

This worksheet supplements the introductory Scopus information skills worksheet used in the Essential Skills session and in the detailed Scopus workshop.

Please ask for help at any time if you need it

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1. Additional database features – searching and results

The introductory worksheet concentrated on searching using keywords. However, you can search across the databases using a wide variety of information including author names, affiliation, CAS numbers or source title. At the beginning of your literature review your searches are likely to concentrate on a keyword approach although author searches may also be extremely useful if you are aware of key researchers in the field. Affiliation searches can be useful if you are aware of key institutions involved in particular areas of research.


1. Try building up your search in individual steps (one idea at a time – using the OR operator as appropriate within each concept/idea box) and then combining these sets in different ways in the **Search history** option. This can be much more flexible and powerful than the traditional “all keywords at once” approach.

Notes:

2. Try using the **Author search** or the **Affiliation search** tabs if you think these may be relevant to your area of research:

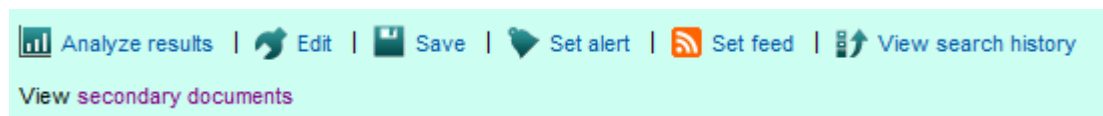
- Look for papers as listed within Scopus as authored by your PhD supervisor(s). Note that they may appear under different versions of their name and that not all their papers may be listed within this database. Scopus will only list those that appear in the journals indexed by the database.
- Look for papers authored by researchers at the University of Aberdeen on one of the aspects of your PhD research area.
- Note: You can set up alerts for new papers in any of these categories by using the Scopus options to save your search and set an alert. Be on top of what is being produced from this (or another) institution, or by your supervisor(s)! **ADDITIONAL NOTE:** Nov – personalisation feature is required for this and it is now working.

Notes:

3. The introductory worksheet concentrated on looking at results from journals and conference proceedings as given under the Scopus results tab. However, if you need to look beyond this type of result try using the options from the **Go to Results** links in the aqua coloured box above your results list. **Web** or **Patents** links may be of interest. Results from these sources are, by default, sorted by relevance. However they can be changed to date (newest or oldest) if this is preferred.
 - **Secondary documents:** References from Scopus documents that match your search but the records for these are not available on Scopus. You cannot open the document or view the abstract. These non-Scopus references have a special symbol associated with them: 
 - **Web:** Results found using Elsevier's award winning Scirus search engine. Scirus is a science-specific search engine. Click on the **Web** link to display more results based on a search conducted from Scirus through the SciVerse Hub interface. The results open in a new browser window and exclude journal articles and patents but do include selected University repositories and searches across other domain names such as .org, .gov, .edu and .ac.uk
 - **Patents:** US and European patent databases and LexisNexis records.
4. Provided you have set up a personal account (previous worksheet. OCT/NOV 2012 – this feature is not working) look at options for saving search strategies, lists of results and setting up alerts. Once you have honed your search strategies and keywords saving those searches and setting up alerts can make really effective use of your time. Using this sort of awareness tool enables you to concentrate on your reading, lab work and research rather than having to do search literature checks on a regular basis.

2. Additional database features – analytical options

Perhaps something for the future! Look at the **Analytics** option (top navigation bar, along from the Search option) for analysis and comparison of journals.



The Web of Knowledge Journal Citation Reports (JCR) provides information on the impact factor of journals. Within Scopus further information is available:

- SJR = SCImago Journal Rank reflects prestige of source journal: value of weighted citations per document
- SNIP = Source Normalized Impact per Paper: corrects for differences in the frequency of citation across research fields
- Details of the analytical features are available at <http://www.info.sciverse.com/scopus/scopus-in-detail/tools/journalanalyzer/>

The SJR and SNIP figures are available under the **Sources** option on the Scopus navigation bar. Here journals indexed by Scopus are listed in alphabetical order with this data presented for each title. Note that it takes four years of data to calculate a SJR or SNIP value. As Scopus citation records are complete from 1996 onwards the first SJR or SNIP available value will be for 1999.

