

## Search Operators & Techniques

This guide is intended for users who have a basic understanding of Boolean logic. Boolean searches can be made in any search field of the Quick, Advanced, or Expert Searches. A complete overview of Search Operators, including detailed examples and diagrams, is found in *BiblioLine's* online help system.

**Note:** The Key Words/Phrases search field is a free-text search of all subject oriented, descriptive text, such as titles, abstracts and key terms. Fields such as Author, Source, Journal Name or Publication Year are not included and may be searched separately. Singular/Plural words, alternate spellings, and variant compound word forms are automatically searched. Use “ ” around the term to specify exact matches and disable variant searching, or truncate terms with \* to search stems of words.

Operator	Sample Search	Finds results (records must contain)
<b>and</b>	<b>habitat and management</b>	both <b>habitat(s)</b> and <b>management</b>
<b>or</b>	<b>man or woman</b>	<b>man (men)</b> , <b>woman (women)</b> or both
<b>not</b>	<b>mouse not computer</b>	<b>mouse (mice)</b> but <b>not</b> also <b>computer(s)</b>
<b>adjX</b> X = numeric value	<b>bilingual adj3 education</b>	search terms are usually within three words of each other, same order, <b>bilingual</b> first
<b>nearX</b> X = numeric value	<b>environment near3 population</b>	search terms are usually within three words of each other, in any order
<b>space</b>	<b>habitat management</b> [any multi-word phrase]	<b>habitat</b> and <b>management</b> , words next to each other, in any order, depending on software Options setting
<b>&gt;</b>	<b>&gt;1985</b>	e.g., Pub. Year field – greater than 1985
<b>&lt;</b>	<b>&lt;1985</b>	e.g., Pub. Year field – less than 1985
<b>&lt;=, &gt;=</b>	<b>&lt;=1985</b>	e.g., Pub. Year field – less than or equal to 1985
<b>to</b>	<b>1985 to 1986</b>	e.g., Pub. Year field – 1985-1986, inclusive
<b>*</b> (multi-character truncation)	<b>employ*</b>	<b>employ</b> , <b>employee</b> , <b>employer</b> , <b>employed</b> , <b>employable</b> , <b>employment</b>
<b>?</b> (single character substitution)	<b>wind?</b>	<b>wind</b> , <b>winds</b> , <b>windy</b>
<b>( )</b>	<b>(child near (rearing or raising)) or parenting</b>	<b>child (children) near5</b> words <b>rearing</b> , or <b>child (children) near 5</b> words <b>raising</b> , or <b>parenting</b>
<b>all/none</b>	<b>all none</b>	finds all records which use/exclude field searched

## Expert Mode Sample Searches

Click on the Fields Guide for a table of Field Tags with corresponding field labels, detailed explanations and index types.

Sample Searches	Explanations
<b>urban renewal and federal aid</b>	searches the Key Words/Phrases search fields (i.e., the basic default index)
<b>la=(French or English)</b>	searches only the language field
<b>la=French or English</b>	search by the <b>French</b> language or for <b>English</b> in Key Words/Phrases search fields
<b>ti=environ* near3 pollut*</b>	searches only the Title field
<b>au=Davidson</b>	searches in Author field for surname
<b>ti,kt=(habitat or wildlife) manage*</b>	searches Title or Index Terms (Key Terms) fields
<b>ti+kt=(marriage counsel* or family therapy)</b>	search criteria must be found in <i>both</i> Title and Index Terms (Key Terms) fields
<b>py=1990-1995 and au=Cooper TA</b>	search criteria must be found in <i>both</i> Pub. Year and Author fields
<b>food (process or prepar*) and la=Spanish and kt=(aquaculture or fish*)</b>	search the Key Words/Phrases, Language, and Index Terms (Key Terms) fields
<b>(#1 or #5) and #7 not rattus rattus</b>	search sets #1 or #5, and #7, but not also about rats
<b>py+jn=none and au,so=all and la=Russian</b>	find Russian language records with no Pub. Year nor Journal Title that have an Author and cite a Source (i.e., looking for unpublished or grey literature)

## General Search Tips

- BiblioLine* does not require the complicated syntax of other search-and-retrieval software; type any phrase or word, add search operators as necessary (search any phrase, whether or not it is found in the Key Words/Phrases search field index).
- The Expert Search features set-searching; you can edit any search-set (current or previous) at any time for maximum convenience, power, and flexibility.
- To search only certain databases of a multi-database title, move to the Database field and insert the database name from the index.

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