Searching in Scopus

Scopus is a multidisciplinary database that contains literature across multiple areas of study, including medicine, psychology, public health, sociology, science, arts and humanities, and business. Unlike other databases used in Medicine, Scopus is only searched using keywords. It is strongly recommended that you search other databases in addition to Scopus when conducting research.

Access Scopus through the Medicine for Students subject guide or the Medicine and Public Health database list.

Keywords

Articles in Scopus can be found by constructing complex keyword searches. Keywords find a term in an article record (not the full text). Synonyms, alternate spellings, and related terms should be included in a Scopus search to ensure that your search is comprehensive.

Using Scopus

Scopus searches are conducted by building search strings to search for all your terms at once.

The following search aims to find articles about the effects of art therapy for people with dementia. Search for one concept at a time on a single line, using ‘OR’ to search for synonyms and alternate terms.

Search
dementia OR alzheimer* 

To add multiple lines to your search, click the plus (++) icon. Scopus will automatically link the two lines using ‘AND’.

Search
dementia OR alzheimer* 

E.g., "Cognitive architectures" AND robots

AND

Search
"art w/3 therap*"

Add lines until you have entered all your concepts and then click ‘search’ to run your search.

Use the options on the left to refine your results.
At the top right of the page, you may sort your results in various ways including by ‘Relevance’ and ‘Cited by (highest)’.

Sort on: Relevance

If you’d like to add more terms or additional lines to your search, you can edit your search by clicking edit (Edit) on the top left.
The table below contains the advanced search syntax that can be incorporated into a Scopus search to improve its accuracy and increase the number of results.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Syntax</th>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Function</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Truncation</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>depress*</td>
<td>Finds ‘alternate endings’ to a word</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandated wildcard</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>wom?n</td>
<td>Replaces 1 letter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optional wildcard</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>p#ediatric</td>
<td>Replaces 0-1 letters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nesting</td>
<td>(...)</td>
<td>behavio?r AND (depression OR anxiety)</td>
<td>Group similar terms in a search</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proximity</td>
<td>w/#</td>
<td>disturb* w/3 sleep</td>
<td>Find a word within a specified limit of another word in any order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loose phrase search</td>
<td>“...”</td>
<td>“quality of life”</td>
<td>Searches for variations of an exact phrase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approximate phrase search</td>
<td>{...}</td>
<td>{quality of life}</td>
<td>Searches for an exact phrase</td>
</tr>
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