

## TRUNCATION AND WILDCARD SYMBOLS

Truncation and wildcard symbols can help you improve your search results and make your database searches more efficient. Truncation and wildcard symbols vary from database to database. This guide outlines how truncation and wildcard symbols work in some of our most popular databases.

Service Name	Truncation Symbols	Examples
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>EBSCOhost</b></p> <p>Business Source Premier and Regional Business News</p>	* Represents zero or more characters	<b>comput*</b> would find records containing <i>compute, computer, computing</i>
	? Represents exactly one character	<b>ne?t</b> , will find records containing <i>neat, nest, next, etc.</i>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FirstSearch</b></p> <p>Ahsearch, AltPressIndex, ArtAbstracts, ArticleFirst, ASTA, BasicBIOSIS, BioDigest, BooksInPrint, BusDateline, BusIndustry, CINAHL, ClasePeriodica, ConsumerIndex, CWI*, Dissertations, EconLit, ERIC, FactSearch, GEOBASE GeoRefS, InternetPCAbs, MDXHealth, MEDLINE, MLA, PAIS, PapersFirst*, Proceedings*, RILM_Music_Abstracts*, SIRSResearcher, SocAbs, UnionLists, WilsonSelectPlus, and WorldCat</p> <p>Special note: FirstSearch will only allow the #, ?, and * after the third character in a word. Also, if FirstSearch matches more than 50 possible words it will give an error message.</p>	# Represents exactly one character	<b>wom#n</b> will find records containing <i>woman and women</i>
	? Represents zero to nine characters. Include a number if you know the maximum number of characters the wildcard will replace	<b>colo?r</b> will find records containing <i>color, colour, colonizer, and colorimeter</i>
	* Represents zero or more characters	<b>colo?1r</b> will find records containing <i>color, colour, but not colonizer or colorimeter</i>
	* Represents zero or more characters	<b>instruction*</b> will find records containing <i>instruction, instructions and instructional</i>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Gale Group</b></p> <p>InfoTrac OneFile, General Reference Center Gold, Expanded Academic ASAP, Contemporary Literary Criticism - Select, Health Reference Center Academic, Computer Database, Professional Collection, National Newspaper Index, Informe, General Business and File International</p>	+ Represents plurals formed with s or es.	<b>giraffe+</b> will find records that contain <i>giraffe and giraffes</i>
	* Represents zero or more characters	<b>pigment*</b> will find records containing <i>pigment, pigments, pigmentation, etc.</i>
	! Represents zero or one character	<b>product!</b> matches <i>product</i> and <i>products</i> but not <i>productive</i> or <i>productivity</i>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>JSTOR</b></p>	? Represents exactly one character.	<b>relev?nce</b> , will find records containing <i>relevance and relevance</i>
	+Represents plural forms	<p><b>cat+</b> will find <b>cat</b> and <b>cats</b></p> <p><b>box+</b> will find <b>box</b> and <b>boxes</b></p> <p><b>bus+</b> will find <b>bus</b> and <b>busses</b></p> <p><b>quiz+</b> will find <b>quiz</b> and <b>quizzes</b></p> <p><b>sky+</b> will find <b>sky</b> and <b>skies</b></p> <p><b>knife+</b> will find <b>knife</b> and <b>knives</b></p> <p>it will <b>NOT</b> find the plurals of words such as <i>hippopotamus (hippopotami)</i> or <i>vertex (vertices)</i></p>
	* Represents zero or more characters	<b>wom*n</b> will find records containing <i>woman and women</i> <b>Bernst**n</b> will find records containing <i>Bernstein or Bernstien</i>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>LexisNexis</b></p>	! Represents zero or more characters	<b>acqui!</b> will find records containing <i>acquire, acquired, acquiring, acquisition</i>
	* Represents exactly one character	<b>wom*n</b> will find records containing <i>woman and women</i> <b>Bernst**n</b> will find records containing <i>Bernstein or Bernstien</i>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>netLibrary</b></p>	* Represents zero or more characters	<b>cook*</b> will find records containing <i>cook, cooks, cooking, cookery, cookbook, etc.</i>
	** Represents all forms of a word	<b>drive**</b> will find records containing <i>drive, drove, driving, driven, etc.</i>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Proquest</b></p> <p>ABI/Inform</p>	* Represents zero or more characters	<b>educat*</b> will find records containing <i>educator, educated, and education</i>
	? Represents exactly one character	<b>educat??</b> to find records containing <i>educator and educated</i> . This search will <b>not</b> find <i>education</i>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SilverPlatter</b></p> <p>Philosopher's Index and PSYCInfo</p>	* Represents zero or more characters	<b>robot*</b> will find records containing <i>robot, robots, robotics</i>
	* Represents exactly one character	<b>m?cdonald</b> will find records containing <i>McDonald or MacDonald</i>

