



How to Use Boolean Operators

This tutorial will cover:

- [What is a Boolean operator](#)
- [How to use AND](#)
- [How to use OR](#)
- [How to use NOT](#)

What is a Boolean Operator:

- Boolean operators are words that are used as conjunctions to combine and exclude keywords in a search. They can be used to connect your keywords together to either narrow or broaden your search results. You can use Boolean operators as an advanced search tool in the libraries' catalog as well as many of the library's databases. There are three basic Boolean operators, AND, OR, and NOT.

The screenshot shows the APPsearch interface. At the top left is the logo 'APPsearch'. Below it is a search form with four rows. Each row has a dropdown menu for the Boolean operator (AND, OR, NOT), a text input field, and a dropdown menu labeled 'Select a Field (optional)'. To the right of the form are buttons for 'Search', 'Create Alert', and 'Clear ?'. At the bottom of the form are links for 'Basic Search', 'Advanced Search', and 'Search History'. A red message at the bottom says 'Please enter search term(s)'.

How to use AND:

- AND can be used to narrow your search results. AND tells a database that ALL search terms must be present in the search results. For example, AND can be

used to search records that contain voter suppression AND gerrymandering AND United States.

- AND tells a database that all of the keywords connected with AND must be present in the search results.
- The triangle in the middle of the Venn Diagram represents the result for this search. It is a small set using AND, the combination of all three search words.

The image shows a screenshot of an AP search interface. At the top, there are search input fields for 'voter suppression', 'gerrymandering', and 'united states', each with a 'Select a Field (optional)' dropdown and a 'Search' button. Below the search fields, there are options for 'Basic Search', 'Advanced Search', and 'Search History'. The main content area displays search results for 'voter suppression AND gerrymandering AND united states'. A Venn diagram is overlaid on the search results, consisting of three overlapping circles: a yellow circle labeled 'Voter Suppression', a grey circle labeled 'Gerrymandering', and a brown circle labeled 'United States'. The intersection of all three circles is highlighted with a black circle. A yellow box with the word 'AND' is positioned at the bottom left of the screenshot. The background shows search results for 'voter suppression AND gerrymandering AND united states'.

How to use OR:

- OR can be used to broaden your search results. OR tells a database to connect two or more similar terms or synonyms. For example, OR can be used to search records that contain redistricting OR gerrymandering OR voter intimidation.
- This tells a database that any of the connected search terms can be present in the search results.
- All three circles represent the results set for this search. It is a big set because any of those words are valid using the OR operator.

redistricting Select a Field (optional) Search

OR - gerrymandering Select a Field (optional) Create Alert

OR - voter intimidation Select a Field (optional) Clear

Basic Search Advanced Search Search History

Refine Results

Current Search

Find all my search terms:
redistricting OR gerrymandering OR voter intimidation

Expanders

Also search within the full text of the articles

Apply equivalent subjects

Limiters

Full Text (Online)

Source Types

Academic Journals

Search Results: 1 - 50 of 48,020

1. **Gerrymandering in the High School Geometry Classroom**
By: Belin, Kate; Ferrell, Courtney. Journal of Mathematics Education in Science and Technology, 2019, Vol. 31, No. 1, pp. 1-14. Academic Journal. PDF Full Text (1.4MB)

2. **Ballot Reform and Economic Voter Intimidation in New York State, 1898-1901**
By: Cohn-Postar, Gideon. New York History, Summer2021, Vol. 62, No. 1, pp. 112-130. Academic Journal. PDF Full Text (851KB)

OR

3. **Explorations in gerrymandering.**
Unstaff, Samuel Luke. Teaching Statistics, Summer2019, Vol. 41 Issue 2, pp. 10-14. Academic Journal. PDF Full Text (574KB)

4. **A Spatiotemporal Compactness Pattern Analysis of Congressional Districts to Assess Party Gerrymandering: A Study with California and North Carolina.**

How to use NOT:

- NOT can be used to narrow your search by excluding a certain term or subject from your search.
- If you are looking for information on voter suppression but not voter registration, you could use NOT.

voter suppression Select a Field (optional) Search

NOT - voter registration Select a Field (optional) Create Alert

AND - Select a Field (optional) Clear

Basic Search Advanced Search Search History

Refine Results

Current Search

Find all my search terms:
voter suppression NOT voter registration

Expanders

Also search within the full text of the articles

Apply equivalent subjects

Source Types

Academic Journals

Limit To

Full Text (Online)

Search Results: 1 - 50 of 22,428

1. **Voting Infrastructure and Process: Another Form of Voter Suppression?**
By: Pitzer, Kyle; Moclendon, Gena Gunn; Sherraden, Michael. Saint Louis Law Journal, Winter 2019, Vol. 63, No. 1, pp. 1-14. Academic Journal. Linked Full Text

2. **Partisan Gerrymanders: Upholding Voter Suppression and Choosing Judicial Abdication in Place**
By: Hill, Frances R., In: University of Miami Law Review, Vol. 71, Issue 3 (2017), pp. 933-958. Language: English. Database: HeinOnline. Subjects: Florida. Find @ ASU

3. **Post-Shelby: Impacts and Issues of Voter Purge and Voter ID Laws**
Mercer Law Review, Vol. 71, Issue 3 (Spring 2020), pp. 857-878. Language: English. Database: HeinOnline. General

NOT

If you have any questions or need assistance, please [contact a librarian](#).