



ELECTRONIC GUIDE

Web of Science

How to Search Web of Science

Introduction

Web of Science is a multidisciplinary bibliographic database that indexes and abstracts journals in the sciences, social sciences, arts and humanities. Distributed by the Institute for Scientific Information, *Web of Science* is a cumulation of three databases: **Science Citation Index (SCI)**, **Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI)**, and **Arts & Humanities Citation Index (A&HCI)**. *Web of Science* covers 1994+.

Earlier coverage: **SCI** and **SSCI** 1986+ CD-ROM / Babbidge Library Info Café 2 / Table 6

Print source: **SCI** 1964-1991 Ref. Q 1 S45

SSCI 1966-1991 Ref. H 1 S63

A&HCI 1980+ through **FirstSearch**

Print source: **A&HCI** 1977-1992 Ref. Z 5939 A795

To Begin

<http://www.lib.uconn.edu> → UConn Libraries homepage → Most Used Databases → Web of Science

Search Types

Web of Science offers two basic types of searching:

- Search the database as a regular database, by subject, author, and a number of other parameters, to get a list of bibliographic citations.
- Search the database as a citation database to track citation patterns for articles and authors across years and disciplines.

Searching *Web of Science* as a Regular Database

There are a number of access points for searching the database.

Choose **General Search** or **Quick Search**.

Quick search allows searching only by subject. Up to 100,000 citations are provided. No limiting is possible. This search is available only on the welcome page.

Choose **General Search** to search by topic, author, group author, source title (journal name) or address. Links to the full source titles list for journal names, author and group author indexes, and address abbreviations are provided.

Limits can be set by language or document type (book review, editorial, meeting abstract, article, etc.)
The default in both cases includes all options.

Search results can be displayed in several different ways: by date, citation frequency, relevance, first author name, or source (journal) title.

The default display is date (reverse chronological order).

Searching *Web of Science* as a Citation Database

Citation searching allows tracking a given article for other articles which:

- a. have been cited by that article;
- b. have cited it since it was written; or
- c. are related to it by subject due to shared references.

To search for articles which have cited an item since it was written:

Choose **Cited Reference Search**.

Input the source citation information in the appropriate boxes.

Note:

- **Cited Work Index** is an alphabetical list of all citations as they appear in the database. For journals, use the list of journal abbreviations.
- Only the first author's name can be used in citation searching of an article written prior to 1994. Post-1994, any author name can be used. You can enter the name as directed below in **Author Searching**, or use the **cited author index**.

Click **Search**.

If more than one citation matches the data provided, the next screen lists those matches.

To select a specific citation as your source citation, click the box to the left of the entry and then click **Finish Search**.

If there is more than one page of results, select each page with the **Select Page** button. To select the first 500 matching citations, click **Select All**. Then click **Finish Search**.

The search results are a listing of those articles which have cited your source article(s) since it was written (within the dates covered by this database.)

Select individual records or the entire set for printing or downloading.

To retrieve the full record for an individual citation, click the blue lettering of the item title.

To search for an article's list of references, or to find articles related by their references:

Conduct a general search of the database for the source citation.

(See section above on searching *Web of Science* as a regular database.)

Locate the source article record.

To get the list of references (the research upon which the article was based), click **Cited References**.

This duplicates the list of references at the end of the print article.

To see a list of related articles sharing references in common, click the **Find Related Records** button.

Those articles sharing the most references in common with the searched article are listed first.

Note: The **Times Cited** link offers a second method of finding articles which have cited a source article since it was written. This link only provides information for source items **written within the time period covered by the database**. Use **Cited Reference Searching** to search for similar information on articles written prior to the beginning of database coverage.

Author Searching

Use the following format for author's name: **james rt**

Web of Science uses only initials for first and middle names.

If uncertain of the middle initial, use the first initial with the truncation symbol:

Example: **hamilton d***

For common names, narrow results by searching the names of multiple authors linked with **and**.

Example: **spane jg and helman kj**

Alternatively, when in Full Search, include terms identifying author's research or location in relevant field boxes:

Example: **raymond I*** in the author field
storrs in the address field.

Format for unusual last names:

Examples:	de los Reyes	use:	delosreyes or de los reyes
	O'Brian	use:	obrian
	Smith-Kline	use:	smithkline or smith kline

Group Author

A group author is an organization or institution. Use the **group author index** link to look up author names.

