Web of Science

Web of Science’s coverage extends back more than a century. It currently indexes more than 12,000 of the world’s premier scientific and scholarly journals, along with conference proceedings, book contents and other materials.

The aim of this workbook is to help you find relevant references to journal articles using Science Citation Index. After working through this workbook, you should be able to:

- sign on to Web of Science
- search by keyword, phrase and author
- carry out a citation search
- display references in different formats
- combine searches and limit searches
- select and output the results of your searches
- use truncation and wildcard functions
- find full text journal articles
- check availability of references on the library catalogue

Always read these notes and the screen carefully as you work through the exercises. Comments and queries: If you have any queries following the workshop, or any suggestions for how it could be improved please contact Medical Sciences Liaison Team on ext. 87550, or e-mail: medliaison@ncl.ac.uk

Accessing Web of Science

Web of Science is one of the databases provided as part of the Web of Knowledge collection.

To access the database go to the University Library homepage at:

www.ncl.ac.uk/library

Scroll down and click on the Databases, e-journals, e-books link on the right hand side of the page.

Choose Web of Science from the databases listed.
Keyword searching

You will often need to use more than one keyword in order to make your search more specific.

Let’s search for references on agnosia and schizophrenia.

Type **agnosia** in the search field and leave the drop down menu as topic.

Click on ‘search’ to complete this part of the search.

Click the Search tab to return to the Search page and search for **schizophrenia** (overwriting anything in the text box).

At the top of the screen, click on Search History.

Under the Combine sets column, check the boxes for the agnosia and schizophrenia searches, and ensure the AND button is checked.

Using AND means the search will find any references with both words present

Click on Combine.

To display your results. Click on the blue number in the Results column, which shows the results which your search has returned.

Related records searching

It can be useful to search for references on a similar topic to one that you have already found. Web of Science has a facility whereby the database will search for references that share one or more citations from an article you select.

Click the Search tab to return to the Search page.

Select a Topic search.

Search for **forensic pathology**.

You will now see a list of references which contain the phrase forensic pathology either in the title, or the abstract.

Let’s suppose that one of these records is a key reference in your research. Choose a reference and click on its title to open the full reference.

Click on ‘View Related Records’ on the right side of the screen.

Web of Science will now produce a list of records that share at least one citation with your key article.

Because both the key article, and the related records share citations, the ‘Find Related Records’ search can be a powerful way of finding references on a similar subject.
Expanding your search

This exercise will show you how to use ‘truncation’ and ‘wildcards’ to expand your searching to include several similar words in the same search.

Click the Search tab to return to the Search page.

Search for 'hormones'.

You have searched for references with the word hormones in the record.

Click the Search tab to return to the Search page, and search for hormon*.

This search is finding the words hormone, hormones, hormonal etc. It includes any word that starts with the stem ‘hormon’.

This is called truncation, and the asterisk (*) is the truncation operator.

Click the Search tab to return to the Search page.

Search for thes?s, ranking the results for relevance using the ‘Sort by Pub Date – Newest to Oldest’ drop down menu.

Scroll down and look at the references you have found. The search has found references containing thesis and theses.

The ? is called the wildcard operator, and it can be used to replace any letter in a keyword that could have different spellings.

Selecting records for output

This exercise will show you how to select references you have found for printing or emailing.

Before you can save or print search results, you need to tell Web of Science which of your results you are interested in.

Looking at the results of your previous search, notice the small tick boxes to the left of each reference. You can use these to select which of your results you want to output.

Choose any 4 records from the first 10 shown and click in their tick boxes. (Alternatively, you could choose ‘Select page’ at the bottom of the list).

We will not print these now but for future reference to print them click on Export and choose ‘Print’.

To email references, click on Export and choose ‘Email’. Complete the email address box(es) as required, and click SEND E-MAIL. You will receive confirmation that “X records have been sent to your@email address”. 
Limiting a search

You may want to limit a search to include factors other than subject such as date, publisher or document type.

Let’s use this question: Have any reviews been published in English since 2012 on lesions in the left hemisphere?

Click the Search tab to return to the Search page.

Change the year range to fit your search requirements in the Timespan drop-down menu.

In the TOPIC box type lesion* and “left hemisphere”.

Click on search.

On the left is the Refine Results box. This is where you can apply limits.

From the languages section select English

From the document types section select Review

Click on the Refine button.

Citation searching

This exercise will show you how to search for references that cite a particular article.

You can use an important paper on your subject to find more recent references to papers that list your original paper in their citations. The references you find will usually be on a similar subject since the author has referred to your original paper. In other words, citation searching brings you forward in time to find recent references on the same subject.


Click the Search tab to return to the Search page. Choose Cited Reference Search.

In the Cited author box, type Doherty-Sneddon.

In the Cited year box, type 2012.

Click on Search

Locate the article from the list and tick the box to the left to select it. Click Finish Search.
You will now be presented with a list of articles which have cited your article by Doherty-Sneddon.

**Locating documents**

You will need to find out whether the references you require are held in Newcastle University Library in print and/or via electronic journal subscriptions.

From the list of Citing Articles find the reference by Freeth and Bugembe – *Social partner gaze direction and conversational phase: factors affecting social attention* …

Click the link for this reference. You may read the abstract and decide that it would be useful to see the full text of this article. To see if we subscribe to this article click on the Find@Newcastle link from the top left of the article.

You will see from the next screen that this article is available in full text via KB+ JISC Collections SAGE Premier – click on this link.

Scroll down to see the full text of this article or click to download the PDF.

You have now completed the workbook.

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