



## MEDCat – Keyword (Advanced) Search

The new Keyword (Advanced) Search in MEDCat has several new features and capabilities that allow you to perform powerful keyword searches in the Online Catalog. Here is a brief description of what you can do using the new search functionality.

### Boolean Searching

Standard Boolean searching continues to be available using the following operators:

Boolean Operator	Function	Example
<b>AND</b>	Combines different concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• birth control <b>AND</b> developing countries</li> </ul>
<b>OR</b>	Accounts for synonyms, word variations, and either/or scenarios	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MRI <b>OR</b> magnetic resonance imaging</li> <li>• pediatric <b>OR</b> paediatric</li> <li>• art <b>OR</b> occupational <b>OR</b> physical</li> </ul>
<b>AND NOT</b>	Excludes concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• surgery <b>NOT</b> laparoscopy</li> </ul>

**NOTE:** If you do not specify a Boolean relationship, the catalog will automatically AND terms together. If it does not find any results for the AND search, it will then automatically OR search terms.

### Phrase Searching

Phrase searching may be performed in either of the following ways:

Use <b>double quotes</b> “ ” around the phrase <b>Ex.</b> “birth control” <b>Ex.</b> “developing countries”	Use <b>WITHIN 1</b> between the words in the phrase <b>Ex.</b> birth <b>WITHIN 1</b> control <b>Ex.</b> developing <b>WITHIN 1</b> countries
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### Proximity Searching

The number of words that may appear between search terms may be specified as follows:

<b>WITHIN X</b> (where X is a user-specified number) <b>Ex.</b> heart <b>WITHIN 3</b> diseases	<b>NEAR</b> (same as WITHIN 10) <b>Ex.</b> surgery <b>NEAR</b> rehabilitation
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**NOTE:** Words may be in any order.

To specify the order of words, use one of the following:

<b>BEFORE</b> <b>Ex.</b> heart <b>BEFORE</b> diseases	<b>AFTER</b> <b>Ex.</b> rehabilitation <b>AFTER</b> surgery
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### Segment (Field) Searching

To specify the segment or field in which a term appears, use the following:

Use...	to search for...	For example
<b>A:</b>	an author's name	A:goldfrank
<b>T:</b>	a word in the Title	T:toxicologic
<b>S:</b>	a word in the Subjects	S:poisoning – case reports
<b>D:</b>	a word in the Subjects	D:poisoning – case reports
<b>N:</b>	a word in the Note field	N:internet

**NOTE:** Double quotes cannot be used for phrase searching in segment searching. Use WITHIN 1 to search for a phrase when searching a specific segment.

## Truncation

Truncation allows you to replace a letter or letter in a search term to account for variations. A symbol, such as an asterisk, question mark, or exclamation point is used to tell the search engine where to allow variation to occur. When a symbol is used to account for an infinite number of characters, it is often referred to as *wildcard* searching.

MEDCat uses the following truncation symbols:

Symbol	Function	Example
?	Used within or at the end of a word stem Replaces 1 character	wom?n burn?
*	Used at the end of a word stem Replaces 1-5 characters	injur* retrieves injury, injuries, injured, injurious
**	Used at the end of a word stem Replaces more than 5 characters	therap* retrieves therapy, therapies, and also therapeutics, etc.

## Advanced Strategies

Search functionalities can be combined to create very precise search strategies.

Ex. (reproduct\* **OR** fertili\*\*) **BEFORE** technol\*\* **AND** (polic\* **OR** polit\*\*)

Ex. medical **WITHIN 1** ethics **AND** animal?

Ex. (pediatric? **OR** paediatric?) **AND S:nurs\*\***

## Limits

Keyword searches can be pre-limited by location, language, material type, and year(s).

Results can be sorted alphabetically, by date, and by relevance.

**NOTE:** Truncation symbols can be used to create lists of items with available limits. For example, to see what items in the Ehrman A-V collection are in Spanish, type \*\* in the search box, select the appropriate limits (Location = MED A-V; Language = Spanish), and then click Search.