

Boolean Key Word Search Primer

The internet is a vast database. The key to finding the right job opportunities is learning an effective to internet search strategy. The Boolean search is an effective way to quickly find what you are looking for online. Here's how it works:

First you want to use one of three standard connecting words in your search. They are:

AND, OR NOT

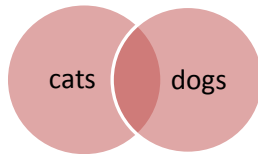
These words are called logical operators. Depending on which logical operator you choose you can either broaden or narrow your online search. The following Venn Diagrams illustrate how the three logical operators will affect your online search.

Suppose you want to learn about cats **AND** dogs.

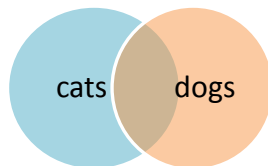
You want to use the search terms: cats, dogs

Connect: cats **AND** dogs

The shaded area represents websites that contain information about cats **AND** dogs. By using **AND** as a connector your top search results will be sites that contain information about both cats and dogs will be your top search results.

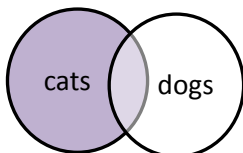


Connect: cats **OR** dogs



The above diagram represents sites you will find if you connect cat **OR** dogs in a search. Some sites will be about cats, some about dogs and some about both cats and dogs.

Connect: dogs **NOT** cats



The above diagram represents sites you will find if you connect dogs **NOT** cats. Your search results will only include information about dogs but not cats.