If you require information on the h-index of individual authors this can be found within Scopus and in Web of Science. In fact, as the h-index calculation is based on the number of papers by that author within each of these particular databases the h-index value can vary across each of the databases. For access to h-index information use the Author search tab rather than the default Document search, type in author name details then click through on the name of your author. Part way down the page, under the Research section there will be an entry for h-graph allowing you to generate a graph with or without self-citations (which may impact on the value of the h-index).

Notes:

3. Additional database features – other initiatives

Investigate the features available from the following options at the very top of the Scopus web page:



- **Hub:** One of the tag lines for SciVerse is “Accelerate your discovery” and Elsevier hope to offer this through a new integrated resource including Scopus, ScienceDirect and targeted web applications all on one platform. This is available at the **Hub**. A search in SciVerse Hub returns results from the web and searches the many special sources indexed by Hub. Your search results are automatically ranked by relevancy, with no duplication. You can specify other ways to rank (sort) search results by refining the results.

Information professionals often have concerns about this type of federated search approach due to inability to conduct powerful and targeted searches and the limitations and restrictions on the results obtained by searching across multiple sources at one time e.g. Primo. However, all the sources here are from Elsevier so limitations may not be as extreme as in other cases. Try it and see. Compare your results with your Scopus findings. We’d be interested in your opinion on the Hub – should we spend time on this in the workshop presentation?

- **ScienceDirect:** Quick link to Elsevier’s full text database. ScienceDirect contains full text material journal articles and books. We have a subscription to much, but not all, of this content. When searching across databases such as Scopus and Web of Science the SFX full text links take you to ScienceDirect if the selected item is published by Elsevier.
- **Applications:** An option allowing developers to offer additional search/discovery tools which can be applied across ScienceDirect, Scopus and/or the Hub. You must have a personal account before you can install any of the applications, and others require installation at an institutional level. Some sound extremely interesting but may have limitations or restrictions e.g. Venn Search offers visual representation of results, however it is limited to two or three search terms so unlikely to be useful at PhD level. About:authors displays h-index information of authors in a word cloud and provides a chart visualisation of data however the downside is that it appears to take forever to load.

Notes:

4. New features and changes

Nothing stays the same! Elsevier, the owners of the Scopus database, introduce new features and options on a regular basis. Upgrades take place annually and smaller changes may be made in between the annual upgrades. Changes are often announced on Scopus's home/search page. We post this information, and any announcements of service interruptions for maintenance, on the library Twitter account. You can follow us on [aberdeenunilib](#).

5. Help and advice

If you experience technical difficulties please contact the Service Desk. If you have any problems using any of the Scopus features, please contact Susan, Elaine or Janet below. The Information Consultants listed below can also help with any difficulties you encounter with subject specific topics.

IT technical problems, including access to databases: Service Desk

Email: servicedesk@abdn.ac.uk (only staffed Monday to Friday 09:00 – 17:00 hours)

Tel.: 01224 27-3636 (anytime – an out of hours service is provided after 17:00 and at weekends)

Advice and support on using databases:

Arts and Humanities – Janet MacKay (j.i.mackay@abdn.ac.uk), Sir Duncan Rice Library, Room 406

Education, Social Sciences, Music – Claire Molloy (c.a.l.molloy@abdn.ac.uk), Sir Duncan Rice Library, Room 606

Law and Business Studies – Elaine Shallcross (e.shallcross@abdn.ac.uk), Sir Duncan Rice Library, Room 306

Medicine and Medical Sciences – Mel Bickerton (m.bickerton@abdn.ac.uk), Medical Library, Foresterhill

Science and Engineering – Susan McCourt (s.mccourt@abdn.ac.uk), Sir Duncan Rice Library, Room 506

