Operator	Syntax	Example	Explanation
Ovid			
Adjacency (ADJ)	x y	television violence	Retrieves records with search terms next to each other in that specific order
Defined Adjacency (ADJn)	a ADJn y	violence adj5 sex	Retrieves records that contain search terms within a specified number (n-1) of words from each other in any order (stop-words included)
Frequency (FREQ)	x.ab./FREQ=n	blood.ab./freq=5	Records containing the search term are retrieved only if the term occurs at least the specified (n) number of times
Unlimited Truncation ($ or *)	x$	disease$	Retrieves all possible suffix variations of the root word indicated
Limited Truncation ($ or *)	x$n	dog$1	Specifies a maximum number of characters that may follow the root word or phrase
Mandated Wildcard (#)	xx#y	wom#n	Retrieves all possible variations of a word in which the wildcard is present in the specified place
Optional Wildcard (?)	xx?y	colo?r	Can be used within or at the end of a search term to substitute for one or no characters
Literal String ("")	"x / y" | "n"	"black/white" | "3".vo	Quotation marks can be used to retrieve records that contain **literal strings**, when the string includes special characters, such as a forward slash (/)
EBSCOhost			
NEAR (N)	x N5 y	tax N5 reform	Finds the words if they are within five words of one another, regardless of the order in which they appear
WITHIN (W)	x W8 y	tax W8 reform	Finds the words if they are within eight words of one another, in the order in which you entered them
WILDCARD (?)	xx?x	ne?t	Finds all citations of that word with the ? replaced by a letter; ne?t will find all records containing neat, nest or next.
WILDCARD (#)	xxxx#x	colo#r	Finds all citations of the word that appear with or without the extra character
TRUNCATION (*)	x* or xxx*xxx	comput* or hea*one	Finds all forms of that word (headphone headstone healthone hearthstone heartstone heatherstone)
			Note: Wildcards and Truncation **can** be combined for a term in a search. For example, a search for p#ediatric* would search for pediatric, pediatrics, pediatrician, pediatricians, paediatric, paediatrics, paediatrician, paediatricians . . .
Web of Science			
NEAR	x NEAR y	salmon NEAR virus	Finds the words if they are within 15 words of one another, regardless of the order in which they appear
NEAR/n	x NEAR/3 y	salmon NEAR/3 virus	Finds the words if they are within 3 words of one another, regardless of the order in which they appear
SAME (restricts search)	AD=(x SAME y)	AD=(McGill Univ SAME Quebec SAME Canada)	In Address searches, use SAME to restrict your search to terms that appear in the same address within a Full Record. Use parentheses to group your address terms. Finds records in which McGill University appears in the **Addresses field** of a Full Record along with Quebec and Canada

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SAME (other fields)	TS=(x SAME y)	TS=(cat SAME mouse)	Works exactly like AND when used in **other fields (such as Topic and Title fields)** and when the terms appear in the same record. Be aware that SAME works exactly like AND when used in other fields (such as Topic and Title fields) and when the terms appear in the same record. Be aware that SAME works exactly like AND when used in other fields (such as Topic and Title fields) and when the terms appear in the same record.
WILDCARD (*)	x*	**s*food matches**: seafood, soyfood, etc | **enzym* matches**: enzyme, enzymes, enzymatic, enzymic | **Hof*man* matches**: Hofman, Hofmann, Hoffman, Hoffmann	The asterisk (*) represents any group of characters, including no character.
WILDCARD (?)	xxx?x	**odo$r finds** odor and odour | **wom?n finds** woman and women	
WILDCARD ($)	xxx?x	**colo$r matches**: color, colour \| **grain$ matches**: grain, grains	The dollar sign ($) represents zero or one character. The dollar sign ($) is useful for finding both the British and American spellings of the same word.
			You can use **right and left-hand truncation** when using wildcards (* $?) for searching All Fields. You must enter at least three characters after a wildcard when using left-hand truncation and three characters before a wildcard when using right-hand truncation. You may use different wildcards in one term: l?chee$ matches: lichee, lichees, lychee, lychees | organi?ation* matches: organisation, organisations, organisational, organization, organizations, organizational
		Scopus	
W/n	x W/5 y	Pain W/5 morphine	Restricts to n words between the two words, the word order is not set
Pre/n	x PRE/3 y	newborn PRE/3 screening	Restricts to n words between the two words, the word order is as set
Double quotes " "	"x"	"heart-attack"	Searches for fuzzy phrases. It will also search for both singular and plurals (with some exceptions). Symbols are ignored. Wildcards can be used. "heart-attack" will search for heart-attack, heart attack, heart attacks, and so on
Curly brackets { }	{x}	{heart-attack}	Search for a specific phrase. It limits the search to only the specified character string, and symbols can be used, but they will be searched as a symbol, not truncation etc. (ex, {heart-attack?} searches for articles with heart-attack?

