WestlawNext CANADA

Boolean Searching

To run a Boolean Terms & Connectors search, preface your search with the **adv:** command and include recognized Boolean connectors in your query. Example: **adv: picketing and (mall /p "shopping centre")**

Symbol	Definition
a space (or)	Retrieve any or all terms. **This is the default connector.** Example: **car automobile**
& (and)	Retrieve all search terms. Example: **narcotics & warrant**
/p	Retrieve search terms in the same paragraph. Example: **hearsay /p utterance**
+p	Retrieve the first term preceding the second within the same paragraph. Example: **appeal +p held**
/s	Retrieve search terms in the same sentence. Example: **design /s defect**
+s	Retrieve the first term preceding the second within the same sentence. Example: **palsgraf +s island**
/n	Retrieve search terms within *n* terms of each other (where *n* is a number). Example: **support /3 payment**
+n	Retrieve the first search term preceding the second by *n* terms (where *n* is a number). Example: **justice +3 McLachlin**
" "	Retrieve terms in this same order. Example: **"attractive nuisance"**
% (but not)	Exclude documents containing search terms following the percent symbol. Example: **(support /3 payment % spousal)**
! (Root Expander)	Contains all terms that begin with the root term. Example: **negligen!** retrieves *negligent, negligence, negligently*
* (Universal Character)	Replaces one character only. Example: **gr*w** retrieves *grow, grew*; **jur**** retrieves *jury, juror*
# (Exactly as typed)	Will not contain plurals or equivalents for the term. Example: **#perm** retrieves *perm* (but not *permanent*)

Order of Processing: Connectors are processed in the following order: **" "** (phrase), **space** (or), **+n**, **/n**, **+s**, **/s**, **+p**, **/p**, **&**, **%**. Parentheses can be used to change the order of the search.

TIP: Search the singular form of a word. This automatically retrieve the singular, plural, possessive and possessive plural forms. Example: **child** retrieves *child, children, child's* and *children's.*

Use the hyphenate form to retrieve all forms of a compound term. If you do not include hyphens you will not retrieve all variant forms. Example: **good-will** retrieves *good-will, good will, goodwill.*