

## Title: I tried a basic search and got too many results. Now what do I do?

Slide Description	Transcript
<b>Title Slide</b>	Are you receiving far too many results with a basic search?
<b>Academic Search Premier screen showing results of a basic keyword search for smoking</b>	For instance, a basic keyword search for smoking in Academic Search Premier yields over 55,000 results. This is a good opportunity to take a step back and ask yourself “what about my topic do I need information on?” Since your paper is on the effectiveness of smoking laws in restaurants, you can use the topics of smoking laws and restaurants to narrow your search. First, you will need to switch to advanced search mode.
<b>Academic Search Premier advanced search screen</b>	Next, type in your topics into the first two search boxes. Since you want articles that cover both topics, make sure that you use the AND option in the dropdown to the left of the second search box.
<b>Academic Search Premier results page from the search conducted</b>	You have reduced your results from 55,000 to just over 200.
<b>Venn diagram illustrating the result of an AND search</b>	To put it another way, if all of the smoking law articles are represented by the circle on the left and all of the restaurant articles are represented by the circle on the right; then you want articles that are within both circles or the area of overlap. While conducting a search, you would use the and option to accomplish this goal.
<b>Academic Search Premier results page from the search conducted</b>	Since 200 results is still too many to review, we need to narrow our search further. While browsing through the results, I notice there are a lot of results that include information about smoking laws and bars, which I might not be interested in. To eliminate these results we can use the NOT option.
<b>Venn diagram illustrating the result of a NOT search</b>	If our results for smoking AND restaurants are represented by the circle on the left and bars are represented by the circle on the right, we want everything in the left circle that does not overlap the circle to the right. This is accomplished using the NOT option.
<b>Academic Search Premier advanced search screen</b>	If we go back to the advanced search screen, we can type our first topics smoking laws and restaurants into the first search box. At this point it is important to note that you can use the and option within a search box. Then we type the word bars into the second search box and select the NOT option to the left of the search box.
<b>Academic Search Premier results page from the search conducted</b>	Upon conducting the search, we reduce our results by half. However, one must be cautious when using the not operator because it could eliminate perfectly good results. For instance, by eliminating bars from the results, we eliminated restaurants that have bars. This might not have been our intent, but it was what we searched.