Gnowit Guide to Boolean Logic

Boolean Operators

AND	Requires both terms on either side of the Boolean operator to be present for a match.	e.g. iPad AND Kindle will only return documents which contain both the words iPad as well as Kindle (although they need not be adjacent).
NOT	Requires that the following term not be present.	e.g. iPad NOT Kindle will return all documents that contain the word iPad and do not contain the word Kindle.
OR	Requires that either term (or both terms) be present for a match.	e.g. iPad OR Kindle will return documents that contain either the word iPad or the word Kindle, or both together.

Wildcard Characters

?	Matches a single character	e.g. The search string: *re?t* would match both **rest** and **rent**.
*	Multiple characters (matches zero or more sequential characters)	e.g. The wildcard search *res** would match **rest**, **resting**, and **rested**. The wildcard character *** will match all documents. This is useful for alerts where you want to know everthing that has been published since the last alert.

Require / Exclude Operators

+	Requires that the following term be present.
-	Prohibits the following term (that is, matches on fields or documents that do not include that term).

Boolean Expression Construction

(happiness OR forgiveness) AND peace	This adds precision to the query, requiring that the term **peace** exists, along with either term **happiness** or **forgiveness**

Phrases

To search for a phrase, surround the words with quotation marks. i.e. *"Blog Seth"* would only find documents that contained the phrase **Blog Seth** together. It would not return documents that contain both **Blog** and **Seth** in any combination except the one specified.

Proximity Search*

This allows you to find documents where words are within a certain window of each other.

To perform a proximity search, add the tilde character ~ and a *numeric value* to the end of a search phrase. For example, to search for **fish** and **chips** within 4 words of each other in a document, use the search:
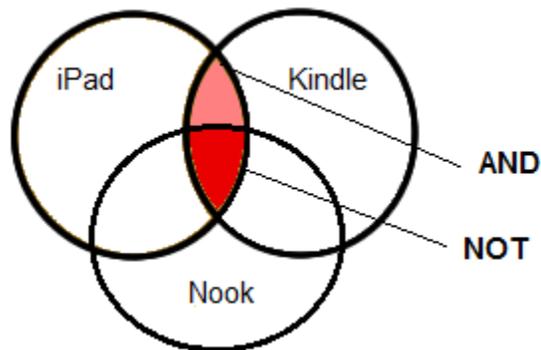
"fish chips"~4

*It is ill advised to use proximity search as it causes gnowit search results to slow down dramatically.

It is always useful to have a visual representation of the operators to clarify your search.

iPad **OR** Kindle   iPad **NOT** Kindle   iPad **AND** Kindle

You can also use a mixture of two or even three of the operators depending on how specific you would like your search to be. For example, you are interested in comparing iPads and Kindles but don't care much about the Nook. You can type, iPad **AND** Kindle **NOT** Nook.

If you are interested in all three, then you can type iPad **OR** Kindle **OR** Nook