

## Finding published research: A basic guide to Scopus

### What is Scopus?

Covering over 16,500 titles in the scientific, technical, medical and social science literature and the arts and humanities, going back to the mid-1960's, Scopus is described as "the world's largest abstracting and indexing database". It is a fully searchable store of cross-referenced citation information updated on a regular basis.

### Accessing Scopus

From the library homepage: <http://library.wellcome.ac.uk> find under Electronic Resources> databases> S

### Searching Scopus

Type your keywords into the main search box. Default setting searches occurrences within TITLE, ABSTRACT and KEYWORDS.

You can alter the search fields in the drop down menu. Be specific; avoid general words like 'cell'

- Search: "lung cancer" AND smoking  
[= searches *exact* phrase **within quotation marks** only where smoking *also* appears]  
**Results = 12,900**
- Search: "lung cancer" AND smok\* [to include smoker/s, smoke, smoking]  
**Results = 13,993**
- Search: lung cancer [= lung cancer together as a phrase but also separately]  
**Results = 179,208**

It is not case sensitive. Personal pronouns (he, she, it) and most articles (the, an) will be ignored in the search. It will automatically look for variants of letters that contain accents. Wild card entries: Analy?e will find *analyse* and *analyze*. Behav\* will find *behaviour*, *behaviour*, *behavioural*, *behaviourism*, etc

### Limiting/ Refining searches

Refine your search by limiting results to Source Title, Author Name, Year, Document Type, Subject Area. The number of results in each limited field is stated in brackets. Check the box and click on 'limit to' to limit your search results.

Due to lack of space the full list of Author's names to limit to may not be visible - click on 'more' to see **the full** range of individual author names. The same procedure can reveal a fuller list with the other categories.

## ***Viewing results***

In Scopus the results are presented in reverse chronological order. This can be changed. Hover the cursor over the 'document' 'author' 'date' 'cited by' headings to reorganise the results in an alternative order.

From each result you can link to the abstract, references and citations of a specific document by clicking on '**Abstract + Refs**'.

Or, alternatively, view an abstract instantly in the results page by clicking on '**Show Abstract**'.

You *may* be able to see the full text, click on 'view at publisher' (if there is one) to see whether this is an option N.B. Some links will be to journals to which we don't subscribe, though the publisher may offer priced access.

## ***Combining searches***

The '**Search History**' option displays all previously run searches. It can be used to view the results of previous searches or to combine searches together. Each search is given a number so you can be selective e.g. combine search #1 AND #3 click on 'go' to retrieve results of combinations.

## **Printing, saving and emailing results**

Tick the box next to the results you wish to save then click 'add to list' to save these results for the duration of the session.

Access the saved results via the 'My list' button near the very top of the screen. From 'My list' tick the box to select records, click the 'Output' button to either print or e-mail the citations/abstracts.

## **Other features**

### ***Alerting functions***

Registration is highly recommended. Once this is completed you are able to take advantage of the alerting features. Once you have run a search it can be saved so that any new items matching your criteria are automatically e-mailed to you. Similarly you can be alerted every time a particular selected article is cited. This is a very easy to set up feature and no further administration is required. It can be an enormously useful time-saving tool.

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