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## Searching in Voyager: special characters and punctuation normalization

- **Product:** Voyager
  - **Relevant for Installation Type:** Multi-Tenant Direct, Dedicated-Direct, Local, TotalCare
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### Question

How is punctuation (e.g. periods, ampersands, plus signs, etc.) treated when searching in Voyager?

### Answer

Voyager normalizes punctuation in two different ways, depending on the type of search you're executing. In a keyword search, punctuation is removed from the query string and each occurrence is replaced by a space.

In a left-anchored search, punctuation is removed from the query string and replaced with nothing.

So "african-americans" would be normalized as "african americans" in a keyword search, and "african-americans" would be normalized as "africanamericans" in a left-anchored search.

Special characters= -, &, +: The hyphen (-) is a space in both keyword and left-anchored searches. The ampersand (&) is a searchable character. The plus sign (+) is a searchable character.

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