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WILDCARD *	x*	toxi* will search for toxin, toxic, toxicity, toxicology, and so on	Replaces any number of characters. **You do not need a wildcard for singular/plural forms**. Scopus uses lemmatization in the search (unless you are using exact phrase) for English words and most scientific terms. Wildcards at the start of a word exponentially increase the possibilities.
WILDCARD ?	xxxx??xx	sawt??th will search for sawtooth and sawteeth	Each ? replaces only one character
Cochrane Library			
NEAR	x NEAR y	cancer NEAR lung	Terms can appear in either order. Finds lung cancer AND cancer of the lung. NEAR automatically defaults to near/6 (within 6 words).
NEAR/x	x NEAR/2 y	cancer NEAR/2 lung	Terms can appear in either order. User can decide number of terms using the NEAR/x command where x = the maximum number of words between search terms.
NEXT	x NEXT y	(lung NEXT cancer) | (hearing NEXT aid*)	Terms must appear in order keyed and assumes terms are next to each other. lung NEXT cancer finds lung cancer but not cancer of the lung. Does not support the /x parameter. Supports the use of wildcards.
Wildcard *	x*	transplant*	Use an asterisk (*) to match all terms beginning with a word root. transplant* finds transplant, transplants, transplanting, transplantation, and transplantable. Word root must be at least 3 characters.
Wildcard *	*x	*glycemia	Use an asterisk (*) at the beginning of a word to match terms with the same suffix. *glycemia matches hyperglycemia or hypoglycemia. Word root must be at least 3 characters.
Wildcard *	xx*xx	leuk*mia	Use an asterisk to match multiple characters within a word. leuk*mia finds leukemia and leukaemia. Word root must be at least 3 characters.
Wildcard ?	xxx?x	wom?n	Use a question mark (?) to match a single character within a word. wom?n finds women or woman. Word root must be at least 3 characters.
Wildcard ?	x?	system?	Use a question mark (?) to match all terms with that word root and EXACTLY 1 character. System? Finds systems but not system, systematic or systemic. Word root must be at least 3 characters.
Proquest			
NEAR/n or N/n	x NEAR/3 y | x N/3 y	nursing NEAR/3 education | media N/3 women	Look for documents that contain two search terms, in any order, within a specified number of words apart. Replace 'n' with a number. Used alone, NEAR defaults to NEAR/4. Important to know: When you shorten NEAR to N, you must provide a number. For example, internet N/3 media. If you search on internet N media, Dialog interprets N as a search term, rather than as a proximity operator

Operator	Syntax	Example	Explanation
PRE/n or P/n or -	x PRE/3 y | x P/3 y	nursing PRE/4 education | shares P/4 technologies | nursing-education	Look for documents that contain one search term that appears within a specified number of words before a second term. Replace 'n' with a number. In the example, 4 means the first term precedes the second term by 4 or fewer words. A hyphen (-) joining two terms within a search is equivalent to PRE/0 or P/0.
EXACT or X	su.exact("x")	SU.EXACT("higher education") | SU.X("higher education")	Look for your exact search term in its entirety. Used primarily for searching specific fields, like Subject. For instance, a search on su.exact("higher education"), will return documents with a subject term of "higher education", but not documents with a subject term of "higher education funding". Important to know: EXACT is not included in the 'operator precedence' list shown above. Unlike the operators listed there—like AND or PRE—EXACT is neither a Boolean or a Proximity operator. EXACT simply allows you to specify with precision occurrences of an 'exact' term, without returning occurrences of multiple-word terms that include your search terms. Important to know: When you apply the EXACT operator to a search term, you cannot also apply the truncation (*) or wild card (?) characters to the same search term. Use of the EXACT operator implies the desire for exact precision. Both the truncation and wildcard characters undercut that precision by broadening your search.
LNK	MESH(descriptor LNK qu	MESH(descriptor LNK qualifier) | MESH("aspirin" LNK "adverse effects") | MESH("aspirin -- adverse effects")	Link a descriptor term to a Subheading (qualifier) by selecting the proper qualifier in the Thesaurus window, or by using the LNK (or --) in Basic, Advanced or Command Line Search. Also, link two related data elements together, to ensure proper specificity in your search. Important to know: LNK is not included in the 'operator precedence' list shown above. Unlike the operators listed there—like AND or PRE—LNK is neither a Boolean or a Proximity operator. LNK enables you to specify precise relationships between qualifiers and terms in your search query.