

Search Operators

Boolean Operators

Boolean operators can be used as conjunctions to combine or exclude search terms in a search, resulting in more focused and productive results.

- Operators allowed: **AND**, **OR**, and **NOT**.
- Boolean operators must be typed in ALL CAPS.
- Type Boolean operators when searching **text** fields (All Fields, Title, Author, etc.).
- Select from the Boolean popup when searching **AutoComplete** fields (Keywords & Region/Country). [See more help on this topic](#)

AND

The AND operator is the default conjunction operator. AND finds records where both terms exist in the same record or the same field.

Example

To search for records that contain "*population distribution*" and "*West Africa*" type: "**population distribution**" AND "**West Africa**".

Note: If multiple words are entered without a Boolean operator and are not enclosed with quotes, the default is **AND** between each word. For example, typing **family planning** searches for **family AND planning** (not **family OR planning**; not "**family planning**").

OR

The OR operator finds a record if either of the terms exist in a single record. This type of search typically retrieves more results than if you searched for one of the terms on its own.

Example

To search for records that contain either "*population distribution*" or *geography* or both terms, type: "**population distribution**" OR **geography**.

Note: If you want to search for the word 'or' in a phrase, such as 'black or white', you should type the phrase into the search box and enclose it in double quotes; for example, "**black or white**."

NOT

The NOT operator finds all records that contain the first search term but not the second. Use this operator with caution. It excludes the search word immediately following **NOT**.

Example

To search for records that contain the word *paraprofessional* but do not contain *technician*, type: **paraprofessional NOT technician**.

Note: The NOT operator cannot be used with just one term. For example, the following search will return no results: **NOT technician**.

Using parentheses with Boolean operators

You can use parentheses to specify the order in which POPLINE finds your search terms, terms in parentheses are searched first.

Example

If you want to find records that either contain the words "family planning" AND contain the words "youth*", "teen*", or "adolescen*" type: **"family planning" AND ("youth* OR "teen*" OR "adolescen*")**

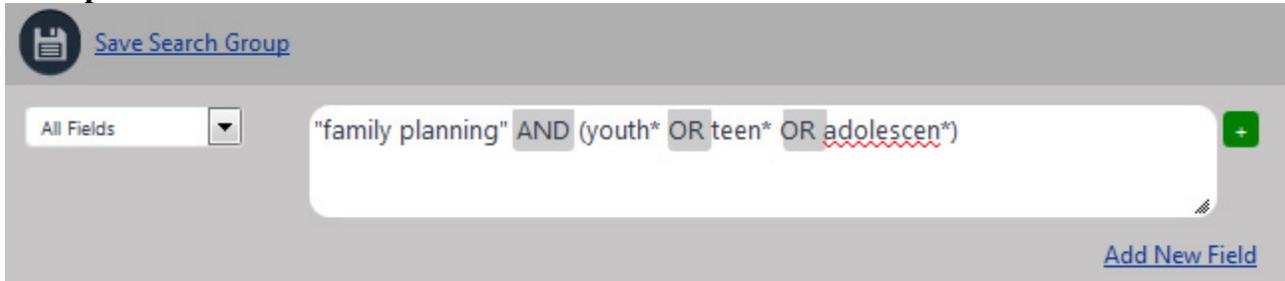
Using Boolean Operators in Text Fields

When typing your search criteria into a text field, type the Boolean operator in all CAPS. The Advanced Search form will automatically highlight Boolean operators. See example below.

For complex searches using multiple operators and/or using parentheses to group search terms, this feature helps the user visualize how their search terms are combined and in which order the terms will be searched.

Note: You can combine multiple Boolean operators **AND**, **OR**, and **NOT** any way you like in **text fields only**.

Example:



The screenshot shows a search interface with a "Save Search Group" button, a dropdown menu set to "All Fields", and a search input field containing the query: "family planning" AND (youth* OR teen* OR adolescen*). The Boolean operators are highlighted in grey. A green plus button is on the right of the input field, and an "Add New Field" link is at the bottom right.

Using Boolean Operators in AutoComplete Fields (Keywords and Region/Country)

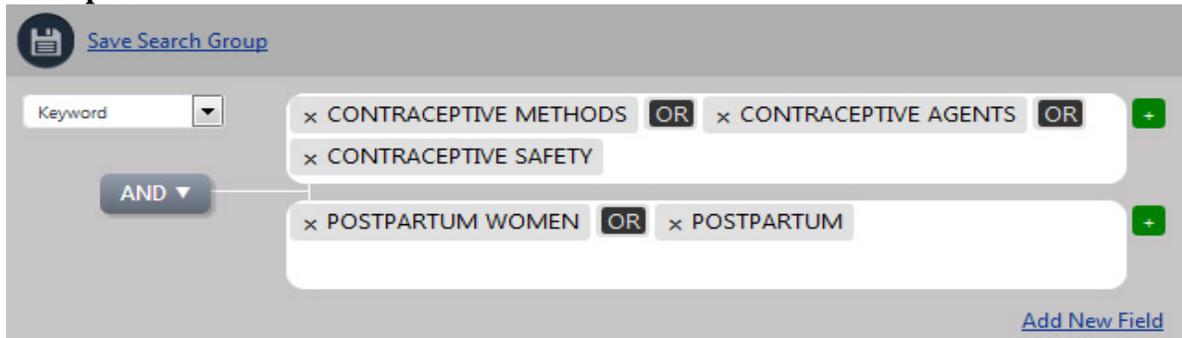
The Keyword and Region/Country fields utilize an AutoComplete or pop-up box to help you discover terms/phrases that can be search in that field. Once you begin typing your search term into the Keyword or Region/Country field:

- Select the term you wish to add from the index.
- The Boolean popup will appear.
- Select a Boolean operator (**AND**, **OR**, **NOT**).
- The Boolean popup will disappear allowing you to type your next term.
- Once you are finished adding search terms, hit the space bar to remove the Boolean popup from the search field. **Note:** If you selected a Boolean after your last search term, you can back space to remove.

- Click anywhere in the search box and the Boolean popup will reappear.
- To change an operator, click on an existing Boolean and the Boolean popup will reappear over that operator.
- To remove a search term, click on the X to the left of the term.

Note: there can be **only one** Boolean operator type combining terms in Keywords and Region/Country. To use multiple Boolean types, add another field.

Example:



Wildcard Searches

To perform a single character wildcard search use the ? symbol. For example, to search for "woman" or "women" you can use the search: **wom?n**.

Note: You cannot use a * or ? symbol as the first character of a search.

To perform a multiple character (0 or more) wildcard search use the * symbol. You must type at least the **first three** characters of the word. For example, to search for *report*, *reporting*, *reports*, or *reporter*, you can type: **report***

Note: You **cannot use wildcards** in Advanced Search fields that have the autocomplete feature, such as Keyword or Country/Region.

Proximity

POPLINE's proximity search can find one word within a certain distance of another word. Enclose both words you are searching in quotes. Wildcards are not supported. Use the tilde, "~", symbol and a number to specify that search words appear within that specified number, or fewer, of intervening words.

For example, searching "*hiv prevalence*" ~3 will find the phrases: prevalence of **HIV**, **HIV prevalence**, and **HIV infection prevalence**.

Note: For proximity searches, exact matches are proximity zero, and word transpositions are proximity 1.