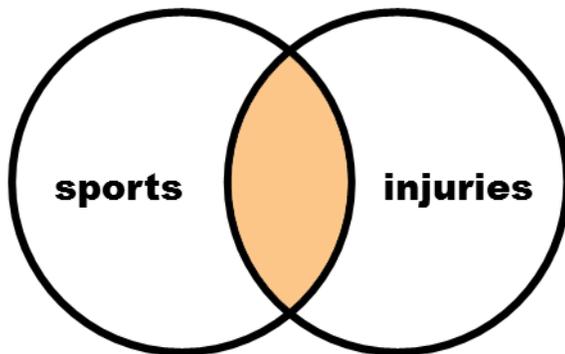


# “Power Tools” for Searching Library Databases

**Boolean Searching** is based on a method of logic developed by George Boole (1815-1864), who was a mostly self-taught English mathematician and philosopher. You can more efficiently and effectively search databases by using Boolean operators (AND/OR/NOT), asterisks, quotation marks, and parentheses as explained below.

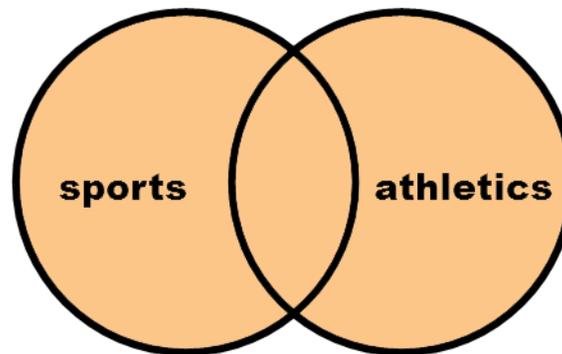
## AND



**Search:** sports **AND** injuries

**Narrows and limits** results that must include BOTH words.

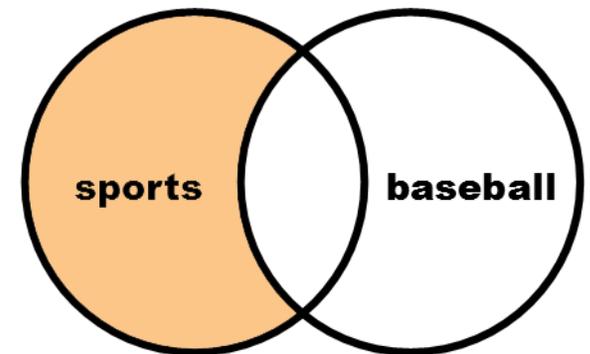
## OR



**Search:** sports **OR** athletics

**Expands and broadens** results that may include EITHER or BOTH words.

## NOT



**Search:** sports **NOT** baseball

**Excludes** second word so that results include only first word.

- Add an **asterisk** \* to a root word to search for all of its forms in a database. For example, searching the root *injur\** followed by an asterisk (no space) will find items that include *injure*, *injury*, *injuries*, *injurious*, etc.
- Put **quotation marks** “ ” around exact multiword phrases you want to search for in a library database. For example, searching “*baseball hall of fame*” will find items that include those words in that exact order.
- Put **parentheses** ( ) around groups of related words to simultaneously expand and narrow a search topic. For example, searching (*sports OR athletics*) **AND** (*head OR brain*) **AND** (*injur\* OR trauma\* OR damage*) will broaden the results inside parentheses and limit the overall results between groups in the same search.