

5 min guide on

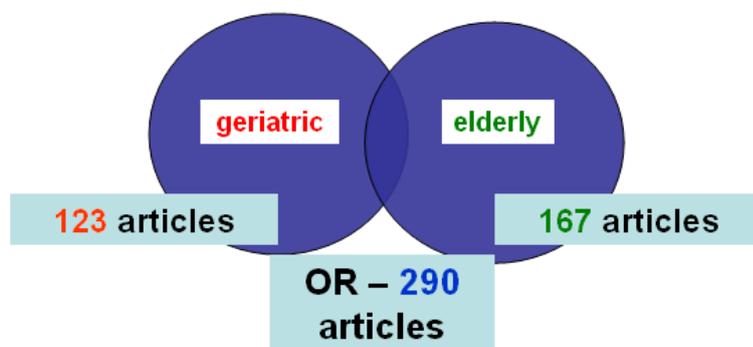
Search tips

Boolean – using **AND** and **OR** to widen or narrow your search

OR always **widens** your search

OR can combine 2 or more words so that it will look for articles where **any of the words** you have typed appear.

This is useful when searching for articles on a subject where authors may have used different words to describe the same topic e.g.
geriatric **OR** elderly **OR** aged
nutrition **OR** diet



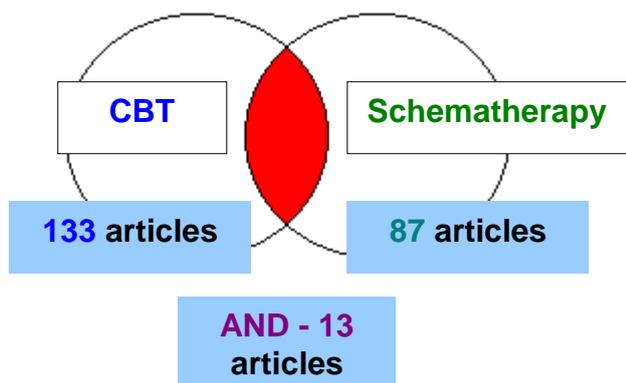
In the diagram above:

- a search for **geriatric** retrieves **123** articles
- a search for **elderly** finds **167**
- a search combining '**geriatric OR elderly**' finds **290** articles.

AND always **narrows** your search

AND works in the opposite way to **OR**. It combines 2 or more words to look for articles where **ALL** the words are included.

This helps to narrow your search to locate articles that cover 2 or more subjects e.g. if you want to compare 2 antidepressants you can search for 'Fluoxetine **AND** Paroxetine' or compare 2 interventions such as 'CBT **AND** Schematherapy'.





“**Speech marks**” search for a **specific phrase**. This will always **narrow** your search

If you are certain that you want to find a **specific phrase** with **no other words** in between or any other variations or combinations you can use speech marks.

Where ‘recovery AND model’ are combined ‘recovery’ and ‘model’ can be found *anywhere* in the abstract of the article. The article could be about the recovery of a boy with chicken pox that was aided by the gift of a model train – and be nothing about the recovery model. However if we specify “recovery model” we will only find articles where the exact phrase “recovery model” is used.

Search term	Hits
"recovery model".ti,ab [Limit to: Publication Year 2000-Current]	277
(recovery AND model).ti,ab [Limit to: Publication Year 2000-Current]	21888
(recovery OR model).ti,ab [Limit to: Publication Year 2000-Current]	1286234

Truncation

Truncation can be used to search for **variations** of a word. This will **widen** your search.

This can be useful when searching for articles that may use English or American spelling or that may address a topic but describe it slightly differently.

To truncate a word type in the root or body of the word followed by * for example:

Behavio* will retrieve

- **Behavior** behavioral
- **Behaviour** behavioural
- **Behaviors** behaviorist
- **Behaviours** behaviourist
- **Behavioral**



N.B. Choose where to truncate carefully!

Psychia* will retrieve

- **Psychiatry**
- **Psychiatric**
- **Psychiatrist**

But **Psych** will retrieve: **Psychology** **Psychiatry**

- **Psychosis** **Psychologist** **Psychiatric**
- **Psychotic** **Psychological** **Psychiatrist**
- **Psychedelic** **Psychopathy** **Psyche** etc!