**Scopus**

Below are some notes to help you to exploit the features of Scopus. Additional help is available from the [Scopus Support Hub](#).

I have also created [videos](#) on Scopus citation searching, and dealing with results.

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**Boolean Logic and Proximity Searching** ........................................................................................................... 2

**Field Names** .................................................................................................................................................. 3

**Types of Publication Indexed for Scopus** ....................................................................................................... 4

**Phrase Searching in Scopus** .......................................................................................................................... 4

**Wildcard and Truncation Symbols** ................................................................................................................... 5

**Viewing Results** ............................................................................................................................................... 6

**Selecting and Emailing Search Results** ......................................................................................................... 6

**Saving Searches** ............................................................................................................................................. 7

**Email Alerts** .................................................................................................................................................... 8

**Online Tutorials from Scopus** ........................................................................................................................... 8

**Exporting Results to Endnote** .......................................................................................................................... 8

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**What is Scopus?**

Scopus claims to be the world’s largest abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature. It is very broad based, covering thousands of journals in the life sciences, the social sciences and humanities, the physical sciences, and the health sciences.

It includes all of the data from the two major international medical databases, Medline, and Embase from 1996, however it does not include the newest unindexed material from PubMed.

**If Scopus includes all of the data from Embase and Medline, why would I need to search them as well?**

In Scopus Emtree headings, the indexing language of Embase can be searched only as Keywords. Scopus does not include the Emtree thesaurus or allow hierarchical (thesaurus-based) searches. It also lacks the subheadings (biomedical limits) which allow focused searches for specific drug and disease concepts such as adverse events, clinical trials and therapy.

The same applies to MeSH, the indexing language of Medline. In Scopus MeSH terms can be searched only as Keywords, so thesaurus searching of Medline records in Scopus is limited. Terms cannot be exploded, nor can subheadings be applied, and this imposes limits which make Scopus alone inadequate for high level biomedical searching.
For example, if you search **Cardiovascular diseases** as a MeSH term in PubMed, the term is automatically exploded to include the full hierarchy of specific diseases, whereas in Scopus, only the general heading Cardiovascular diseases is searched.

**Boolean Logic and Proximity Searching**

Scopus has the usual range of Boolean search options, but whereas most databases use **AND, OR, NOT**, Scopus uses **AND, OR, AND NOT**, as well as two proximity operators.

**PRE/n**

"precedes by" This will find terms where the first term in the search must precede the second by a specified number of terms (n).

**W/n**

"within" This will find terms within a specified number of terms (n) of one another. Either word may appear first.

Replace "n" with the maximum number of terms that can be between the two terms. It can be a number from 0 to 255.

Use the following guidelines when choosing a number for "n":

To find terms in the same phrase, use 3, 4, or 5.

To find terms in the same sentence, use 15.

To find terms in the same paragraph, use 50.

**Example:**

`behaviour W/5 disturbance` would find the two words "behaviour" and "disturbance" no more than 5 words apart.

"... wind farm behaviour during power system network disturbance"

"... sleep disturbance and suicidal thoughts and behaviour"

`cardiac PRE/3 catheter` would find the words "cardiac" and "catheter" separated by 3 or fewer words but cardiac would always have to come first

"... outcomes of cardiac operations and catheter interventions ...

"Development of a cardiac catheter remote control robot platform ..."
**Field Names**

Like Medline and Embase, Scopus has a variety of searchable Fields. These are an extremely useful aid in improving the accuracy of your searches. In fact they are essential for higher degree searching.

Some of the most commonly used are:-

| Author | AUTH | AUTH ("Smith, J")  
|--------|------|----------------------  
|        |      | A combined field that searches the following author fields: AUTHLASTNAME and AUTHFIRST.  
|        |      | AUTH ("Smith, J") retrieves authors with the surname Smith, and the initial J  
|        |      | Unless the author's name is enclosed in inverted commas this search will not work.  
| Article Title | TITLE | TITLE ("physical symptoms") returns documents with the phrase "physical symptoms" in their title. Complete titles of articles can be searched, but as with phrases, they must be enclosed in inverted commas.  
| Abstract | ABS | ABS (bioterrorism) returns documents with the word bioterrorism in their abstracts,  
| Keyword | KEY | KEY (obesity) returns documents with obesity in the following fields  
|         |      | AUTHKEY (keywords used by the author of an article), INDEXTERMS (for example Emtree and MeSH), TRADENAME, and CHEMNAME fields.  
|         |      | It is a combined field that searches in a range of specific keyword fields  
| Title, Abstract, Keyword | TITLE,ABS,KEY | This is the default setting of the basic Scopus document search screen  
|         |      | TITLE-ABS-KEY("heart attack") will return documents with "heart attack" in their abstracts, article titles, or keyword fields.  

A full list of field names is at [http://help.elsevier.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/2347/p/8150/kw/field%20names/search/1](http://help.elsevier.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/2347/p/8150/kw/field%20names/search/1)
Types of Publication Indexed for Scopus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Article</td>
<td>Original research or opinion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article-in-Press</td>
<td>Accepted article is made available online before official publication.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference paper</td>
<td>Original article reporting data presented at a conference or symposium. Items of any length reporting with the exception of Conference Abstracts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Editorial</td>
<td>Providing a summary of one or more articles in a journal issue, or providing general editorial news</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erratum</td>
<td>Report of an error, correction or retraction of a previously published paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letter</td>
<td>Letter to or correspondence with the editor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Note</td>
<td>Item defined as a note in a journal, also including discussions and commentary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review</td>
<td>Significant review of original research, also includes conference papers which are reviews. Scopus does NOT include book reviews.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short survey</td>
<td>Short, or mini-review of original research; usually shorter, and with a less extensive bibliography than a review</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Phrase Searching in Scopus

There are two ways to search for phrases in Scopus.

