



### Advanced Search Techniques

This guide provides instructions on improving your search outcomes by using Search Term Connectors, Natural Language, or the Advanced Search templates. Working with these search features will assist in locating answers to your research questions.

#### Search Terms and Connectors

Search Term Connectors allow you to combine your own selection of keywords in a manner that produces more specific and relevant search results. When you use Search Term Connectors, you are giving the platform a precise instruction on how the search must be processed.

The Search Term Connectors you can use on Westlaw International – Middle East, their symbols, and an example are listed below:

CONNECTOR	SYMBOL	RETRIEVES
OR	Or (or space)	Either search term of both <b>Car or automobile</b> <i>*Default connector</i>
AND	&	All terms in the same document <b>Trade &amp; mark &amp; registration</b>
BUT NOT	%	Documents not containing the term or terms following the % symbol <b>Taxation % income</b> <i>*Use with caution as relevant documents may be excluded from results</i>
Phrase	“ “	Terms appearing in the same order as in the quotation marks <b>“fiduciary duty”</b>
Grammatical Connectors	/p	Terms in the same paragraph <b>Hearsay /p admissibility</b>
	+p	The first term preceding the second in the same paragraph <b>Right +p counsel</b>
Numerical Connectors	/n	Terms within ‘n’ terms of each other ‘n’ can be a number from 1 to 255 <b>Person /2 jurisdiction</b>
	+n	The first term preceding the second by ‘n’ terms ‘n’ can be a number from 1 to 255 <b>Capital +3 punishment</b>
Root expander	!	Words with multiple endings

		<b>Object!</b> Will retrieve object, objected, objection, objecting
Universal character	*	Words with variable characters <b>Withdr*w</b> Will retrieve withdraw and withdrew
Exactly as typed	#	A word exactly as typed <b>#damage</b> Will retrieve damage, but not damaged or damages
Title Search	TI( )	Words in the Title of the Document TI(prospectus)
Frequency	ATLEASTn( )	Your term appears at least 'n' times within the document ATLEAST8(domicile)

## Default Search Term Connector

By default, Westlaw International – Middle East connects words using the **OR** connector.

**Example:** When typing **child minor** into the search bar without using any specific Search Term Connector, the platform will search for the term child **OR** the term minor.

## Processing order of Search Terms and Connectors

When composing your search query, keep in mind the order in which the platform will prioritize the processing of each Search Term Connector. The order in which you place your Search Term Connectors will affect the retrieval of documents. Search Term Connectors are prioritized in the following order:

1. Phrase Connector (“ “)
2. OR connector (or / space bar)
3. Numerical Connectors: (+n or /n)
4. Grammatical Connector: +p or /p
5. AND Connector (&)
6. BUT NOT Connector (%)

## Search Term Connector Example

I want to find United Arab Emirates (“UAE”) Resources relating to the term **acquisition** or the phrase **due diligence**.

1. On UAE Home Page, enter the exact phrase **"due diligence"** in the search bar.
2. Now, add the term **acquisition** in the search bar using the OR connector: **acquisition OR "due diligence"**.
3. This search query will show Resources mentioning either acquisition or "due diligence".
4. If the results are too broad, refine the search by, for example, specifying proximity: **acquisition +9 "due diligence"**.
5. This refined search will now show Resources where acquisition precedes “due diligence” by no more than nine words.

## Natural Language

Natural language search allows you to describe your issue in plain language. Westlaw International – Middle East focusses on the key legal concepts and words, ignoring the less relevant words. It will identify legal phrases, remove common words, generate variations of terms in your description and search for the key concepts in your description.

### Natural Language Tips:

1. Describe the issue clearly and concisely.
  - a. **Query:** What are all the checks and investigations needed when one company decides to buy another?
  - b. **Better Query:** What due diligence is required during an acquisition?
2. Eliminate unnecessary words from your description.
  - a. **Query:** What constitutes the law of invasion of privacy?
  - b. **Better Query:** What is the law of invasion of privacy?
3. Include alternative words in brackets to correctly identify alternative concepts
  - a. **Query:** Is a parent responsible for the debts of a child?
  - b. **Better Query:** Is a parent responsible for the debts of a child (minor)?

## Advanced Search Template

An Advanced Search Template is accessible when clicking on "Advanced" next to the search bar. This can be accessed when searching all content for all Middle East and North African jurisdictions, or when searching all content for a particular jurisdiction. Click on *Search Tips* at the top righthand corner for tips on running a more effective search.

- 1. Key Search Terms:** Enter your own search term(s).
- 2. Title:** Enter key words that form part of the resource's title.
- 3. Search Term Connectors:** Examples are displayed to increase the efficacy of the search when using either search field.

THOMSON REUTERS  
WESTLAW INTERNATIONAL

Middle East and Nort... advanced: [Search] Search Tips > Advanced >

Middle East and North Africa > Advanced Search

### Advanced Search: Middle East and North Africa

[Set as start page](#)

Use at least one field to create a Boolean Terms & Connectors query.

**1** Key search terms

**2** Title

**3** Connectors and Expanders

&	AND
or	OR
""	Phrase
%	But not
SPACE	OR
/n	Within n terms of
!	Root expander
+n	Preceding within n terms of
*	Universal character
#	Prefix to turn off plurals and equivalents

An Advanced Search Template is automatically displays for specific content types, such as legislation and cases.

### Looking for more information?

To sign into Westlaw International – Middle East, visit <https://mena.westlaw.com>

For assistance or to request training, email [SSA.MENATrainers@thomsonreuters.com](mailto:SSA.MENATrainers@thomsonreuters.com)

For additional training materials, visit [Westlaw International \(Middle East\) - Support Portal](#)