



## Searching in Scopus

**Scopus** is a multidisciplinary database that contains literature across multiple areas of study. Scopus is searched using keywords as it does not have its own subject headings.

### Keywords

**Keywords** find a term in an article record, not the full text. Synonyms, alternate spellings, and related terms should be included in a Scopus search to ensure that your search is comprehensive.

### Advanced search syntax

This table contains advanced search syntax that can be incorporated into a Scopus search to improve its accuracy and increase the number of results.

**Note:** in the table below, *n* stands for a number, not the letter n. To use these operators, replace the *n* with the number of letters or numbers you'd like in between terms.

Syntax	Symbol	Example	Function
Truncation	*	therap*	Finds 'alternate endings' to a word
Mandated wildcard	?	wom?n	Replaces 1 letter in a word
Optional wildcard	#	p#ediatric	Replaces 0-1 letters in a word
Nesting	(...)	health AND (wellbeing OR "well being")	Group similar terms in a search
Proximity	W/n	health W/3 wellbeing	Find a word within a specified limit of another word in any order
Specified proximity	PRE/n	health PRE/3 wellbeing	Find a word within a specified limit of another word in a specific order
Nested proximity	(a or b) w/n (c or d)	(breast OR skin) w/3 (cancer* OR tumo?r* OR neoplasm*)	Finds terms combined with OR within a specified number of words from another group of terms combined with OR
Loose/approximate phrase search	"..."	"quality of life"	Searches for variations of an exact phrase
Exact phrase search	{...}	{quality of life}	Searches for an exact phrase

For search terms containing several words (e.g. quality of life or art therapy), it's important to use either loose or exact **phrase searches** to ensure that the database searches them as one complete concept, instead of multiple words combined with AND.

### Search strings


Scopus searches are conducted by building search strings to search for all your terms at once. The following search aims to find articles about the effects of art therapy on the wellbeing of people with dementia.

1. Search for one concept at a time on a single line, using 'OR' to search for synonyms and alternate terms. Use the 'Document Search' option.

Search within Article title, Abstract, Keywords	Search documents * alzheimer* OR dementia
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2. To add multiple lines to your search, click "Add search field". Scopus will automatically combine the two lines using 'AND'.

Search within Article title, Abstract, Keywords	Search documents * alzheimer* OR dementia	×	🗑️
AND			
Search within Article title, Abstract, Keywords	Search documents "art therap*" OR "creative arts therap*" OR "art activit**"	×	🗑️
AND			
Search within Article title, Abstract, Keywords	Search documents wellness OR "quality of life" OR "well being" OR wellbeing	×	🗑️

+ Add search field  Add date range [Advanced document search >](#) Search 

3. Add lines until you have entered all your concepts, then click 'Search' to run your search. Use the options on the left to refine your results.
4. To delete terms of lines from your search, click the trash can icon.