

Using Boolean Operators in Google Scholar

1.AND

Purpose: All keywords must be present.

Example:

```
climate change AND biodiversity
```

Meaning:

Only papers that contain **both** *climate change* and *biodiversity* will appear.

Tip:

Use AND to narrow your search results by ensuring all keywords appear together. This helps you find more focused and relevant papers.

2.OR

Purpose: At least one keyword can be present.

Example:

```
fish OR amphibian
```

Meaning:

Papers containing *fish*, *amphibian*, or both will appear.

Tip:

Use OR to include synonyms or related terms. This broadens your search and helps you capture more relevant literature.

3.NOT / -

Purpose: Exclude a keyword.

Example:

```
jaguar NOT car  
jaguar -car
```

Meaning:

Papers containing *jaguar* but excluding *car* will appear.

Tip:

Use NOT or the minus sign to remove unwanted or irrelevant results, especially when a term has multiple meanings.

4. Quotation Marks ("")

Purpose: Search for an exact phrase.

Example:

```
"feeding behavior of birds"
```

Meaning:

Only papers containing the **exact phrase** in the same order will appear.

Tip:

Use quotation marks to search for an exact phrase. This is especially useful for literature reviews and thesis-related searches.

5. Parentheses ()

Purpose: Group multiple terms

Example:

```
(fish OR amphibian) AND respiration
```

Meaning:

Papers containing either *fish* or *amphibian* **and** *respiration* will appear.

Tip:

Use parentheses to organize complex searches. They ensure the correct logical order when combining multiple operators.

6. author:

Purpose: Search by a specific author.

Example:

```
author:"Smith J"
```

Meaning:

Only papers written by **Smith J** will appear.

Tip:

Use author search when you want to find papers by a specific *researcher, supervisor, or leading author* in a field.

7. allintitle:

Purpose: Search keywords in the title.

Example:

```
allintitle: bird migration climate
```

Meaning:

Only papers whose **titles contain all the keywords** will appear.

Tip:

Use title-based search to find highly relevant papers. Keywords in the title usually indicate the main focus of the study.

8. filetype:

Purpose: Filter by specific file type.

Example:

```
climate change filetype:pdf
```

Meaning:

Only **PDF documents** will appear.

Tip:

Use filetype to filter results by document format, such as PDFs. This is helpful when you want full-text articles or reports.

9. site:

Purpose: Limit search to a specific website or domains.

Example:

```
pollution site:edu
```

Meaning:

Only papers from .edu domains will appear.

Tip:

Use site search to limit results to trusted academic or institutional domains such as universities or research organizations.

10. allinfile:

Purpose: Search within the full text of documents.

Example:

```
allinfile: biodiversity conservation Bangladesh
```

Tip:

Use allinfile to search for keywords within the entire document text. This is useful for long reports, policy documents, and datasets.

11. intitle:

Purpose: Control the scope of search.

Examples:

```
intitle:"bird feeding"
```

Meaning:

Papers whose **titles** contain “**feeding behavior**” and also mention *birds* somewhere in the paper will appear.

Tip:

Use intitle to control where Google Scholar searches for your keywords, allowing more precise and efficient results.

Md. Fahad Hossain

Undergraduate Student, Zoology.

I hope this guide makes academic searching clearer, faster, and more meaningful for students and early-career researchers.