

Database Search Tips Proximity/Adjacency Operators/Wildcards

Database Host	Find within X words, in any order	Find within X words in the order you entered them	Wildcard for single character	Wildcard for 0, 1 or more characters
EBSCO	Nx retrieves words within x words of each other, in any order e.g. nursing N5 education	Wx retrieves words within x words of each other, in the order in which you entered them	? within a word to replace a single character: e.g. ne?t retrieves neat, nest, next	# within a word or at the end to replace zero or one characters: e.g. colo#r retrieves color, colour
Cochrane Library	NEAR/x retrieves words within x words of each other, in any order. If no number specified, the default is 6	NEXT matches terms that appear next to each other: e.g. cholera NEXT treat* retrieves cholera treatment	? within a word to replace a single character: e.g. ne?t retrieves neat, nest, next	* before, within or after word to replace multiple characters: e.g. cell* *phone
Informit	~x retrieves words within x words of each other, in any order.		? within a word to replace a single character: e.g. ne?t retrieves neat, nest, next	*anywhere to replace an unlimited number of characters
ProQuest	NEAR/x or N/x retrieve words within x words of each other, in any order. Used alone, NEAR defaults to Near/4.	PRE/x or P/x the first word in the search precedes the second by a specified number of words (x).	? within a word to replace a single character: e.g. ne?t retrieves neat, nest, next	* within or after word to replace multiple characters. [*x] is used to denote up to how many characters you want to truncate e.g. nutr[*5] finds nutrition, nutrient, nutrients
Scopus	W/x (within) retrieves words that are within x words of each other, in either direction	Pre/x (Precedes by) the first word in the search precedes the second by a specified number of words (x)	? within a word to replace a single character: e.g. ne?t retrieves neat, nest, next	* before, within or after word to replace multiple characters
Web of Science	NEAR/x retrieves words within x words of each other, in any order. If no number specified, the default is 15		? within a word to replace a single character: e.g. ne?t retrieves neat, nest, next.	* before, within or after word to replace multiple characters \$ before, within or after word to replace zero or one character Do not use \$ inside double quotes as it will yield no results