

# Bellevue Community College Library Media Center

## Boolean Search Techniques

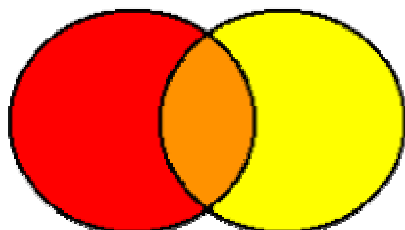
### Boolean Search Techniques

Many electronic indexes allow you to combine your main concepts in various ways using the terms **AND** and **OR** and **NOT**.

#### Expanding your search:

By typing the word **OR** in between two different words, you retrieve articles containing either stress or anxiety.

**Example:** stress **OR** anxiety:

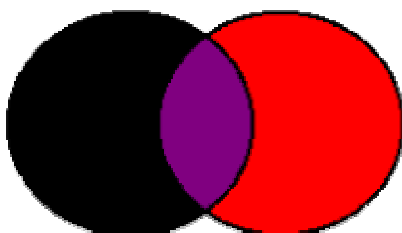


**Search Results include: RED, ORANGE and YELLOW areas**

#### Narrowing your search:

By typing the word **AND** in between two different words, you would retrieve only those articles which included both of these concepts.

**Example:** stress **AND** anxiety:

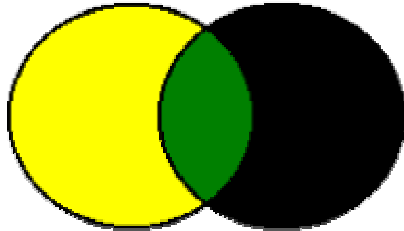


**Search Results include: PURPLE area only**

**Limiting your search:**

By typing the word **NOT** in between two different words, you would retrieve articles on stress, but not any that mentioned anxiety.

**Example:** stress **NOT** anxiety:



**Search Results include: YELLOW area only**

Be careful not to create a search strategy that's too complicated; the more concepts you combine the less likely you are to locate many materials. Start with a simple strategy combining only a few concepts. You can modify it as you go.

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