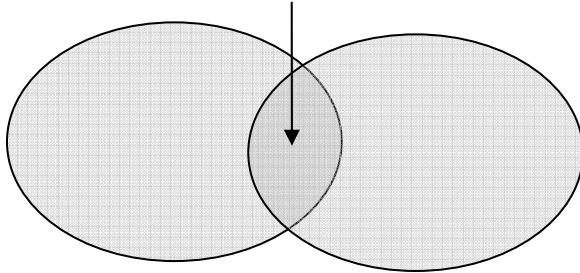


# Search Strategies : Education

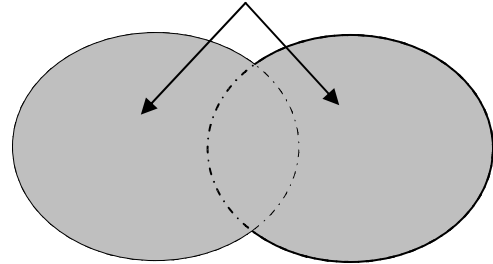
Boolean—using AND, OR, NOT in search strategies

AND – narrow results



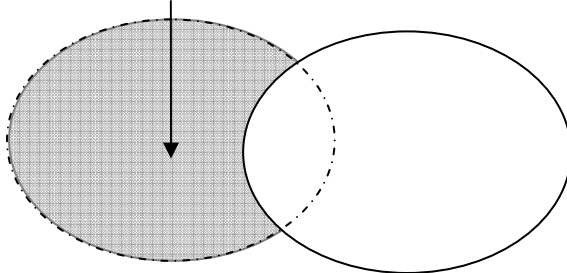
Students **AND** Teachers

OR – broaden results



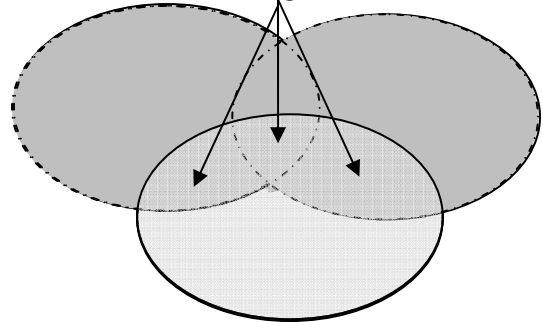
Students **OR** Teachers

NOT – take away part of results



Students **NOT** Teachers

Results using AND with OR



Behavior **AND** (Students **OR** Teachers)

## Typing your own words in the search box & the \*

The database looks for the word(s) you type in the search box; it does not search for plurals or related words unless you type in special codes or symbols. Correctly placed, an asterisk will help find variations.

Behavi\* = behave, behaving, behavior, behavioral, behaviors, behaviour, behavioural, behaviours

Stud\* vs. **Student\*** : stud, studs, **student**, **students**, studied, studio, studios, study, studying

	(	behav*	
and	▼	(	teacher*
and	▼	(	student*

Teacher\* = teacher, teachers

| placement of \* matters! |

Teach\* = teach, teaches, teacher, teachers, teaching

	(	behavio*	
and	▼	(	student* or teach*
not	▼	(	elementary

## FIELD SEARCHING — precise & specific

Most databases default to searching for words anywhere in the content. Searching within “fields” in the database focuses the search and leads to more precise search results — quality rather than quantity.

### Controlled Vocabulary: Subjects field / Descriptors field

Concepts may be referred to in different ways, so discipline-specific standardized terms are provided by the databases in searchable lists. Identify and insert “controlled vocabulary” terms into your searches — The Thesaurus in the ERIC (CSA) database has Descriptors. The Thesaurus in WilsonWeb’s Education Full Text database has Subjects. ProQuest’s Education Journals database has a Topics index and a Subject field.

( student behavior	or	ERIC (CSA)	or	)	Descriptors, DE=	
and	( teachers	or	ERIC (CSA)	or	)	Descriptors, DE=
<b>FIND</b>	behavior modification	WilsonWeb Education Full Text	as:	Subject(s)		
and	teachers and students			Subject(s)		
student behavior		ProQuest Education Journals		Subject		
AND	teacher attitudes			Subject		

### What is it? : Publication Type field / Document Type field

Adding a search for material type (using AND) or eliminating a material type (using NOT) can further focus your search and reduce the number of results. Databases supply a searchable list of types so you don’t have to guess the standard term. ERIC (CSA) database: Publication Type. [Ex. empirical research] WilsonWeb’s Education Full Text: Document Type. ProQuest’s Education Journals: Document Type.

( student behavior	or	ERIC (CSA)	or	)	Descriptors, DE=	
and	( teachers	or	ERIC (CSA)	or	)	Descriptors, DE=
and	( research	or		or	)	Publication Type, PT=
<b>FIND</b>	classroom management	WilsonWeb Education Full Text	as:	Subject(s)		
not	book review			Document Type		

### Scholarly articles: Peer Reviewed (also known as Refereed)

Both ERIC (CSA) and WilsonWeb’s Education Full Text have excellent limiters for finding peer reviewed articles and each article is labeled. However, scholarly articles in ProQuest’s Education Journals may or may not be peer reviewed. Search Ulrich’s Periodicals Directory database to see if a journal is refereed.