

Searching Informahealthcare.com

The search feature on informahealthcare.com provides various options to help users navigate the site and find related content. Here is a basic overview on some of the search functions:

Exact Phrases

Search for documents containing an exact phrase and enclose the phrase in quotation marks

- For example, to search for documents containing the exact phrase `smoke and mirrors`, enclose it within quotation marks: `"smoke and mirrors"`.

Boolean Operators

Boolean operators `and`, `or`, and `not` allow users to perform complex searches that specify logical relationships among terms.

- **AND** (also + or &) Use this operator to search for documents containing two or more terms
 - For example: `cat AND dog` returns documents containing both `cat` and `dog`.
- **OR** Use this operator to search for documents containing at least one of two or more terms
 - For example: `cat OR dog` returns documents containing `cat`, documents containing `dog`, and documents containing `cat` and `dog`.
- **NOT** (also -) Use this operator to search for documents that do not contain a given term.
 - For example: `cat NOT dog` returns documents containing `cat` but not containing `dog`. Boolean operators are case-insensitive.

Grouping

To group terms, use parentheses around the terms you want to group together.

- For example, to search for documents containing either `cat` or `dog` and also containing `care`, enter the query: `(cat OR dog) AND care`.

Wildcards

Wildcards allow users to construct a query with approximate search terms. Use a question mark (?) in a search term to represent any one character, and use an asterisk (*) in a search term to represent any zero or more characters. There are two limitations of wildcards:

1. You cannot use a wildcard at the beginning of a search term.
2. You cannot use a wildcard in a phrase enclosed in quotation marks.
 - a. For example, a query that includes the term `l?st` finds documents containing `last`, `lest`, `list`, etc. Entering `200?` in a **Publication Year** field finds all documents published from 2000 to 2009. Entering the term `duoden*` finds documents containing `duodenal`, `duodenectomy`, etc. Entering `p*diatric` finds documents containing `pediatric`, `paediatric`, etc.

Proximity

To search for documents containing two or more terms that appear within a certain distance of each other, put quotation marks around the terms followed by a tilde (~) and a number to indicate the maximum number of words apart that the terms can be.

- For example, to find documents containing the terms `debt` and `forgiveness` within ten words of one another, enter the query: `"debt forgiveness"~10`.

Stop Words

Stop words are words such as articles, pronouns, and other connector words that don't normally add value to a search.

- Words like `a`, `is`, `she`, `the`, `that`, and `will` are stripped out of a search query unless they are part of a literal phrase (enclosed in quotation marks). Note that `and`, `or`, and `not` are not stop words but are Boolean operators.

Relevance Boosting

Search results are listed in order of relevance. Users can increase the relevance of one term in a multiple-term query by raising the term's boost factor. Raise a term's boost factor by following the more relevant term with a caret symbol (^) and a number (the boost factor).

- For example, entering the query `cat^7 dog` gives the term `cat` seven times more weight than the term `dog`. The default boost factor is 1. The boost factor must be a positive number. Search terms appearing in keywords, titles, abstracts, or author names are automatically given higher relevance in search results.

Fuzzy Search

To construct a query that includes a term for which multiple spellings may exist, use the fuzzy search feature by adding a tilde (~) to the end of the term.

- For example, entering the term `dostoyevsky~` returns documents containing the variants `dostoevsky`, `dostoievski`, etc.

Plurals

To search for documents containing either the singular or plural version of a term, add an ampersand (&) to the end of the term in the query. The search engine finds all forms of regular English plurals and most irregular English plurals.

- For example, entering the term `call&` returns documents containing `call` and `calls`, entering the term `military&` returns documents containing `military` and `militaries`, and entering the term `mouse&` returns documents containing `mouse` and `mice`.

Stemming

Stemming enables you to search for terms with similar beginnings but different suffixes. To enable stemming for a term, follow it with a hash mark (#).

- For example, enter the term `cell#` to return documents containing `cell`, `cells`, `cellular`, etc.

Special Characters

Accented Characters

Characters match their accented and un-accented variants, with or without accents specified at search time.

- For example, both the term `Georges Matore` and the term `Georges Matoré` return documents containing `Georges Matore` and documents containing `Georges Matoré`.

Unicode Characters

Search forms accept Unicode characters, and Unicode characters are displayed in search results.

Search Results

Text Snippets

When available, search results are accompanied by several words on either side of the first search term, representing the most relevant text surrounding the terms in the search query. Multiple text snippets may display if no one snippet contains all terms in the query.

Text Summary

If a text snippet cannot be found for the terms in the query (for example, if the search is complex), a text summary replaces the snippet on the search results page. The summary consists of the first few lines of the article (usually of the abstract).

Error Handling

When the search engine detects a malformed query, it either fixes the error automatically before the search is submitted or it displays an error message. The types of errors that are fixed or indicated in this way are as follows:

- If a user submits a search without entering a search term, an error message displays.
- If a user enters an opening quotation mark without a closing quotation mark, the ending quotation mark is added automatically before the search is executed. For example, if the user enters the term "cell biology, the query is submitted as "cell biology".
- If a user enters a search composed entirely of stop words that are not enclosed in quotation marks, such as `to be or not to be`, a message displays advising the user to enter terms that are not all stop words.
- If a user enters a query that contains an open parenthesis without a closing parenthesis, such as `(cat or dog care`, the search fails.
- If a user enters a Boolean operator (`and`, `or`, or `not`) at the beginning or at the end of a query, such as `biology and`, the Boolean operator is stripped from the query before the search is executed.
- If a user enters a cover date query in reverse chronological order, for example `from Jan 2007 to Jan 2000`, the dates are reversed before the search is executed.