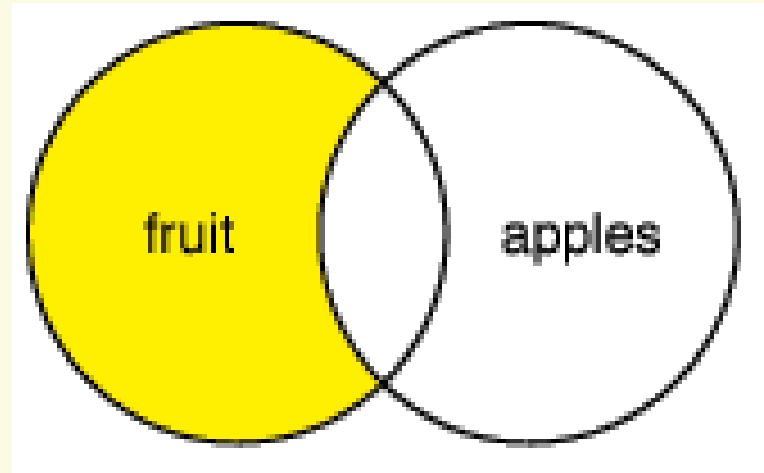
AND

- AND searches for sources that **include both terms.**
- AND gives you a **narrow** search result.



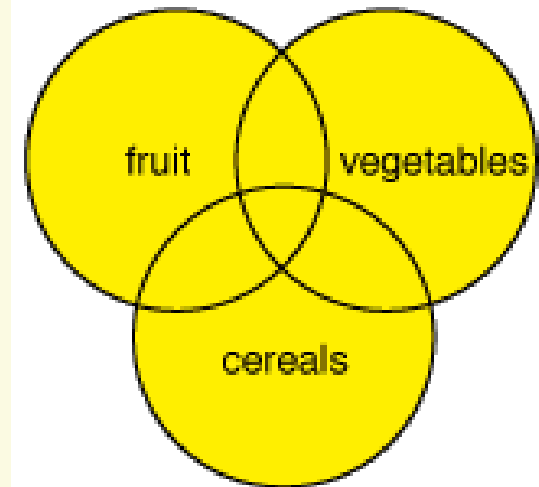
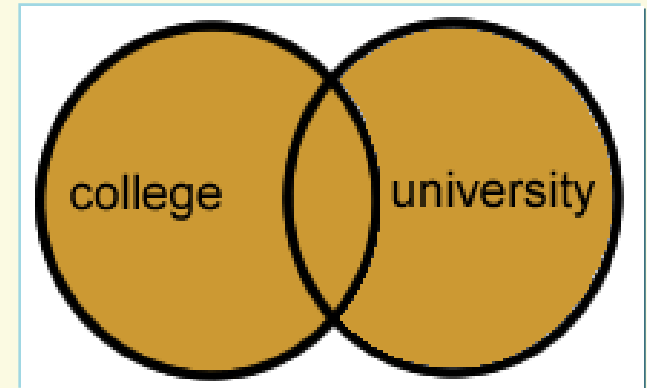
NOT

- NOT **excludes** that term from your search.
- NOT **limits** the amount of information you will get in your search.



OR

- OR searches for all sources of both terms.
- Great for synonyms!
- OR gives you a **broad** search result.



Other Ways to Express Boolean Operators

- +

plus sign in front of words **force their inclusion** in the search

- -

minus sign in front of words **force their exclusion** from the search

Examples

AND weather +hurricanes
 space +astronauts

NO spaces between the sign and the keyword

Examples

NOT weather -hurricanes
 space -astronauts

NO spaces between the sign and the keyword

Google only takes the
minus sign for NOT!

Even More Ways to Express Boolean Operators

- “search terms”
 - AND search
 - also great for phrases i.e. “to be or not to be”
- Build them together
 - “wooster school” +library
 - burbank family -ymca

Examples

AND

chicken AND rice AND recipe

chicken +rice +recipe

“chicken rice recipe”

OR

zeus OR jupiter

NOT

america NOT south

wooster -ohio

“chicken rice recipe” -curry

A spiral-bound notebook with a textured, light brown cover. The spiral binding is on the left side. The text "Thank you" and "The End" is printed in blue on the cover.

Thank you

The End