

Common Online Search Operators

Type of Operator/Function	Example	What You Get
Boolean: OR <i>Equivalents</i> Any (of these)		Retrieves all records with <i>either</i> Martin or Luther or both, in any order
Boolean: AND <i>Equivalents</i> All (of these), +		

Online Search Strategies

Analyze Your Topic

Start with your research question or topic. Break it into the main concepts, and try to identify relevant terms and phrases that describe what you need to look for. Use the following questions to help create a list of terms and phrases:

- What unique words, distinctive names, abbreviations, or acronyms are associated with your topic?
- Can you think of societies, organizations, or groups that might have information on your subject via their web pages?
- What words or phrases are likely to be in any record or web page on your topic?
- Can you think of synonyms, variant spellings, common misspellings, or equivalent terms?
- What broader or narrower terms could include your topic?

Research Question

Social comparison processes seem to infiltrate many group and intergroup phenomena. Why is this and how may they be exploited for practical ends in the work-place?