

BOOLEAN OPERATORS – Proximity searches, truncation, wildcard

Boolean operators: Named after the English mathematician George Boole (1815 – 1864).

Boolean operators define the relationships between words or group of words.

Example in Derwent:

Project	Reduction	of	odour	in	piggeries
Search terms	Reduce remove		odour odor malodour		Piggeries Pig farms

Searchprofil : (reduce or remove) and (odour or odor or malodour) and (piggeries or “pig farms”)

Or : (reduce or remove) and (odo\$r or malodo\$r) and (piggeries or “pig farm\$”)

OVERVIEW

Database	AND	OR	XOR	NOT	ANDNOT	WITH	NEAR	BEFORE	SAME
USPTO	+	+			+				
PATENTSCOPE	+	+	+	+			+	+	
DERWENT	+	+		+					+

TRUNCATION / WILDCARD

Database	0 or 1 character	1 character	Unlimited number of characters
PATENTSCOPE		?	*
USPTO		?	\$
DERWENT	\$?	*

Definition of boolean operators and proximity searches.

AND	Term1 AND term2	Records contain all the words it separates
OR	Term1 OR term2	Records contain any of the words it separates
XOR	Term1 XOR term2	Records contain any of the words but not both
NOT	Term1 NOT term2	Records contain term1 but not term2
ANDNOT	Term1 ANDNOT term2	Records contain term1 but not term2
WITH	Term1 WITH term2	Records contain both words in the same field
NEARn	Term1 NEARn term2	Records contain both words separated by at most n words
BEFOREn	Term1 BEFOREn term2	Records in which term2 is preceded by term1 at a distance of at most n words
SAME	Term1 SAME term2	Records contain both words in the same sentence
Blank	Term1 term2	Same as AND
“ “	“Term1 term2”	Phrases – records contain both words as written next to each other
()	(term1 or term2) and (term3 or term4)	Group of terms or phrases combined with Boolean operators (beware of operator precedence!)