

## Using boolean operators

Boolean operators let you widen or narrow search results depending on your needs. Moreover, they enable you to establish links between search terms with the following: AND, OR, NOT. Let's see how they're used in the following examples:

### AND

This operator brings back documents containing all the search terms. For example, if we want to search for information on *Twitter* and *Facebook*, we need to enter the two names linked by the operator *AND*. We then get back all documents containing both terms. This operator limits search results.

The operator may vary depending on the database you are using.

For example, a search for '*Twitter AND Facebook*' in Dialnet brings back documents containing both terms.

### OR

This operator selects documents containing at least one of the indicated terms. So, continuing with our previous example, if we want to search for information about *Twitter* and *Facebook* but not necessarily documents that talk about both networks, we would include both terms linked by the operator *OR*. This would bring back results containing both terms and results that only mention either *Twitter* or *Facebook*. This operator widens search results.

The operator may vary depending on the database you are using.

For example, a search for '*Twitter OR Facebook*' in Dialnet brings back documents containing either or both terms.

### NOT

This operator enables us to exclude a term from search results. If we want information about *Twitter* but not about *Facebook*, we combine both terms with the operator *NOT*. This will exclude documents containing the term *Facebook* from the list of results. This operator narrows search results.

The operator may vary depending on the database you are using.

For example, a search for 'Twitter NOT Facebook' in ERIC only brings back documents containing the term *Twitter*.

### **Finally, combining operators...**

We can use more than one operator in the same search. To do this, we use brackets to set the search priority. For example, if we want information about internet and young people or teenagers, we input the following search:

#### **Internet AND (young people OR teenagers)**

This brings back documents about the internet and young people and teenagers. For example, if we want information about young people and the internet but not teenagers, we input the following search:

#### **(young people AND Internet) NOT teenagers.**

This brings back documents about young people and the internet, but not teenagers.

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