Boolean searching

Boolean searching allows you to:
- Include synonyms or alternative terms
- Create concept sets
- Combine the sets in your search
- Uses connectors AND OR and NOT

Most databases have guidance on the connectors they support. Look for ‘help’ or ? on the search screen.

Start with your concepts or keywords.
Example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Set 1</th>
<th>Set 2</th>
<th>Set 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“green building*”</td>
<td>Sustainabl*</td>
<td>&quot;energy efficiency*&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“intelligent building*”</td>
<td>’energy conservation’</td>
<td>&quot;energy utili?sation&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“building design”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Each set contains synonyms or alternative terms for that concept.

Put each set in round brackets (see below for tips on phrase and truncation in your search). This determines the order the search will be executed in.

**Combine terms within a set with OR.**

**Connect the sets with AND.**

("green building*" OR "intelligent building*" OR "building design")
AND
(sustainab* OR "energy conservation")
AND
("energy efficienc*" OR "energy utili?sation")

Relevant results for your topic
**Tips**

**Phrase searching**
Put quotation marks around more than one word to create a phrase eg. “internet of things”.

**Truncation**
Add an asterisk to the trunk of a word to get all variations eg. Child* to get child, children, childhood, childish etc.

**Wildcards**
Some databases will allow you to add a wildcard to search alternative spelling eg. Organi?ation to get organisation or organization. Check the databases help section to see if this is possible and what symbols is used.

**Proximity searching**
Some databases allow proximity searching eg. Within two words journal W/2 publishing, or five words before the term journal PRE/5 publishing.