| vendor | EBSCO | ProQuest | ITHAKA | Gale | LexisNexis | Elsevier ⁴ | Elsevier ⁴ | Emerald | SAGE |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|-----------------------|--|--------------------|---|
| databases | OneSearch, Business Source Complete, etc. | ABI/INFORM Collection, etc. | JSTOR ¹ | Business OneFile, etc. | Nexis Uni | ScienceDirect | Scopus | Emerald Insight | Psychology: A SAGE Full- Text Collection, etc. |
| truncation any # of letters | * | * | * | * | ! or * | not supported | * | * | * 6 |
| wildcard | # (0 or 1 letter) ? (1 letter) | ? (0 or 1 letter) | ? (1 letter) | ! (0 or 1 letter) ? (1 letter) | ? (1 letter) | not supported | ? (1 letter; use multiple ?s for multiple letters) | not supported | ? (1 letter) ⁶ |
| phrase | "" | "" | "" | "" | "" | " " | "" | "" | "" 6 |
| and | AND | AND | AND | AND | AND | AND | AND | AND | AND |
| or | OR | OR | OR | OR | OR | OR | OR | OR | OR |
| not | NOT | NOT | NOT | NOT | AND NOT | NOT | AND NOT ⁵ | NOT | NOT |
| proximity within # words of each other, in any order | n# (e.g., debt* n5 forgiv*) | n/# (e.g., debt* n/5 forgiv*) | ~# ² (e.g., debt* forgiv* ~5) | n# ³ (e.g., debt* n5 forgiv*) | /# (e.g., debt* /5 forgiv*) | not supported | w/# (e.g., debt* w/5 forgiv*) | not supported | ~# (e.g., "debt forgiveness" ~5) |
| proximity within # words of each other, in order given | w# | p/# | not supported | w# ³ | pre/# | not supported | pre/# | not supported | not supported |

¹ JSTOR has a 250-character limit (including spaces) for search statements
² JSTOR only allows proximity operators to be used between single words; they can't be used between one or more phrases enclosed by quotation marks
³ Gale databases do not allow proximity operators to be used with nested expressions (i.e., between search terms enclosed by parentheses)
⁴ As of July 2018, Elsevier uses different interfaces for ScienceDirect and Scopus
⁵ AND NOT must always be used at the end of a search statement in Scopus
⁶ ? and * can't be used in phrases enclosed by quotation marks in a SAGE database