Using Boolean Operators to Create Search Statements

**Boolean Logic:**

- defines the way in which search terms relate to one another
- is used to broaden (expand) or narrow (focus) searches to include more ideas than can be expressed by a single search term
- uses logical operators **AND, OR, and NOT**

**The Boolean OR:**

- requires **ANY** of the search terms to be present
- is used to broaden or expand a search, or to include different spellings and synonyms

```
film or cinema
```

**The Boolean AND:**

- requires **ALL** search terms to be present
- combines two or more search terms
- is used to narrow or refine a search

```
film and criticism
```

**The Boolean NOT:**

- **EXCLUDES** search terms from results
- is used to narrow or refine a search

```
Canadian film not Egoyan
```
Combining Boolean Operators:

criticism and (film or movies or cinema)
(Egoyan or Cronenberg) and (criticism or reviews)
Canadian cinema and directors not Egoyan

Tips for Using Boolean Operators:

- AND and NOT will narrow your search and decrease your results
- OR will broaden your search and increase your results
- Use synonyms and alternative spellings where warranted
- Place parentheses around OR searches that are part of a larger statement

Truncation

- searches for a root word and all of its various endings
- Canad* would find Canada, Canadian, Canadien, etc.
- a search for direct* will retrieve direct, director, directed, etc.