

Advanced Boolean Syntax Guide

General Tips for Boolean search construction

1. Build synonym List for each concept
2. Tip: Use Smart Search to generate relevant hits and find alternate keywords + phrases
3. Remember to nest all disjunctive concepts in () in the preview/edit query box

Precedence/Order of Operations

Query expressions are read using specific rules of operator precedence. This means that certain operators are processed before others. While query expressions are read from left to right, some operators are processed before others and impacts the way the search engine treats your query.

The following shows the order or precedence in which operators are processed:

Precedence	Operator
1	ADJ, NEAR
2	SAME
3	AND, NOT
4	OR

Example	Explanation
*	Expander, can be * or *n for # of characters
*20	Expander of up to set # of characters. # = 1-99 Can be used at either end of the target word Ex: *7methyl*7
?	Wildcard, must have a character present
adj5	# of words before another, n # = 1-99
near5	Proximity of words to one another n # = 1-99
same	Within same paragraph
>= or <=	Greater than or equal to (after or before for dates)
.gamma.	Greek command: Searches gamma or γ or Γ
{d} or {v} or {c}	Character = any digit, any vowel, or any consonant