

Sometimes when you run your search, you'll notice that there are irrelevant sources listed that aren't useful for you. The NOT boolean operator can help save you time by excluding some of those irrelevant results automatically.

For example, if we want to find articles about Francis Ford Coppola, we can search for Coppola and (film OR movie). Several of the results are about Sofia Coppola, Francis's daughter who was also a film director. But we aren't interested in articles about Sofia. We can use NOT to automatically exclude those.

Just return to the search page and add NOT sofia. You can do this either by literally typing "NOT Sophia" at the end of an existing search, or (if there are multiple search boxes), change the drop down in front of a box from "and" to "not," and then enter sofia in that box.

Now when we run the search, all results that mention "Sofia" will be excluded by the results.

Keep in mind that NOT is a powerful search and will exclude an article from the results for even a single mention of the keyword. For example, even if an article said "this article is not going to discuss Sophia Coppola," that article will still be excluded from the results because her name was mentioned.

So, NOT works particularly well when you also use it with field searching.

[on screen: [click here to watch our video about field searching](#)]

For example, we can search for coppola AND (film OR movie) and then NOT sofia in the document title. So, sources will only be excluded from the results if her name is in the article title itself.