Search each index word individually.

- Cat = 257,489 articles (example, only)
- Dog = 943,611 articles (example, only)

- How many of these articles would you read?
- How many of these articles would read the abstract?
- Best results would be under 50.

To narrow and focus a database search, combine index words using the command **AND**.

All articles in results list contain BOTH index words.

Example:
- All articles listed here would contain information that included both DOG and CAT.

We don’t want EVERYTHING about cat and dog.

We want to further **narrow and focus** our results list to give us information specific to our research project.

Add the phrase “nursing home” to the search.

Note that *nursing home* is a discrete phrase, that is, the two words together that mean something different than the two words separately.

- Phrases can be used to conduct searches.
- Database will automatically add the Boolean command **AND** between non-phrase words used together. Do not try to make up phrases.

Continue to use **AND** to narrow and focus results further.

Try adding the phrase, *therapy animals*.

The number of articles in the results list drop further, but the articles will contain information more precisely related to the research project.
English has many words that mean the same thing to humans (synonyms).

• Computers ONLY search characters entered into the keyboard.
• Computers do not consider meaning of a word.
• A database search looks only for matches.

To include *both* concepts in articles retrieved into your results list, use the command *OR*.
To eliminate a concept (index word) from your results list, use the command \textit{NOT}.

Consider carefully what will be removed. Any word spelled the same will be removed.

In the following search, any article indexed with the word “bird” would be removed from results list.

\[
\left[ \text{ ( Dog and Cat ) not Bird } \right]
\]

If an article referred to Dr. Bird, the Director of a nursing home using therapy animals, that article would be eliminated from your results list.

The command \textit{NOT} is useful. Typically there are too many results to review, or may include information not related to your search. Example: A search for a person, Margarita Jones, may return unwanted information on mixed drinks. A search could be written as:

\[
\left[ \text{ ( Margarita Jones not tequila ) not alcohol } \right]
\]

Consider carefully what could possibly be eliminated before using.

\textit{Note: The brackets are for purposes of clarifying the search and do not need to be used.}
Database perform searches in progressive levels.

The results of the first two index words you search will form the base of your pyramid of results. This is the base results list of articles used at each progressive level of your pyramid as you narrow and focus your search.

Each time you use an additional search word using a Boolean command, the results will affect only the previously obtained results, either adding or eliminating articles based on the commands and search terms used.

The base of the results pyramid is narrower at each step up the pyramid.

Each time you use another index word (search term), you take a step up the pyramid, thus further refining your search and reducing the number of articles that will appear in your results list.

The top of your pyramid — the last and smallest set of results obtained and used — should contain articles that are each useful to your specific research project.

Below is a visual example of our previous search, starting with the first search terms used at the bottom and progressing through the search using Boolean commands **AND, OR and NOT**

```
[ ( [ (Dog and Cat) and Nursing Home ] and Therapy Animals ) not Bird ]

[ ( [Dog and Cat] and Nursing Home ) and Therapy Animals ]

[ (Dog and Cat) and Nursing Home ]

(Dog and Cat)
```