

Database Search Tips for Selected Vendors

HTML Version

	EBCSCO	JSTOR	LexisNexis news databases only	Ovid	Web of Science/ISI	SilverPlatter	WilsonWeb
truncation	* (any or no characters)	& (to search the singular or plural form of the word)	! (any or no characters) * (exactly one character)	\$ (any or no characters) \$N*	* (any or no characters)	* (any or no characters)	* (any or no characters)
wildcard (may be used within a word)	? (one character; may use multiple ?s)	? (stands for exactly one character) * (stands for any or no characters)	* (one character anywhere; may use multiple *s)	? (one or no character) ?N*	* (any or no characters) ? (one character) \$ (one or no character)	? (one or no character)	* (any or no characters) ? (one or no character)
phrase search	done by default	bind phrase with "..."	done by default	done by default	bind phrase with "..."	done by default	bind phrase with "..."
search operators	and, or, not NN, WN*	and, or, not	and, or, and not	and, or, not	and, or, not same	and, or, not, adj, near, with	and, or, not
to limit/combine (narrows a search)	use Refine Search	use Advanced Search or use field labels	done by default in news search	use Limit or Combine icons	use Advanced Search or Search History	use Search History to combine searches	use Advanced Search or Search History
Limits to full text?	yes	all full-text	all full-text	some databases	no	no	yes
Limits to peer-reviewed?	yes	no	no	some databases	no	no	some databases
Other tips	For an explanation of search fields, select Database Help .	Be aware when limiting that only 10% of articles have abstracts.	For help, follow the Help link.	To get the best database-specific guides, click Change Database , then click on the i icon.	In author searches, try the Author Index or Author Finder if the name is common.	To select which fields to view, use the Change Display button.	To find the details of the fields used, click Help , then Database Description .

*** Please Note**

N means "substitute any number".
 N=near
 W=within
 Use N to indicate the number of characters to be substituted. (e.g., colo?r finds: color, colour, colonizer , colo?1r finds: color, colour, but not colonizer)

Last Updated: 16 Jan 2008 MS

