



We're happy to let you know that Policy Commons now supports proximity search. End users can specify that they would like to retrieve publications with words separated by a reasonable distance in the text.

Without proximity search, if you search for **brazil AND vaccination**, you'll find publications that have those two words in them. But the word **brazil** may appear on the first page of a 150-page report and **vaccination** on page 120. The two terms may have nothing to do with each other in the document. This search retrieves [11,440 publications](#).

Instead, you may want the words to appear within a reasonable distance of each other—for example, within the same paragraph. That's when you need proximity search. The operator for proximity search in Policy Commons is **NEAR**. The search **brazil NEAR vaccination** retrieves [844 publications](#).

By default, the Policy Commons **NEAR** operator will consider 15 as the number of words separating the two terms in the query. In the search **brazil NEAR vaccination**, the words must appear with a maximum of 15 words between them.

You can set a specific maximum distance instead. The search **brazil NEAR/5 vaccination** retrieves instances where **brazil** is no more than 5 words' distance from **vaccination**, yielding [316 publications](#).

Please send us your feedback as we continue to improve searching in Policy Commons.

Best regards,

The Coherent Digital Development Team



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