



# Truman Bodden Law School Library

## LIBRARY TIP

### Using Boolean Operators with Legal Databases

Sometimes when you are carrying out online research you may need to use Boolean connectors in order to make your search **broader** or more **specific**. The most commonly used connectors are **AND**, **OR**, and **NOT**.

The table below illustrates how the connectors work for the 2 main legal databases, **Lexis Library** and **Westlaw**.

DATABASE	AND	OR	NOT
	This will search for all terms in the same documents.	This will find documents that contain either or both of the words or to link search words that are synonyms.	This will exclude certain words from the search.
	<p><b>Note:</b> LexisLibrary needs “<b>AND</b>” to search for the terms rather than looking for them as a phrase.</p> <p><b>Example:</b> barrister <b>and</b> solicitor</p> <p>“Barrister” and “solicitor” will be present in the retrieved document.</p>	<p><b>Example:</b> lawyer <b>or</b> attorney</p> <p>LexisLibrary will retrieve all the unique documents containing “lawyer”, “attorney”, or both.</p>	<p><b>Note:</b> LexisLibrary will word this search differently and you have to use “<b>AND NOT</b>”.</p> <p><b>Example:</b> barrister <b>and not</b> solicitor</p> <p>LexisLibrary will only retrieve the unique documents containing “barrister”.</p>
	<p><b>Note:</b> Westlaw defaults to this if a <b>space</b> is used. No need to use “<b>AND</b>”.</p> <p><b>Example:</b> barrister solicitor</p> <p>“Barrister” and “solicitor” will be present in the retrieved document.</p>	<p><b>Example:</b> lawyer <b>or</b> attorney</p> <p>Westlaw will retrieve all the unique documents containing “lawyer”, “attorney”, or both.</p>	<p><b>Note:</b> Westlaw will word this search differently and you have to use “<b>BUT NOT</b>”.</p> <p><b>Example:</b> barrister <b>but not</b> solicitor</p> <p>Westlaw will only retrieve the unique documents containing “barrister”.</p>