HANQuest SEARCH OPERATORS

Search operators are used to get more targeted search results. Connectors are used to link groups of words. You can use truncation or stemming to include different word variations in your search, or restrict your search to a specific segment of a document. You can use several operators when you are doing a search. Search techniques can vary by database, which is why we present you with a summary of how to search in HANQuest using a variety of operators.

CONNECTORS

OPERATOR	WHAT IT DOES	FOR EXAMPLE
AND	You will receive results that contain **all** the words you entered	Travel **AND** Europe
OR	You will receive results that include **one or both** of the words you entered	Mouse **OR** Rat
NOT	You will receive results that **do not** include the word you entered **after** the operator	Bank **NOT** Rabobank

Please note that AND and NOT are prioritized over OR. You can use parentheses to make sure that the most important query terms will be processed first.
(Mouse** OR **Rat)** AND **trap
((Mouse** OR **Rat)** AND **Trap)** OR **Mousetrap

N(number)	You will receive results with the given search terms within (as in this example) **five** words of one another, regardless of the word order	Tax **N5** reform *(tax reform, reform of income tax,…)*
W(number)	You will receive results with the given search terms within (as in this example) **eight** words of one another, in the **exact same word order**	Tax **W8** reform *(tax reform)* (but NOT reform or tax income)

You can type in multiple query terms on both ends of the connector, for example:
(baseball OR football OR basketball) **N5** (teams OR players)
Oil **W3** (disaster OR clean-up OR contamination)

"…"	Searches for the **exact** combination of words and word order (phrase search)	**"Clinical psychology"**

TRUNCATION

OPERATOR	WHAT IT DOES	EXAMPLE
?	Searches for that term with **any letter** of the alphabet in the location of the **?**	Ne**?**t *(neat, nest, next, etc.)*

#	Searches for the search term as well as other terms where there may be an **additional letter** in te location of the **#**	Colo#r *(color, colour)*
*	Searches for the search term as well as all other terms that share the **same beginning letters** put before the *	Comput* *(computer, computing, etc.)*

It is not possible to place these operators before your search term

OTHER

Singular or plural	Search for both singular and plural forms in one search query, thereby including regional spelling (color/colour), acronyms and synonyms. Unless you have used a phrase search or wildcards (truncation)	Under Search Options, select "Apply related words"
Expanders	Use expanders to broaden your search	Under Search Options, select "Apply related words" and "Apply equivalent subjects"
Limiters	Use limiters to narrow your search	Under Search Options under "Limit your results", select Full Text and Peer Reviewed, and fill in the date at "Date Published"
Segments		Under Advanced Search, select the field in which your search term should appear (author, title, abstract, subject terms, all text, etc.)

For more information, click on the HANQuest Help Function (?).

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