Topic Searching

Topic words are searched in the title, abstract or keyword fields .

Although there is a keyword field there is no official controlled vocabulary or thesaurus, so the most successful searching includes synonyms for search concepts.

Examples: **heart attack** or **ischemia** or **myocardial infarction**
dog or **canine**

Important Notes:

Case:

Case is not important in searching *Web of Science*

Punctuation:

Any punctuation in a word – apostrophes, hyphens, etc. – is searched substituting a space for the punctuation.

Hyphenated Words:

Search hyphenated words both as individual words and as one word:

Example: search **x-ray** as **x ray** or **xray**

To Combine Search Terms

Use Boolean operators **AND**, **OR**, **NOT** to combine terms.

Examples: ultraviolet or uv	includes either term
ozone hole and Antarctica	includes both terms
New York not New York City	includes first term but not second term

An additional search term, **SAME**

Example: doves **same** peace retrieves terms in the **same sentence**

Phrase Searching

Enter only significant words: **gene expression**

DO NOT include stopwords such as: **in, of, the, as**

Example: To search the phrase **evolution of the biosphere**
Type: **evolution and biosphere** or **evolution same biosphere**
This retrieves records containing both evolution and biosphere

Truncation

Use truncation symbols to include groups of variable or unknown characters.

[*] adds any number of letters onto a root word.

Examples: **eviron*** retrieves **environment, environments, environmental, environmentally**, etc.
sul*ur retrieves **sulphur** or **sulfur**

[?] adds a single character to a root word

Examples: **flower?** retrieves **flower** or **flowers** BUT NOT flowering
en?blast retrieves entoblast or endoblast

Chemical Name Searching

Leave all punctuation out of chemical names, substituting spaces instead.

Search 2,4-dinitrotoluene as: **2 4 dinitrotoluene**

Source Title Searching

Source title is the name of the major document, such as journal name, patent name, or report name.
It is **NOT** the name of a chapter or article within a document.

Full or truncated titles must be used in a general search – no abbreviations.

For a list of titles included in *Web of Science* click the **full source titles list** link above the Source Title search box.

Place or Address Searching

Place or address is the corporate or institutional address of the author(s) and the geographic location.

Frequently portions of an address are abbreviated and so three lists of abbreviations are provided:

corporate and institutional abbreviations, such as

CDC for Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or

ORNL for Oak Ridge National Laboratory

street address and departmental/division abbreviations, such as

Agcy for Agency or

Nutr for Nutrition

state / country abbreviations, such as

AS for American Samoa or

TN for Tennessee

Generally an address search should be combined with other parameters such as author or topic, because an address search alone produces a very large number of hits.

For example, to search for articles by a faculty member at the main campus of the University of Connecticut:

Jones in the author field and

Univ Connecticut in the address field

The results are the records for any author named Jones located at the University of Connecticut.

To limit only to the main campus, try using **Storrs** in the address field instead.

Printing and Downloading

First, select **All records on this page**, or mark desired records by clicking the box to the left of each entry, or type in a range of records.

Click **Submit** when finished marking.

Click the **Marked List** button at the top of the screen.

The result is a list of all marked records ready for printing or downloading.

Note options for changing the format of the records.

To Print:

Select the **Format for Print** button.

Once formatting is complete, use the Web browser print capabilities to print out the citation list.

To Download

Select the **Save to File** button.

Choose the filename and path.

Click **Save**.

Other options include:

Export saves records formatted for use in bibliographic management software like *Reference Manager* or *ProCite*.

E-Mail allows the user to send records directly to a personal e-mail account.

Citation and Search History Alerts

You must create a personal account before using citation and search alerts.

To register, click **To remember these settings, first sign in or register**.

A **Search History Alert** reruns your search against the database each time it is updated (generally once a week).

After running a search, click **Search History** at the top of the screen. If there are multiple searches and you only want to save one, delete the other searches by clicking on the boxes to the left of the search and selecting delete. Then click **Save History**. You must give your search a name. You can choose to have the search set up as an alert, with the results emailed to you on a weekly or monthly basis.

A **Citation Alert** notifies you whenever a new entry to the database cites an article you have selected. You must be in the **full record display** to set up this type of alert. To get to the full record for an article, simply click the blue title from the results screen of any search. Click **Create Citation Alert** to the right of the record to create the alert.