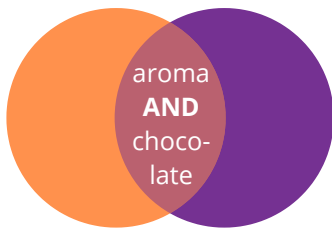


Quick Reference Guide: Search Tools

Combining terms- Boolean operators

AND - both (or all) terms present



Searching: **FSTA - Food Science and Technology Abstracts** | [Choose Databases](#)

aroma Select a Field (optional) ▾ Search

AND ▾ chocolate Select a Field (optional) ▾ Clear ?

aroma AND chocolate Select a Field (optional) ▾ Search

These AND searches are functionally exactly the same.

OR - either (or both) terms present



Searching: **FSTA - Food Science and Technology Abstracts** | [Choose Databases](#)

(flavour OR taste) Select a Field (optional) ▾ Search

OR ▾ Select a Field (optional) ▾ Clear ?

AND Select a Field (optional) ▾

OR Select a Field (optional) ▾

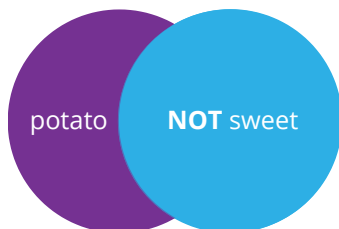
NOT Select a Field (optional) ▾

Advanced Search [Search History](#)

Type OR terms on one line inside parentheses to keep them grouped together as a single concept.

Do not use the drop down menu OR unless you are ONLY searching OR phrases. If you combine one line with OR and another with AND, the database might not combine the terms as expected.

NOT- removes a term



Searching: **FSTA - Food Science and Technology Abstracts** | [Choose Databases](#)

s1 not s2 Select a Field (optional) ▾

NOT ▾ Select a Field (optional) ▾

AND ▾ Select a Field (optional) ▾

Basic Search [Advanced Search](#) [Search History](#)

You can use the pulldown NOT for a simple NOT search, but using search history is a good option for a more complex search. You can combine lines of search strategy by typing the line numbers and NOT in the search box.

Search History/Alerts

[Print Search History](#) [Retrieve Searches](#) [Retrieve Alerts](#) [Save Searches / Alerts](#)

<input type="checkbox"/> Select / deselect all Search with AND Search with OR Delete Searches			
Search ID#	Search Terms	Search Options	Actions
<input type="checkbox"/> S3	s1 not s2	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (27,236)
<input type="checkbox"/> S2	sweet	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (26,175)
<input type="checkbox"/> S1	potato	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (32,186)

Note: Use NOT with caution! It is easy to inadvertently eliminate relevant results with NOT. Using additional AND concepts to refine a search is often a better strategy than using NOT.

Proximity and phrase searches

Near Operator (N#): **N5** returns results where the words are five or fewer words apart from each other, and they can appear in any order. (N3 finds terms within three, N4 with four, etc.)

biodegradable N3 packaging

This search brings back results for packaged in biodegradable, biodegradable packaging, biodegradable active food packaging, and packaging which is biodegradable.

EBSCOhost ignores what are called **stopwords**, such as *and, as, for, from, is, of, that, the, this, to, was, were*. This is why "packaging which is biodegradable" will be a search result for N3 even though the search words are 4 rather than 3 words apart.

Within Operator (W#): **W3** finds words that are within three words of each other, but only in the order you typed the terms.

biodegradable W3 packaging

This search brings back results for would find biodegradable packing and biodegradable active food packing, but not packaged in biodegradable.

Tip: you can also use multiple words with OR on either side of the proximity operator. For example, you could search **biodegradable N3 (packaging or film*)**

Phrase search - quotation marks around two or more words

"lactose intoleran*"

This search returns results that have either the phrase **lactose intolerant** or **lactose intolerance** in them.

Truncation and wildcards

***** - unlimited characters at the end or middle of a word

toxi*	= toxic	tox*y	= toxicity
	toxicity		toxicology
	toxicities		toxicologically
	toxin		toxigenicity
	toxins		
	toxicology		
	toxicological		
	toxicglycosides		
	toxicokinetics...		

You can also use an asterisk (*) between two words to match any single (or no) word

sensory * analysis =sensory analysis
sensory descriptive analysis
sensory-guided analysis
sensory oriented analysis...

Note: You can also use the wildcard symbol # within a word to capture one or no characters (i.e. colo#r = colour or color), and ? to capture one variable letter in the middle of a word (i.e. ogani?ation for organization or organisation).

BUT unless your library has shut the function off, you will find that EBSCOhost automatically returns results containing variable spellings plus plurals. You will get results with colour, color, colours and colors no matter which of those words you type. The same is true with organisation, organization, organisations, organizations.

You can override this automatic result expansion by typing a term inside quotation marks, which will direct the database to search only for exactly what you have typed.