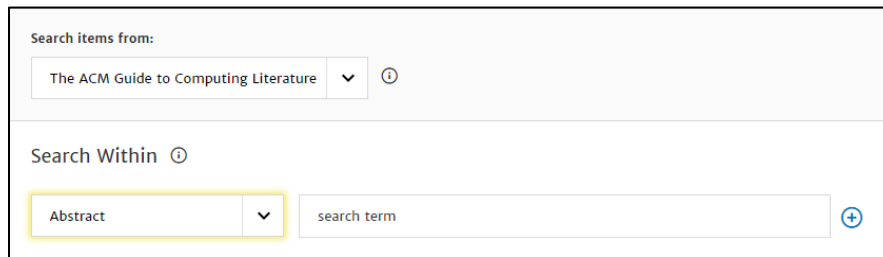


Tip Sheet: Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Digital Library

Suggested Field Tags:

One of the ways that key word searches can be narrowed in databases when running a comprehensive and systematic search is through the use of field tags – most commonly those associated with title, abstract, and key words. The specific field tags that can/should be used differ by database. **In ACM, we recommend Abstract**, which searches the abstract.



The screenshot shows a search interface with two main sections. The top section is labeled 'Search items from:' and contains a dropdown menu currently set to 'The ACM Guide to Computing Literature'. The bottom section is labeled 'Search Within' and contains a dropdown menu set to 'Abstract' and a text input field for the search term.

Proximity Operators:

Proximity operators in databases allow you to search for one word/phrase within a certain proximity to another word. **In ACM, there are no proximity operators**, so this feature is not possible.

Updating a Search:

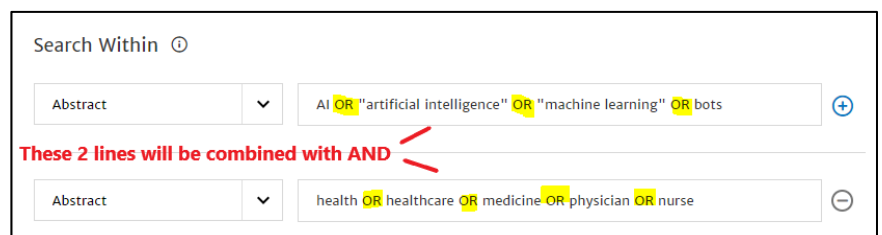
When you need to update a search that you have previously performed, best practice is to use database commands that *capture the records entered into the database* after the date of the last search run where such commands are available. Due to a lag between an item's publication and its inclusion in the database, entry date is not always the same as publication date, making it a less precise search option that should only be used in cases where the database is not able to distinguish between the two. **In ACM, limit by certain publication ranges (last month, 6 months, year) or range of month/years under Advanced search.**



The screenshot shows the 'Publication Date' filter section. It has three radio button options: 'All dates', 'Last', and 'Custom range'. The 'Custom range' option is selected. Below the radio buttons, there are two rows of date pickers. The first row is labeled 'From:' and has 'Jan' and '2020' selected. The second row is labeled 'To:' and has 'Dec' and '2021' selected.

Database Quirks:

- Use each search box to combine terms using OR as each new line added will be combined using AND.



The screenshot shows two search boxes under the 'Search Within' dropdown. The first box contains the text 'AI OR artificial intelligence OR machine learning OR bots'. The second box contains the text 'health OR healthcare OR medicine OR physician OR nurse'. A red arrow points from the text 'These 2 lines will be combined with AND' to the space between the two search boxes.

- Under Advanced Search change the default database from *The ACM Full-text Collection* to *The ACM Guide to Computing Literature* > it searches more and includes the full-text collection.