

Advanced Terms and Connectors

To create a search request with the Quicklaw service, start with terms and phrases that reflect ideas essential to your research. Then include connectors (such as **OR**, **AND**, **/5**) and other special characters to link the terms and phrases, and to search for word variations.



Quicklaw searches for consecutive words as phrases, except when they are separated by connectors. For example, **accident AND contributory negligence** finds the word **accident** and the phrase **contributory negligence** within a document. Use quotation marks to force a phrase search if needed.

Terms

Terms are the basic units of a search. A term is a single character or group of characters, alphabetic or numeric, with a space on either side. A hyphen is treated as a space, so a hyphenated term is seen as two terms.

A period is treated like a space **except** when:

1. The period is preceded and followed by a number. For example, **99.9** is one term.
2. The period is preceded by a space and followed by a number. For example, **.999** is one term.
3. The period is preceded by only one alphabetic character and followed (with no spaces in sequence) by any number of single letters each of which is followed by a period. For example, **C.R.A.** is one term; **C. R. A.** is three terms because of the spaces after the periods.

Singular and Plural

With this box checked, Quicklaw automatically finds the plural form of words, including those that end in **us**, **is**, or other irregular forms. For example, **bonus** also finds **bonuses**, and **child** finds **children**.

Truncation

The truncation symbol **!** replaces any number of characters at the end of the word. For example, **neglig!** finds **negligent**, **negligence**, **negligible**, etc.

Wildcard

The wildcard symbol ***** replaces a single character at any point in a word. It is particularly useful if you are unsure of the spelling of a particular word or name. You can also use multiple wildcards in a single word. For example, **adv!*e** finds both **advice** and **advice**.

Connectors

Use connectors to establish logical relationships between words. Connectors operate in the following order of priority:

1. OR	2. /n, PRE/n, +n, NOT /n	3. /s	4. /p
5. /seg	6. NOT /seg	7. AND (&)	8. AND NOT

If you use two or more of the same connector, they operate left to right. If the **n** (number) connectors have different numbers, the smallest number is operated on first. You cannot use the **/p** and **/s** connectors with a proximity connector, for example, **/n**.

Note: To change the connector priority, use brackets. Connectors inside brackets have priority over, or operate before, connectors outside brackets.

Advanced Terms and Connectors

OR	lawyer OR counsel — finds documents in which either lawyer or counsel or both appear
/n	drug /5 abuse — finds documents in which the words drug and abuse appear within five words of each other (n=up to 255)
PRE/n (+n)	pay PRE/3 television — finds documents in which pay precedes television by three or fewer words
NOT /n	british NOT /2 columbia — finds documents in which the word british occurs but the word columbia is not within two words of it
/s	sanction /s frivolous — finds documents in which the words sanction and frivolous appear in the same sentence
/p	age /p discrimination — finds documents in which the words age and discrimination appear in the same paragraph
/seg	opec /seg gasoline — finds documents in which opec and gasoline are in the same document segment
NOT /seg	tank NOT /seg m1 — finds documents in which there is at least one document segment with the word tank but not the word m1
AND (&)	land AND trust — finds documents in which the words land and trust both appear at some point in the document
AND NOT	trust AND NOT charitable — finds documents in which the word trust occurs, but charitable does not
NOT /para	cable NOT /para television — finds documents in which the words cable and television appear, but not within the same paragraph
NOT /sent	market NOT /sent share — finds documents in which the words market and share appear, but not within the same sentence