

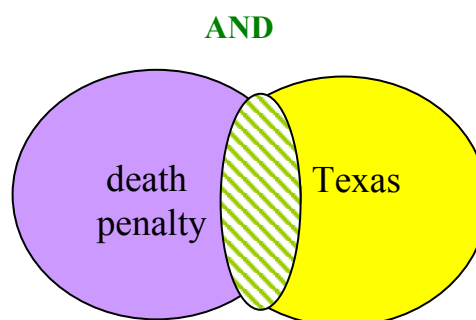
## Boolean Searching

The logic that uses the operators AND OR and NOT was thought up by and named after George Boole, British mathematician (1815-1864). Most electronic databases and library online catalogs are programmed for this technique, as well as search engines on the Web. The ability to combine terms using Boolean logic is one of the key reasons that electronic searching is so powerful! (You cannot combine terms like this using a printed index.)

**AND** - when you put this between terms, you are telling the computer "I want BOTH of these terms in EVERY record that you show me." RESULT: Every record will have both terms.

You type in: death penalty **and** Texas

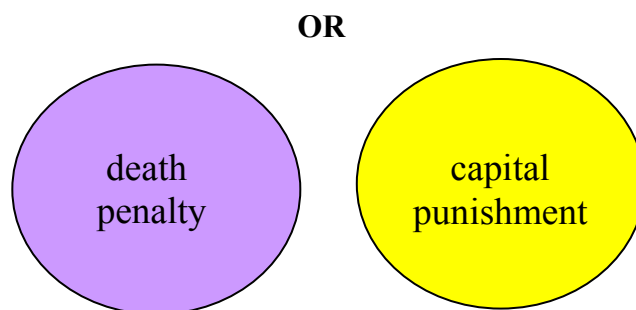
The computer does this: It looks at the records of the items it knows about, finds a match on 'death penalty' and puts those records to the side; it then repeats the action for 'Texas'. Because you typed 'AND' between the terms, it now compares it now compares the 2 groups of records and shows you ONLY those that have both terms.



**OR** - when you put this between terms, you are telling the computer "These terms are synonymous to me and I will take either. I want to cover all the bases because the records could be using either term." RESULT: Every record will have one of the two terms (or maybe even both).

You type in: death penalty **or** capital punishment

The computer does this: It looks at the records of the items it knows about, finds a match on 'death penalty' and puts those records to the side; it then repeats the action for 'capital punishment'. Because you typed 'OR' between the terms, it now shows you both sets of results.



**NOT** - when you put this between terms, you are telling the computer "Don't give me any records with this word. I don't want it. No matter what the context. I understand I could be throwing out good things but I'm serious. Don't give it to me." RESULT: None of the results will have this term.

You type in: death penalty **not** Texas

The computer does this: It looks at the records of the items it knows about, finds a match on 'death penalty' and puts those records to the side; it then repeats the action for 'Texas'. Because you typed 'NOT' between the terms, it now compares the 2 groups of records and shows you ONLY those that have death penalty and leaves out any that have 'Texas' and 'death penalty' or only 'Texas'.

