What is Scopus?

Scopus is the largest abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature. Scopus is the largest abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature. It is a multidisciplinary database, meaning that it delivers a comprehensive overview of the world’s research output in many fields, including science, technology, medicine, social sciences, and arts and humanities.

Topic searching in Scopus

1. Go to Scopus by clicking on the Popular resources link from the Library homepage.
2. Break your topic down into separate concepts. In the following example, there are three concepts. The remaining words (does/affect/in) are too common to use as search terms, so they can be ignored.

   Does screen time affect sleep behaviour in adolescents?

3. Type your first concept into the Scopus search box.
4. Click the + icon to create a new line.
5. Type your second concept into the next line, and repeat with remaining concepts. Notice the word AND between each line. This search method will retrieve articles which mention screen time and sleep and adolescents – all in the same paper. Click Search.
Search tips

Are you satisfied with the results that Scopus has retrieved? How relevant do they appear to be? Keep in mind that there is no single perfect search strategy, so trying different variations and word combinations to find what you need is all a part of the process.

Consider using some of these techniques if you need to 'tighten' your search:

- **Phrase Searching**
  Place double quotation marks around two or more words if you want them to appear side-by-side, in that exact order. Otherwise articles which include all words will be found, but those words may not be together. For example: "music therapy", "cognitive behavioral therapy", "bipolar affective disorder"

- **Truncation**
  Place an asterisk* at the end of the stem of a word to find various word endings.
  - Adolescen* will find articles which include: adolescent, adolescents, adolescence
  - Genetic* will find articles which include: genetic, genetics, genetically, geneticist

- **Synonyms / alternative terminology**
  If you can think of alternative words for a concept, enter them all on the same line, separated by an upper case OR. For example: "mobile phone" OR smartphone OR "cellphone" OR "mobile device"

- **Do you need to narrow or broaden your search?**
  Have the results provided you with some ideas about how to narrow or broaden your search strategy? If your search is too narrow you may need to remove a concept. If it is too broad you may wish to include an additional concept. In the example below, the word Depression has been included to focus on a more specific aspect of the topic. Is study type important to you? If so, you may wish to add another concept for study types. For example: "case control study" OR "cross sectional study"
Looking at the results

Consider refining your results using the options in the left panel. Do you have a date limit to apply? Would you like to filter by other options such as Subject, Document type or Language? Perhaps you would like to sort results by Relevance, or most highly cited? When you find an article that looks interesting, click on the title for more information, including keywords, reference lists, and citing papers.

Exporting results

Mark the box next to the left of each search result to save them, print them, email them to yourself, or export them to EndNote.

Contact Us

For further support or questions, please email the Liaison Librarians for Health & Medical Sciences Vikki Langton and Robert Franchini at: fhms_librarians@adelaide.edu.au