1. Using double quotation marks to search for phrases allows for slight variations, such as hyphenated forms, and plurals.

   **Example:**
   
   "heart attack" returns different results from heart attack because the latter would be searched as heart AND attack, which would find documents that contained both words, even if they were far apart from each other. The search "heart attack" only finds documents where heart and attack appear together as a phrase.

   "heart attack" also finds the hyphenated form "heart-attack", and Scopus automatically includes plurals as well, so it will also find “heart attacks” or “heart-attacks”.

2. To find documents that contain **only an exact phrase**, including any stop words, spaces, and punctuation, enclose the phrase in braces: {}. These are squiggly brackets – above the square brackets on your keyboard.
Example:

{health care?} returns results such as: Who pays for health care?

**Wildcard and Truncation Symbols**

Wildcards are used to search for variations of a word. However you don't need to use wildcards to find variant spellings or most plurals.

Scopus automatically finds common American/British English variant spellings.

**Example:**

*behavior finds both behavior and behaviour*

Using the singular form of a word in your search retrieves the singular, plural, and possessive forms of most words.

**Example:**

*criterion finds both criterion and criteria*

**Note:** Only one type of wildcard can be included in a single term. You cannot mix question marks and asterisks.

? A question mark replaces a single character anywhere in a word. **It doesn’t allow for the absence of a character.** Use one question mark for each character you want to replace.

**Example:**

AFFIL(nure?berg) finds Nuremberg, Nurenberg

* An asterisk can substitute for the absence of a character, a single character, or multiple characters anywhere in a word. It can also be used at the beginning of a word

**Example:**

behav* finds behave, behavior, behaviour, behavioural, behaviourism, etc.
Viewing Results

Each individual record will allow you the following options:

- Click on the title of the article to see abstract and references
- Click on a name to see additional articles by this author
- Click on 4 to see articles which cite this reference
- Click on full text options to find the full text of the article
- Click on International Journal of Psychiatry in Medicine to see articles from this journal

It’s useful to view the abstract and references of the article by clicking on the article title - you will then be able to find full text for the references, and the number of times they have been cited.

Selecting and Emailing Search Results

When you have completed a search you may want to email only a selection of the results to yourself. To do this, simply click in the check box to the left of each reference that interests you.

Selecting a page by page, or if you want to send all of the results on the page to yourself, click on the check box above the results list, and choose Select page. If you want to send yourself all of the results of your search - even if there are pages of them, choose Select all.
If you change your mind, just click in the check box to the left of the drop down arrow, and the selection will be cancelled.

When you have finished collecting references, click on My List - at the top of the screen

This will then open a page where you can see your list.

Select all of the items (using the check box at the top of the list), then use the More drop down box again, and select Email

A new screen will open to allow you to enter your email address, and send the results.

There are a number of formats to choose from.

If you have a small number of references it's useful to choose Abstract format with References, as that way you also get the complete list of references used in each of the articles you have selected. If your list is a long one, you might prefer just Citation, or possibly Abstract format

**Saving Searches**

Login (You will need to register to save searches and to set up email alerts.)

After running the search, click the Save link at the top of the Search results page. You can also click the Save link in the Search history table to save a search.

To view saved searches or to modify a saved search click on My Scopus

Next click on Saved Searches - you can now edit or delete a saved search, or set up an Alert or RSS feed.
Email Alerts

Scopus has instructions for setting up alerts, and a video to demonstrate how it's done.

Non-Scopus documents (abstracts available on platforms external to Scopus) and citations derived from Scopus references are not included in Search alerts.

Online Tutorials from Scopus

Notes and videos for Scopus functions can be found here. Below are links to a selection.

- Basic searching techniques - a video which shows you how to limit your results by publication date and type.
- Reviewing Search Results
- Reviewing Documents
- Browsing and Analyzing Journals
- Using the Personalized Features (Such as saving searches and setting up alerts)
- Author and Affiliation Searching
- Cited Reference Searching (One of Scopus most useful features!)

Exporting Results to Endnote

To export documents, Scopus results lists, or document references

1. Select the document(s) you want to export.

For Scopus results lists or document references, select the document(s) and then click Export.

Note: You can export a maximum of 2,000 documents at a time.

2. Select an Export format:

   RIS format is the appropriate form for EndNote.

3. For Scopus results, select one of the Output formats below.

   Note: The Output formats available depend on the type of results you are exporting. References, web results, and patent results always export in the same format.

   Citations only: Select this option to export citation fields.

   Abstract format: Select this option to export citation fields, abstracts, and author keywords.

   Abstract format with References: Select this option to export citation fields, abstracts, affiliations, author keywords, and references.

   Complete format: Select this option to export citation fields, abstracts, affiliations, references, keywords, conference information, conference code, document IDs, language, editor, and publisher fields.
Specify fields to be exported: Select this option to view a list of available export fields, and then select the appropriate fields to export.

Note: The Output Date and URL fields are always exported.

EndNote should launch automatically and download your results.