Acrobat Query Language

The text that you type in the search field can be a single word, a number, a term, or a phrase. It can be a word, with or without wild-card characters (*, ?), or any combination of letters, numbers, and symbols. Because you can use Boolean operators in the text box, you must enclose any search term that includes and, or, or not in quotes. You can also use the operators =, ~, and != with text, but only to perform exact matches, contains, and does not contain searches, respectively. You can use comparison operators (<, <=, >, >=) with values of the same type.

Using Boolean operators
To avoid building inaccurate search queries, follow these guidelines:
• When NOT is used with either or both of the AND and OR operators, it is evaluated before either the AND or OR. For example, evolution AND NOT Darwin finds all documents that contain the word evolution but not the word Darwin.
• When you combine AND and OR in the same expression, AND is evaluated before OR. For example, Darwin OR origin AND species finds all documents that contain Darwin or that contain both origin and species.
• When you use parentheses, you change the default order of evaluation for Boolean operators. For example, (Darwin OR origin) AND species finds all documents that contain either Darwin and species or that contain origin and species. Parentheses can be nested.
• When you use a literal phrase that contains an operator name, a symbol for an operator name (such as & for AND), or parentheses, the phrase must be enclosed in quotation marks. For example: "cats and dogs" finds all documents that contain the phrase cats and dogs, not all documents that contain either the word cats or the word dogs. The phrase cats & dogs also needs quotes to be interpreted literally.

Acrobat Help on Search

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