

Essential Skills for Today's Researchers

Module 1 – Searching Scientific Information

Exercise – Topic Search

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Resources: Lib4RI website (www.lib4ri.ch), scite.ai (scite.ai) or Consensus (consensus.app), Scopus (www.scopus.com) or Web of Science Core collection (www.webofscience.com/wos).

1) Your topic/research question

- a) Formulate your topic or research question and identify the core concepts (max. 3-4 concepts).
- b) Use an AI research assistant (scite.ai or Consensus) to obtain a research summary and some core papers in order to find synonyms and related terms for the core concepts.
- c) Put everything into a table. Use adequate phrases to group words that function as a single meaning (" "). Recognise and employ truncation (*) to also account e.g. for adjectives, nouns, plural, and other variants.

Concept 1	Concept 2	Concept 3

Please turn over!

- d) Perform a topic search (Title-Abs-Key) with Scopus (www.scopus.com) or the Web of Science Core Collection (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?