Searching the Evidence in Web of Science

Web of Science

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To help you use this guide,

indicates a step in the process of searching and retrieving articles.

indicates a tip, or an extra piece of information.

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How to access Web of Science - and what is it?

http://wok.mimas.ac.uk

Go to http://wok.mimas.ac.uk

Click on the central purple button

Logging On
If you are accessing Web of Science 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. If you have problems logging on, contact the Medical Library.
Web of Science is made up of several different sections, including:

- Web of Science Core Collection
- SciELO
  - Focusing on literature from Latin American sources
- Data Citation Index
- Zoological Record
- Medline

This guide will concentrate on Web of Science Core Collection. For a direct link to the Core Collection, go to: http://webofknowledge.com

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 cite this article.

The default database is Web of Science Core Collection if you would like to change database select from the list in the drop down menu.
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 last 10 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 4 sets of keywords, which are underlined:

*Have there been any trials in the last 10 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 choose. 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 asterisk (*) represents any group of characters, including no character (eg: s*food will find seafood and soyfood)
- The question mark (?) represents any single character (eg wom?n will find women and woman)
• The dollar sign ($) represents zero or one character (eg isch$emia will find ischaemia and ischemia)
  $ can be placed in the middle or at the end of the word.

You can also use combinations of these wildcard tools to get the broadest possible variation: eg
  organi?ation* will find organisation, organization, organisations, organizations, organizational, organisational

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. “endometrial cancer”

Our plan for the search now looks like this:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HRT OR “hormone replacement therap*” OR “oestrogen replacement therap*” OR “estrogen replacement therap*”</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 &quot;post menopaus*&quot;</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 Web of Science

Type hrt in the first search box, and click “add another field”.

Type “hormone replacement therap*” in the second search box and repeat, adding the remaining terms into each box, remembering to combine with OR.

Click “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 top-left corner.

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

Enter all the terms for your 2nd keyword — one per box, combining all the terms with OR.

Click "search".

Repeat this process with the remaining terms.

Click on "search history" (in the top right corner) to view all the lines of your search.
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.

Tick each line that you want to be represented in your search (i.e. tick all the boxes in this search).

Select "combine sets" — AND
Click "combine".

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 that talk about HRT and menopause and osteoporosis and trials.

Displaying your results
Now that you've done a search, it's time to review the results, and pick out the ones that seem most useful to you.

In the Search History, click on the number of hits in the Results column that you'd like to look through.

You can see the terms we've searched for are highlighted in yellow in each paper.
Before you start looking through the results you may want to Refine Results

**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 Web of Science.

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

Publication year might be an obvious one to start with.

Open the "Publication Year" option

You can select and "refine" at this stage, but if you'd just like more choices, click "more options/values".

You may prefer to click "Record Count" to see the years with most publications displayed first.

"Refine" by the relevant years, and the number of hits will reduce.
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 @cam - find full text option to access the article itself (this is only available if the University of Cambridge Library has a subscription)

For any paper, click "view abstract" to get a preview:

As you work down the list of papers retrieved you can tick to mark the useful papers - add these to the "Marked List" so you can gather all the useful papers into one set.

Click on the title to see the whole record:
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.
- The option to set up an alert every time this paper is used again as a reference.
- View more papers similar to this one by clicking "view related records".
- Keywords which might help you refine your search further.
- Author contact information.
- A link to the Impact Factor of the journal.
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 the "marked list".

The cited references can also be added to your marked list, but the full detail of every paper may not be available. This is because of limitations in the journals indexed by Web of Science — 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.

You now have the information about whether the item is available as 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.
Marked List — Email / Print / Export Your Results

Check the boxes of relevant articles, and click on “ADD TO MARKED LIST”

Why must we “add to marked list”?
If you do not add the selected articles to the Marked List, Web of Science 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 which you initially found useful.

Open your Marked List by clicking on the link in the top right corner.

Step 1
Choose which papers you want to export — all in the marked list would make most sense at this stage.

Step 2
How much detail about each article in your list do you want?
Web of Science will email you the basic information about the article (Author, Title, Journal Title, Pages etc) but you may find other information useful too.
Tick the “ABSTRACTS” box

Step 3 gives you the option to print or email the results, or to export them to the reference management tool of your choice.
Save your strategy

In the Search History 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 Web of Science.

Register or Sign In.
Then complete the options — give the search a name, decide if you want email alerts. If yes, 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 "open saved history" in the Search History page.
More options

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

- **Narrow to a specific Citation Index**
  When you open the Web of Science Core Collection, scroll down and open "more settings". Deselect the Citation Index(es) that are not relevant for your search.

- **Combine your topic search with a particular author**
  Use the drop-down options to pick "author" and combine with a keyword. Remember to use the * after initials to expand your options.
• Search for all the work by a **specific author:**
• Click on **+More**

Pick Author Search instead of Basic Search

Follow the steps, entering the relevant information.

• Check the **citations of a specific paper**
  Instead of a "basic" search, pick "cited reference search"

Complete the boxes as indicated.
• Use Web of Science as a quick way of getting to EndnoteWeb — the web-based version of Endnote. Note: the login you made to save searches or create alerts will give you access to EndnoteWeb.

More help

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

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

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