

Web of Science: A basic guide to searching

What is Web of Science (WoS)?

Web of Science contains standardized citation details from over 10,000 high impact journals in a searchable database covering science, social sciences and the arts and humanities.

Accessing Web of Science

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

Please do not use the web browser buttons for Web of Science or you may find the page has 'expired'. For all navigation employ the instructions on the WOS interface.

Searching Web of Science

Type your search term(s) into the first box. The default setting 'Topic' searches TITLE, ABSTRACT and KEYWORDS. Any of the search boxes can be changed to search 'author', 'publication name', 'document type', etc., using the drop down menu. It is not case sensitive.

Viewing results

Results will be displayed by latest date and will highlight the search terms in yellow if located within the title. The results can be ordered in different ways e.g. highly cited items first, sources in alphabetical order, or alphabetically by first authors. Use the drop down menu within the 'sort by' box near the top right of the screen to display the results in a different order. Sort by 'Relevance' means number of occurrences of the search term, highest first.

- Search: "lung cancer" AND smoking
[= searches *exact* phrase **within quotation marks** only where smoking *also* appears]
Results = 7,525
- Search: "lung cancer" AND smok* [to include smoker/s, smoke, smoking]
Results = 9,633
- Search: lung cancer [= lung cancer together as a phrase but also separately]
Results = >100,000

Refining searches

Refining options are vertically positioned on the left side. Where 'more' is indicated please click on this word to reveal all the options. Some options have hidden information – for example click on the **arrow** (not the text) to reveal institutions affiliated to the work. This means you can then limit the search to locate all articles that have been produced for Harvard University or King's College London, for example. You can refine the results by authors, document type, etc by ticking the box and click on the '**refine**' button.

If there is an option to see the full text a button will appear stating 'Full Text' underneath the citation.



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Combining searches

Tick the searches you would like to combine and highlight whether you wish to use the AND or the OR commands. Then click the 'combine' button. The sets are numbered and marked with a hash.

Printing/e-mailing results

From your results list simply tick the adjacent box then use the '**print**' or '**e-mail**' buttons at the top of the results list.

Saving results

To select a record for saving temporarily tick the box and click on '**add to marked list**'. Your display will add a red tick to this record henceforth to show that it has already been saved. To view your saved results go to 'Marked list' tab near the top of the page. Do not attempt to save records to file as this feature will not work within the library. (From the 'Marked List' you can also print or have the results e-mailed. To exit 'marked list' click on << **leaved marked lists.**)

Other features

Register for alerts

Use the 'sign in' option at the very top of the page to register. Once registered you can take advantage of the e-mailing alerting service which will automatically send you recent additions that would feature in your saved searches. It will also inform you each time a saved article is cited by another research article.

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