Supporting Literature Searching

Searching the Evidence in Scopus

Supporting Literature Searching
How to access Scopus — and what is it?

http://www.scopus.com

Go to http://www.scopus.com

You may need to identify yourself with Cambridge University Library.

Or log in with RAVEN if you are on a computer outside the University network.

Logging On
If you are accessing Scopus from a non-University computer, you will need to log in with your RAVEN password.
When you are presented with an ATHENS login screen, click "Alternative/Institutional Login", and search or browse for University of Cambridge. NHS users cannot access Scopus outside the Medical Library.
If you have problems logging on, contact the Medical Library.
Scopus is a multi-disciplinary database which covers over 21,000 journals in the fields of science, technology, medicine, social sciences and arts and humanities. It is a citation index, and allows tracking and analysing of research outputs.

What's the difference between a citation index and a database like PubMed?
The key element that differentiates citation databases from other searchable databases is the way references are linked across time. When an article of interest is found in the database, searchers can view the references in that article and also see if any newer studies have cited the article.

The default setting for Scopus is the document search, but there are other options we can explore later in this guide.

Planning your search

In this guide we are trying to find articles which will help answer the following question:

Have there been any trials in the past three years that have looked at the benefits of HRT for menopausal women who may develop osteoarthritis?

Before starting your search you should ask questions of yourself such as:
- What are the keywords?
- Are there any other ways to spell the keywords?
- Are there any other words which mean the same thing (synonyms)?
- Are there any related keywords I want to include?
- What limits do I want to apply — date, language, age group, publication type?

In this search there are four sets of keywords (underlined):
Have there been any trials in the past three years that have looked at the benefits of HRT for menopausal women who may develop osteoarthritis?

Our plan for the search looks like this:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HRT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>osteoarthritis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>menopausal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>trial</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
There are a variety of techniques we can use to make the search much more comprehensive and efficient:

**Boolean Logic**
- OR will search for articles containing any of the terms we chose. Use OR to combine synonyms, alternative spellings or related items.
- AND will search for articles which contain all of the terms we have chosen.

We can expand those keywords into collections of synonyms.

You may want to broaden your search to include plurals, grammatical variations and spelling variations, so you can use **TRUNCATION** or **WILDCARDS**.

**Truncation / Wildcards**
- The question mark (?) represents any single character (eg wom?n will find women and woman).
- The asterisk (*) represents 0 or more characters, including no character (eg: trial* will find trial, trials, trialling, trialled, etc.). You can also use * at the start of the word (e.g. *estrogen will find oestrogen as well as estrogen).

You can only use one wildcard at a time.

Recognise the key phrases in your search — this will help you improve the relevance of your search results: searching for hormone replacement therapy might retrieve papers which use all the words, but not necessarily in this phrase.

**Phrase Searching: use “ “**
- To search for an exact phrase, enter it in quotes, e.g. “heart attack” will find the phrase where these two words are adjacent to each other. It will also include plurals, so heart attacks is also retrieved.

Our plan for the search now looks like this:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HRT OR “hormone replacement therap*” OR “<em>estrogen replacement therap</em>”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>osteoarthriti* OR osteoporo* OR “bone mineral densit*”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>menopaus* OR post<em>menopaus</em> OR ”post menopaus*”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>trial* OR RCT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
To put this into practice and actually find the relevant papers, follow these steps:

**Searching Scopus**

Type hrt in the first search box, and click "add search field".

Type "hormone replacement therap*" in the 2nd search box and repeat, adding the remaining term "**estrogen replacement therapy**" into each box, remembering to combine with OR.

Click the **Search** button to run the search.

You may be alarmed at the number of hits you get for this first layer of your search.

Don’t worry — once all the terms are combined, the number of hits you have to look through will be much more realistic.
Click on the "search" button in the middle of the screen.

Click the "reset form" option beneath the previous search terms.

Enter all the terms for your second keyword — one per box, combining all the terms with OR.

Click "search".

Repeat this process with the remaining terms.

Click on "search" (in the top left corner) when you have completed all the keywords in your search, and scroll down to view the search history.

All the lines of your search are presented.
Now we need to combine the four elements of the search.
We'll use the Boolean operator AND.

Look at the "combine queries" box

![Combine queries](image)

it indicates how the lines of your search should be combined.

Type

```
#1 and #2 and #3 and #4
```

and click ![search icon](image) to run the search.

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**Why use AND?**

You use AND to combine search terms where you want ALL the words to appear in the articles that are found.

The number of hits has reduced significantly: this set of hits will contain papers that are relevant to your question — i.e. it is a very specific search looking for articles about HRT and menopause and osteoporosis and trials.
Before you start looking through the results you may want to refine them.

