Overview: When should I use this database?

- The Web of Science Core Collection is a multidisciplinary database that covers over 21,000 journals and over 197,000 conference proceedings in the life sciences, physical sciences, health sciences, social sciences, and arts & humanities. It offers sophisticated limiting, citation tracking, and graphical analysis of results.

- The Web of Science Core Collection is part of a larger Web of Science platform of databases that includes BIOSIS, MEDLINE, and Zoological Record.

Before you start searching, keep in mind . . .

Prepare to save your search in a document, the database, and/or a citation management software (EndNote, RefWorks, Zotero, etc.)

- By saving your search, your strategy will be reproducible for another time and properly documented.

- Explore options for citation management here, and find tips on how to export results.

- Sign up for a Web of Science account by clicking "Sign In" at the top of the landing page. Creating an account enables you to save searches and create search alerts.

Keywords — How to Find & Use

- Keyword terms can be single words or phrases.

- Use quotes around all phrases to ensure that the phrase is searched instead of each word individually (e.g. "public health").

Controlled Vocabularies — How to Find & Use

Locate Controlled Vocabulary

- The Web of Science Core Collection does not have its own controlled vocabulary. (Note: Certain databases within the Web of Science platform, such as MEDLINE, may have controlled vocabularies. These are listed as thesauri in their advanced search pages.)

- The Web of Science Core Collection does have two types of pre-set subject-based categories, called "Research Areas" and "Web of Science Categories." These categories are not hierarchically arranged, nor do they have the level of topic-specific detail that a controlled vocabulary like MeSH or Emtree does. They are linked from the Advanced Search page and can be used in searches. The breadth of their scope, however, may limit their usefulness for focused research questions.
Types of Searches

The Web of Science Core Collection offers the following types of searches.

Basic Search

- In a basic search, the search defaults to a topic search. A topic search looks for terms in the title, abstract, and keyword fields of a record.
- Type your key term(s) in the search box(es). Use the dropdown next to a search box to choose which field you would like to search (e.g. title, author, publication name, etc.).
- Search results can be saved to your Web of Science account or exported to a citation management tool.

Cited Reference Search

- This allows you to locate publications that cite a particular work.
- Links to author and journal title indexes are provided to help you select these elements of a work.

Advanced Search

- Use this feature to access more fields and to edit and combine searches that you have previously performed.
- A list of field tags is provided for reference, as are examples of proper search syntax. For example, when performing a topic search with multiple terms, the proper syntax is \texttt{TS=(haloperidol OR haldol OR halidol OR "halo-p" OR halojust)}.

Author Search

- This allows you to search for the research output of a particular author. Once you have entered the author’s name, you are prompted to select the author’s research domain and organization from provided lists.

Combining Searches Using Boolean Operators

- **Boolean operators** combine search terms and concepts. In the context of database searching, Boolean logic refers to the logical relationships among search terms. The Boolean operators AND, OR, NOT can be used to combine search terms.
- Boolean operators MUST be used as upper case (AND, OR, NOT).
  - **OR**: use with similar terms in a concept — makes the search broader
  - **AND**: use between concepts — makes the search narrower
  - **NOT**: rarely used but can exclude specific terms
- An example of using **OR** to connect synonyms of the drug haloperidol — haloperidol **OR** haldol **OR** halidol **OR** "halo-p" **OR** halojust
- An example of using **AND** to connect concepts — (haloperidol **OR** haldol) **AND** ("gene expression" OR microarray)
Types of Searches Continued

Structure Search

- You will need to sign in or create an account to run a structure search. Draw the structure using the tool that appears when you choose this search. Enter search data in the boxes below if you would like to search by compound properties and reaction conditions, and select the "Search" button at the bottom of the screen. You can toggle between compound and reaction results after the results display.

Applying Limits

- After you've run a search, multiple options for refining results appear on the left side of the screen. These options allow you to limit your results by publication year, document type, source title, organization, funding agency, etc.
- You can also filter your results to show documents that are open access, are the most highly cited in a field, and have associated data.
- A search box is also provided that enables you to search within your result set.

Field Tags

The Advanced Search feature of the Web of Science Core Collection provides a list of field tags that you can use to search specific parts of records in the database. Useful tags include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **TS=(term)** — Searches the title, abstract, and keywords fields
- **PY=(year)** — Searches the year published field
- **AU=(name)** — Searches the author field

Truncation & Wildcards

- Use the asterisk (*) to find plural forms and variant spellings of words (e.g. *mobili* searches for mobility, mobilization, mobilisation, mobilize, etc.).
- Use the dollar sign ($) to represent zero or one character (e.g. *colo*$r searches for *color* and *colour*).
- Use the question mark (?) to represent any single character (e.g. *wom?n* searches for *woman* and *women*).

Proximity Searching

- The NEAR operator searches for terms that are near each other in any order. NEAR/5, for example, specifies that no more than five words can separate the terms searched.
- The SAME operator is used in address searches to indicate that specific terms must all be in the address.
Citation Tools

Citation Network

- After clicking to view a record, you can see how many times the work has been cited by others, the cited references within the work's bibliography, and the use of the work within Web of Science in the last 180 days and since 2013.

Citation Reports

- Web of Science has a citation report feature enabled for searches that return less than 10,000 records. You can view your citation report after you conduct a search by selecting "Create Citation Report" on the top right side of the results screen. You can also select the results from which you would like to create a report by checking the boxes next to relevant articles and selecting "Marked List."
- On the citation report page, you can view the total publications, h-index, sum of times cited, and citing articles. You can also sort your results by times cited, date, author, source title, or conference title.

Analyze Your Results

- The "Analyze Results" link on the right side of the search results page provides options for analyzing and visualizing your results.
- Results can be filtered by a variety of attributes, including publication year, document type, author, research area, funding agency, grant, etc.
- Results can be visualized as downloadable treemaps or bar graphs.

Accessing Full Text

In Web of Science, the FIND IT icon (above) will appear in item records. Clicking on the icon will take you to an external page that will show a listing of full-text options. If the full text is not available, you will see a heading titled "Request a copy from Inter-Library Loan." Click on the "Interlibrary Loan" link to request the article free of charge (only available for Hopkins students, faculty, and staff).

More Information

- General principles on searching in any database
- Web of Science video tutorials