

[Databases selected:](#) Multiple databases...

TAMING TECHNOLOGY; BOOLEAN, SCHMOOLEAN; SUCCESSFUL SEARCHING ON THE INTERNET

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Author(s): Davey, Sharon

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Abstract (Document Summary)

Using OR: Logic collates the results to retrieve all the records containing one term, the other or both. For example, if you were using the terms ?cat? and ?dog? and you type in ?cat or dog?, you will get sites that have the word ?cat?, the word ?dog? and any site that contains both the words ?cat? and ?dog?. Obviously using those words would give you a large number of sites to look through. Another example is of a jobseeker wanting a job that included both administrative or reception work. They could enter ?administration OR reception? to get a successful result.

Full Text (486 words)

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Have you been frustrated when researching a topic on the Internet? Do you get lots of sites coming up that are not appropriate to your purposes? Do you want to get more precise hits? The Boolean Logic system will help. It is a simple and effective system named for the British mathematician George Boole, who demonstrated the logical relationship among search terms. Stay with me on this ? it really is simple!

The Internet is a vast computer database. As such, its contents must be searched according to the rules of database searching. Those rules revolve around the relationships of terms and they are influenced by ?logical operators?.

The three main logical operators of the Boolean Logic system are ? OR, AND and NOT. You can also use NEAR. Let me elaborate.

Using OR: Logic collates the results to retrieve all the records containing one term, the other or both. For example, if

you were using the terms ?cat? and ?dog? and you type in ?cat or dog?, you will get sites that have the word ?cat?, the word ?dog? and any site that contains both the words ?cat? and ?dog?. Obviously using those words would give you a large number of sites to look through. Another example is of a jobseeker wanting a job that included both administrative or reception work. They could enter ?administration OR reception? to get a successful result.

Using AND: In this search, we retrieve records in which both of the search terms are present. We would not find a site that had ?cat? on its own, or ?dog? on its own. We would only get sites that contained both the terms ?cat? and ?dog?.

Here our jobseeker could enter ?accounts AND payable? so that any other accounts work would not be revealed.

Using NOT: In this search, we retrieve records in which only one of the terms is present. So, typing in ?cats not dogs? would give you only records about cats. It would not give you records that spoke of both cats and dogs, or dogs on their own.

A jobseeker wanting a job working with people with intellectual disabilities could enter disabilities NOT physical to limit what comes up.

Using NEAR: NEAR is a restrictive AND. It will be determined by the particular search engine that you're using. It will only give you records where the two (or more) terms are near each other. This is quite useful if you want to look at the relationship between two terms or concepts. For example, if you want to find sites where the relationship between poverty and jail sentences is considered, you could use NEAR. It will be limited by the number of words that the search engine specifies (e.g. some will specify 10 words = NEAR), but it may still be a useful tool for you.

Do some playing around with this and see how it works for you.

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