

Searching & Managing Scientific Information

Module 1 – Searching Scientific Information

Exercise – Topic Search

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Resources: Lib4RI website (www.lib4ri.ch), Scopus (www.scopus.com) or Web of Science Core collection (<https://www.webofscience.com/wos>).

Topic: Glacial retreat in Switzerland

- a) Starting from the main search terms, create a table with synonyms and words of similar, sub- or superordinate meaning. Use adequate phrases to group words that function as a single meaning (“ ”). Recognise and employ truncation (*) to also account for e.g. adjectives, nouns, plural, and other variants.

Concept 1	Concept 2	Concept 3
glaci*	retreat*	Switzerland

Please turn over !

- b) Perform a topic search (Title-Abs-Key) with Scopus (www.scopus.com) or the Web of Science Core Collection (<https://www.webofscience.com/wos/woscc/basic-search>).

First, combine the individual entries within each concept column by Boolean ORs.
How many hits do you obtain for each concept column?

Concept 1: Concept 2: Concept 3:

Second, use Scopus' / WoS' search history to combine the three search results by Boolean ANDs.

How many hits do you obtain now?

Concept 1 AND Concept 2 AND Concept 3:

Now, find the most cited reference. Is it relevant?

How many times did it get cited?

Finally, find some (if possible recent) reviews covering the field?