Remove characters

Enter the number of characters by which a word can be shorter than the search term.

Combine

Searches for a term that matches any combination of the similarity search settings.

Search with wildcards and regular expressions

A *wildcard* is a special character that represents one or more unspecified characters. Wildcards make text searches more powerful but often less specific. LibreOffice enables you to use combinations of characters known as *regular expressions* which are more specific than simple wildcards but less so than a literal string. Regular expressions are very powerful but not very intuitive. They can save time and effort by combining multiple finds into one.

Table 4 shows a few of the regular expressions used by LibreOffice.

> ℹ️ **Tip**
>
> The online help describes many more regular expressions and their uses.

To use wildcards and regular expressions when searching and replacing:

1) On the Find and Replace dialog, click **Other Options** to see more choices. On this expanded dialog, select the **Regular expressions** option.

2) Type the search text, including the wildcards, in the *Search for* box and the replacement text (if any) in the *Replace with* box. Not all regular expressions work as replacement characters; the line break (\n) is one that does work.

3) Click **Find, Find All**, **Replace**, or **Replace All** (not recommended).

Table 4: Examples of search wildcards (regular expressions)

To find	Use this expression	Examples and comments
Any single character	. (a period or full stop)	b.d finds *bad*, *bud*, *bid*, and *bed*.
One of the specified characters	[xyz]	b[iu]n finds *bin* and *bun*.
Any single character in this range	[x-y]	[r-t]eed finds *reed*, *seed*, and *teed*; ranges must be in alphabetically ascending order.
Any single character except the characters inside the brackets	[^x]	p[^a]st finds *post* and *pest*, but not past.
The beginning of a word	\<start	\<log finds *logbook* and *logistics*, but not *catalog*.
The end of a word	end\>	log\> finds *catalog*, but not *logistics*.
A paragraph marker	$	Does not work as a replacement character. Use **\n** instead.
A line break	\n	Finds a line break that was inserted with *Shift+Enter*. When used as a replacement character, it inserts a paragraph marker.

> ✅ **Note**
>
> To search for a character that is defined as a wildcard, type a backslash (\) before the character to indicate that you are using it literally. For example, to find the text $5.00, you would conduct a search using \$5\.00.