

Use Boolean Operators

Boolean operators allow you to join search terms and build complex and specific searches. The primary Boolean operators are AND, OR and NOT. You can also use modifiers such as quotation marks, parentheses, and asterisks to further refine your search.

Basic Boolean Operators and Modifiers

Operator / Modifier	Description	Example
AND	Used to join different terms, all of which must be present in the record (in any order) for it to appear in the search results. If you type multiple keywords but do not join them with a Boolean operator, Avature automatically applies the AND operator when running the search.	Restaurant AND manager AND California returns records where all three terms appear. Restaurant manager california returns the same results.
OR	Specifies that at least one of the keywords must be present for a record to appear in the results. Use OR to join similar, equivalent, or synonymous terms where finding any of those terms is acceptable.	IT support" OR "technical support" returns records where either or both phrases appear.
NOT	Excludes records from the results if they contain the keyword you type after it. This operator is helpful after you run a search and determine that you do not want to see records containing some term, word, or phrase. The NOT operator should be used with caution because it prevents records from appearing in the search results, and some records may still be of value to you for other information they contain.	Programmer AND "C++" NOT java returns records that include "Programmer" and "C++", but only if they do not also include "java".



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QUOTATION MARKS	Quotation marks are Boolean modifiers that tell Avature to treat the quoted words as a single term and are useful for finding an exact phrase within a record. Keep in mind, however, that people may write the same term differently.	A search for “regional sales manager” returns any record where these exact three words appear in that order. Searching for “Sarbanes-Oxley” returns records that contain that exact phrase (with hyphen), but excludes records that contain “Sarbanes Oxley” (without hyphen).
PARENTHESES	Groups search terms and their operators to specify the order in which Avature should process the search. Information in parentheses is always read first. If there are nested parentheses (parentheses within parentheses), Avature processes the innermost first, then the next, and so on until the entire query has been interpreted.	Typing ((project OR change) AND management) AND (leader OR leadership) returns records that include either project management or change management and either leader or leadership.
ASTERISK (*)	Used as a wildcard to find all words that begin with certain root letters. This helps you find all variations of a word in your search.	Consult* returns records that include the words “consultant”, “consultants”, “consulting”, etc.

