FSTA® on Ovid

IFIS food and health information

Quick Reference Guide: Search Tools

Combining terms- Boolean operators

AND - both (or all) terms present

aroma **AND** choco-late
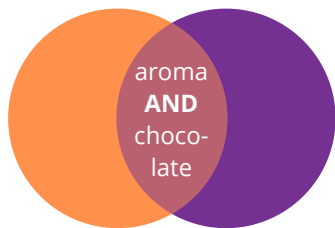
Search each term separately, then select them in the search history and combine with **AND.**

▼ Search History (2)

☐	# ▼	Searches	Results
☑	2	aroma.mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading words]	47146
☑	1	chocolate.mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading words]	14880

Save Remove Combine with: AND OR

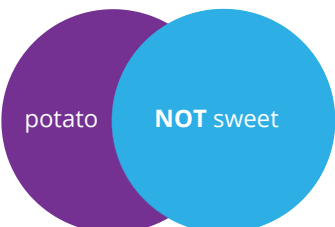| ☐	# ▼	Searches	Results
☐	3	1 and 2	551

OR - either (or both) terms present

flavour **OR** taste

When you combine searches with **OR**, the number of results will be larger than each individual set.

▼ Search History (2)

☐	# ▼	Searches	Results
☑	2	taste.mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading words]	35284
☑	1	flavour.mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading words]	82239

Save Remove Combine with: AND OR

☐	# ▼	Searches	Results
☐	3	1 or 2	99073

NOT- removes a term

potato **NOT** sweet

▼ Search History (2)

☐	# ▼	Searches	Results
☐	2	sweet.mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading words]	22067
☐	1	potato.mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading words]	25252

Save Remov

To run a NOT search, first search each of your terms, then use the **Advanced Search** tab to combine lines from your search strategy.

Advanced Search can also be used for more sophisticated searches. Typing **(1 and 3) not 2** would "and" together your 1 and 3 search sets while omitting results contained in your #2 search set.

Basic Search | Find Citation | Search Tools | Search Fields | **Advanced Search** | Multi-Field Search

1 Resource selected | Hide | Change
ⓘ **Food Science and Technology Abstracts** 1969 to 2020 August Week 3

Enter keyword or phrase ● **Keyword** ○ Author ○ Title ○ Journal
(* or $ for truncation)

1 not 2   Search

Limits (close)   ☐ Include Multimedia   ☐ Map Term to Subject Heading

Combining terms - adjacent terms and phrases

ADJ# - ADJ5 terms are within five words of each other (and ADJ3 within three, ADJ4 within four, etc.)

◉ **Keyword** ○ Author ○ Title ○ Journal

`biodegrad* ADJ3 packag*` | Search |

This search brings back results for **biodegradable packaging**, **biodegradable** active **packaging**, **packaging** which is **biodegradable** and more.

Ovid ignores this short list of **stopwords**: *and, as, for, from, is, of, that, the, this, to, was, were.* It counts each as a space holder, but will substitute any word in its place if you have used them in a search.

Phrase search - "straight quotation marks" around two or more words

◉ **Keyword** ○ Author ○ Title ○ Journal

`"lactose intoleran*"` | Search |

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

Note: Ovid will return an error message if curled quotation marks are copied into the search box from a word document.

Truncation and wildcards

Truncation symbols capture a variety of possible word endings. **Wildcards,** inserted into the middle of words, capture international spelling variants.

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

toxi* = toxic
toxicity
toxicities
toxin
toxins
toxicology
toxicological
toxicologist
toxigenic
toxigenicity
toxicglycosides
toxicokinetics...

▼ **Search History** (6)

	# ▼	Searches	Results
☐	6	1 and 2 and 5	53
☐	5	3 or 4	1335
☐	4	"water stress".mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading words]	1091
☐	3	(deficit adj5 irrigat*).mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading words]	404
☐	2	quality.mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading words]	241413
☐	1	tomato*.mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading words]	19121

*2 or $2 - two characters after a word

toxi$2 = toxin
toxins
toxic
toxics

Mix and match search tools to build an effective search strategy.

? - one or zero characters at the end of or within a word

flavo?r = flavor
flavour

- one variable character

organi#ation = organization
organisation

The **FSTA thesaurus** also captures international spelling variants when a word like flavor/flavour is a key concept in an article. Learn more **here**.