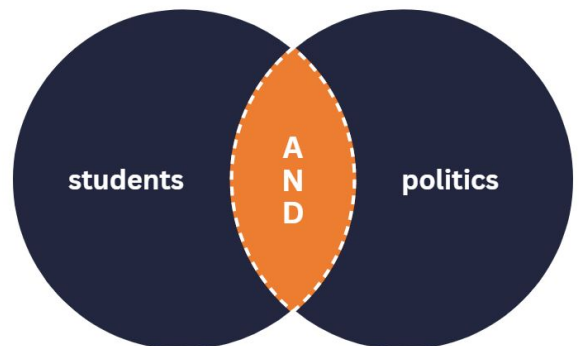


The Boolean operators of **AND**, **OR**, and **NOT** are used to combine words or phrases when searching library databases and search engines.

Boolean operators can help you quickly find relevant results for your research.

AND is the most commonly used Boolean connector.

- Use **AND** to narrow or limit your search.
- When using **AND**, only articles that contain ALL of the search terms will be returned in the results.
- Example: In this diagram, only the items about both students **AND** politics will be included in the search results.



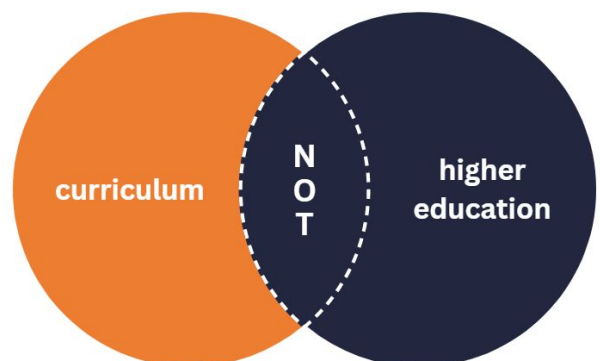
OR is used to broaden your search.

- **OR** is most useful when combining synonyms or words with similar meanings. When you use **OR**, articles with *any* of your search terms will be returned in the results (this can many).
- Example: Addiction **OR** drug abuse **OR** alcoholism will retrieve articles that include any one of these search terms.



NOT is used to eliminate a keyword and will reduce the number of results returned.

- Using **NOT** helps when one term is often used with another term in a context that is irrelevant to you.
- Use caution when using **NOT** because you can eliminate potentially useful results.
- In this diagram, only the results that do not mention higher education will be returned.



For further assistance, contact the Bryan Librarian at: library@bryanuniversity.edu or 602.838.7312.