**Boolean Operators (Using AND, OR NOT)**

Boolean logic is a building block of many computer applications and is an important concept in database searching. Using the correct Boolean operator can make all the difference in a successful database search.

**AND, OR, NOT**

There are three basic Boolean search commands: **AND**, **OR** and **NOT**.

- **AND** searches find all of the search terms.
  
  For example, searching on dengue **AND** malaria **AND** zika returns only results that contain all three search terms.

  **AND** returns very limited results.

- **OR** searches find one term or the other.
  
  Searching on dengue **OR** malaria **OR** zika returns all items that contain any of the three search terms.

  **OR** returns a large number of results.

- **NOT** eliminates items that contain the specified term.

  Searching on malaria **NOT** zika returns items that are about malaria, but will specifically **NOT** return items that contain the word zika.

  Using **NOT** is a way to fine-tune search results.

  Note: Sometimes **AND NOT** is used; serves the same function as **NOT**.

**Using Boolean Search with Exact Phrases**

If you are searching for a phrase rather than just a single word, you can group the words together with quotation marks. Searching on "dengue fever" will return only items with that exact phrase.