

A **search statement** is used to search library resources. It is made up of **keywords**, combined using **Boolean Operators**: AND, OR ¹

For example, to learn about **vaccine hesitancy** and its impact on **herd immunity**, you might build your search statement as follows:

AND – all keywords or concepts must be found in your list of results

vaccine AND hesitancy

OR – any keyword may be found ²

vax OR vaccine

Quote marks find two or more words always together

“herd immunity”

Truncation * captures any combination of letters to follow

*vaccin*³*

Brackets () isolate a concept ⁴

vaccin AND (hesita* OR resist*)*

To end up with the following **search statement**

(vax OR vaccin) AND (hesita* OR resist*) AND “herd immunity”*

¹ NOT is also a Boolean Operator, used to exclude a keyword: *vaccination NOT autism*

² This is helpful to anticipate how different authors may refer to the same idea

³ This will find *vaccine, vaccinate, vaccination, etc.*

⁴ Brackets – and quote marks – are not needed when there is only one keyword