Web of Science – Quick Guide

COVERAGE
Web of Science is a cross-disciplinary database covering the fields of science, engineering and computing, social science and arts and humanities.

Web of Science is a bibliographical database. Full text access to some content is provided; for some you may need to connect via our other electronic sources or consult the Library Catalogue.

ACCESS
Web of Science is available on and off-campus.
- Log on to the Portal
- Select the Library & ICT tab.
- Select the Databases link, displayed under Key Services.
- The A-Z listing of Library Databases is displayed on the screen. Click on W and scroll down to select Web of Science.
- If you see this screen, enter Ulster and click on the Ulster University link:

  ![Login Screen](image)

  - Enter your Ulster University email address and Ulster University network password (the same password as the Portal, IT workstations).

SEARCHING
Web of Science will open to the Basic Search in Web of Science Core Collection.
- Begin by adding search words to the search box.
- You can add and remove rows by clicking the + Add Another Field link.

1 A guide to Web of Science Additional Features is also available
COMBINING SEARCH TERMS

Combine terms using the connectors AND, OR, NOT from the drop down menu or by typing them directly into the box.

**OR** – use OR to find articles which use any or several of your search terms, or to combine terms that are similar
This will increase the number of articles found
  e.g. poison OR venom OR toxicant

**AND** – use AND to find articles which use all of your search terms, or combine terms that are different
This will reduce the number of articles found
  e.g. oxygen AND level AND blood

**NOT** - use NOT to exclude terms
  e.g. copper NOT lead
*Use this search with caution as it may exclude relevant results*

Advanced searching techniques can also be used:

**Truncation** – placing a * at the natural end of a word (the stem) will find all variations
  e.g. cyan* will find cyan, cyanide, cyanotic, cyanosis, and cyanobacteria

**Phrase searching** – Placing double quotation marks around terms will search for it as an exact phrase
  e.g. “oxygen depletion”

Example search

TIMESPAN AND CITATION INDICES

You can specify a date range for your search and select citation indices from Web of Science’s Core Collection using the options beneath the search box.

VIEWING RESULTS

Your results will be displayed as a list of references, with the total number of results found at the top of the results box. Click on the article for more information including the abstract, if available.
You can refine search results by using filters; find the most frequently used on the column on the left hand side of the screen beside the results.

**Accessing Full Text**

To access the full text:
- From the article abstract screen, click **Full Text Options ▼**
- Click **U Find it**
- If the article is available from the Library’s holdings, a new window will open with the full text. Alternatively, you may be given the option of choosing from several sources.
- A link to Google Scholar is also available to allow you to search for resources not covered by Ulster’s subscriptions.

Where no full text is available online, remember to check the **Library Catalogue** (enter the journal title) **before** requesting an article through the Document Delivery service.

**HELP**

If you are having difficulty accessing full text off campus take a look at the off campus guide: [guides.library.ulster.ac.uk/offcampus](http://guides.library.ulster.ac.uk/offcampus)

Web of Science also has an excellent help section which you can access at any time by clicking Help at the top right of the screen.

A guide to **Web of Science Additional Features** is also available.

Don’t worry if you are having problems using the database; just contact a member of the Life and Health Sciences subject team who will be happy to help.

For further information please contact your **Subject Librarian**.