Scopus: Citation Searching and Pearling July 2017

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Scopus is a huge database. You can easily "translate" a PubMed, PsycINFO, or Embase search for Scopus, and while it may produce many of the same articles, there will be lots of additional material, and you will have some extra options available. Citation searching and pearling are two of the most useful.

What is Pearling?

Pearling involves searching the reference lists of relevant articles for articles that may have been missed by conventional database searches. It may also be referred to as ‘pearl growing’ (Cooke et al. 2012).

What is Citation Searching?

Citation searching allows you to see how many times a particular article has been used as a reference (cited) in subsequent articles, and to see those citing articles. This allows you to move forward from a single article and discover what new research has referred back to that earlier research.

To see how pearling and citation searching works:-

- Copy and paste the title of the article below into the Scopus Search box. You'll need to enclose the title in double quotes.

  "A systematic review on the effectiveness of cognitive behavioral therapy for posttraumatic stress disorder"

- Set the in box to Article Title, and search

Once the result is displayed

you can

- Check for full text of the article, using the blue Check fulltext options icon

- View a list or articles which have subsequently cited this reference by clicking on the number at the right of the display in the Cited By column

- View the abstract and references of the article by clicking on the article title. Each reference in the list also has links to full text, as well as its own abstract and references, and number of times cited.

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