**Refine Results**

While using the search history to combine sets of search terms is a good start, you can also refine your results according to some criteria set by Scopus.

When you view the results of your search, down the left-hand column you can see a list of ways to refine your search.

By each method of refining the results, you can see the number of hits involved. E.g. in this example, in 2018 there were 16 relevant papers in this search.

Refining your search by publication year might be an obvious one to start with.

In the "Year" option, select the three most recent years, and "limit to".

If you need more choices of publication year, a "view more" option appears if you hover your mouse over the last entry in each area:
Displaying your results

For each article you will be able to:
- click on the title to read the abstract
- see how many times cited the article has been (i.e. who has used this article as a reference since it was published)
- click on the full text option to access the article itself (this is only available if the University of Cambridge Library has a subscription)
- once you’re viewing the abstract, you will be able to click on the “References” option

Hover over any paper to get the chance to preview the abstract, see how many papers have cited this one, and to check accessibility of full text.

Click "view abstract" to get a preview:

As you work down the list of papers retrieved you can tick to mark the useful papers — at the top of the page you chose the "more…” option and select "Add to list" — this will let you gather all the useful papers into one set.
When you add items to your list, you’ll see a confirmation, at the top of the screen, and also have the option to open your list.

The selected 1 documents were added to your temporary list. View or manage your list.

Click on the title to see the full details of the article.

The full record is not the full text, but it gives a wealth of information about the paper.

The number of times the paper has been cited since its publication, as well as the number of references used in the paper itself.

View more papers similar to this one by clicking "related documents".

The option to set up an alert every time this paper is used again as a reference.
Citing articles and cited references

The citing articles are listed in a very similar format to your search results:

You can add any useful ones to your lists.

The cited references can also be added to your marked list, but only if you “view in search results format” will you be able to add any interesting references to your list. The full detail of every paper may not be available. This is because of limitations in the journals indexed by Scopus — if the journal isn’t indexed, the full reference will not appear.
Accessing the full text

As with any resource, the access to full-text papers depends on the journals that have been purchased by the University, as well as open access publications.

Beneath the short entry for each paper is a link to the abstract and also a link to the full text.

Click the link to "@cam – find full text"

You now have the information about whether the item is available as an electronic article via university subscription, and the chance to click through to the paper itself (as above), or to establish that this paper is not available via University subscriptions.

If no electronic access is available, you may yet have success in finding the paper copy, or you may need to request the item via Document Delivery services.
List — Email / Print / Export Your Results

Why must we “Save to List”? If you do not add the selected articles to the List, Scopus will forget that you have selected those articles. Add the articles you like as you go along — with all the possibilities of the extra articles available via TIMES CITED and the REFERENCES, it’s very easy to lose track of those which you initially found useful.

Open your List by clicking on the link above the top menu bar.

Choose which papers you want to export — all in the list would make most sense at this stage.

You have the option to email, print or export your references to a reference management tool.

Click Export, and make your selections depending on the tool you are using. There are options to select Mendeley, Refworks, or RIS files (for Endnote and Endnote Web). Remember to take “abstracts and keywords” for a full reference.
Save your strategy

In the Search History there is an option to "Save History / Create Alert". To do either of these things you must create an account — this is in addition to the Raven login you used to access Scopus.

Once you have registered and signed in, your search will be saved in “My Scopus”. You can access My Scopus by clicking on the icon that looks like this:

If you want an alert you will need to go to your saved searches in “My Scopus”, click the icon that looks like a bell, then choose the frequency, format and email address you’d like these alerts to be delivered to.

Save your selections.

To open a search saved previously click the Settings tab (which looks like three horizontal lines) at the top menu bar, and navigate from there.
More options

Your searches can be more sophisticated if they need to be. Here are some options.

- **Narrow to a set range of years**
  You may want only articles from a certain time period. Simply click on ‘Limit’ and set the date range.

  - **Limit**

  Date range (inclusive)

  - Published **All years** to **Present**
  - Added to Scopus in the last **7 days**

- **Combine your topic search with a particular author**

  Use the dropdown options to pick "author" and combine with a keyword. Remember to use the * after initials to expand your options.

  - **Search**

  - **AND**

  - **Search**

- **Search for all the work by a specific author and view “H” index:**
Pick Author Search instead of Document Search and follow the steps, entering the relevant information.

If there is more than one entry for the author you want, tick all the relevant entries and then “show documents”, or to see the calculation of the “H” index, click “view citation overview”.

More help

For further help or to arrange a training session, please contact:

Isla Kuhn, Veronica Phillips or Eleanor Barker
University of Cambridge Medical Library

Email: librarytraining@medschl.cam.ac.uk
Phone: (01223) 336750
Web: http://library.medschl.cam.ac.uk