

Centennial Science and Engineering Library

Choosing and Using Databases: Using

	Boolean Operators	Truncation & Wild Cards	Field Searching	Limiting	Browseable Index?	Proximity (# = number of words apart.)	Phrase Searching
Cambridge Scientific Abstracts (GeoRef, Environmental Sciences)	explicit and , or , and not (or separate lines)	* right truncation or internal; ? single character	by pull-down menus	year	yes	within # near=within 10	yes, implied
EBSCO Host (Academic Search Elite, Psych-Info, Inspec)	explicit and , or , not	? internal, * right truncation	2-letter field codes or separate lines in advanced	yes: full-text, date range, etc.	no	n#, w#	implied
FirstSearch (Applied Science & Technology, Gen Science)	basic: explicit and or or (limit of 2 "or"s) adv: separate lines	+ simple plurals ("s" or "es"); * right truncation	by pull-down menus	varies; often language, time period, publ. type	yes	n#, w#	[word] w [word]
Google	and implied; logical or + for required	no	no	- (minus sign) to exclude; category (Google); domain; .pdf	no, but can select image or document type	no	"in quotes"

Ingenta (formerly UnCover Web)	implied and ; explicit and, or, and not, but not	* (right truncation)	no	no	browse list in results	no	no
Lexis-Nexis	explicit	! right truncation * single character, internal or right truncation		date, publications		w/# (either order)	implied
Libros word searches	implied and ; explicit and, or, not	* (right truncation)	Libros: yes, from main menu	yes	no	no	no
Gale Group Infotrac	and, or, not, + = and, - = not	* right truncation ? one character	pull-down menus	full-text date, refereed, publication type	subject, journal	no	implied on each line, use quotes
SciSearch	explicit and, or (or separate lines)	auto stemming (verb tenses and plurals) on stems of ≥4 chars. or explicit *; use ? for authors	by pull-down menus	language, time period, document type	cited author browse	<near/#>	“in quotes”
Silver Platter (Biosis, Zoological Record)	explicit and, or, not	* multiple characters, internal or right; ? single character, internal or right	“in [field code]”	same as field search; use search builder for more control	select index button; pull-down menu to select field; thesaurus	near (same sentence); with (same field); near#, with#, adj	yes, implied
U.S. Patents	explicit and, or, not in advanced; pulldown box in quick search	\$ in advanced search; * in Manual of Classification	pulldown menus in quick search; [fieldcode]/term in advanced search	date	no		“in quotes” in advanced search; implied in quick search