What is Boolean search?

- Boolean searches allow you to combine keywords and phrases using the words AND, OR, NOT (known as Boolean operators), to **broaden, focus, or limit your search**.

- To produce **good research results**, you should know how to do a Boolean search.

- Boolean searching is built on a method of symbolic logic developed by George Boole, a 19th century English mathematician.
Using **AND** narrows a search by combining terms.
Using **OR** broadens a search to include results that contain either of the keywords you're looking for.
Using **NOT** will narrow a search by excluding articles with that specific keyword.
Using AND OR NOT

- The operators **AND** & **OR** are commonly used when searching.

- Be cautious when using **NOT**. You may inadvertently exclude useful results.

- Keep your search terms or phrases short.

- Stay away from sentence-like structure, e.g. do not say “diabetes in obese adults.” Instead structure your search to say diabetes AND obesity AND adults.
For more information...

- Contact a librarian at Regis College