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Searching

ScienceDirect’s basic search allows you to search for keywords in the title or abstract, author, journal or book title. The database automatically interprets spaces as the Boolean operator AND.

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Advanced search

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Advanced Search
The advanced search allows you to combine terms via Boolean operators and limit your searches to publication type or source and by year. If you are not comfortable creating search strings, using the dropdown menu in the advanced search interface is a useful alternative.

Expert Search
If you are looking to create your own search string with Boolean operators, wildcards and proximity operators, you can use the Expert Search available from the Advanced Search page. This search interface has the same options at the Advanced Search, minus the dropdown menus and separate search fields.
### Additional Search Tips

You can use Boolean operators to limit your search either in the Advanced Search tab using the drop down choices or by creating a search string in the Basic Search or Expert Search fields.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operator</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quotation marks “ “</td>
<td>Searches for words between the quote marks exactly as they appear. Any punctuation is ignored.</td>
<td>&quot;drug addiction&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brackets { }</td>
<td>Searches for exact phrase, including stopwords, punctuation, or special characters as entered.</td>
<td>{heart-attack}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AND</strong></td>
<td>Searches for items where all of the terms appear. More inclusive with fewer results.</td>
<td>lesion AND pancreatic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OR</strong></td>
<td>Searches for all the search terms listed. The more terms listed the more results you get.</td>
<td>kidney OR renal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AND NOT</strong></td>
<td>Removes certain words from the search. Allows you to limit result you might not want.</td>
<td>tumor AND NOT malignant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>W/n</strong></td>
<td>Searches for terms within a certain number (n) of words.</td>
<td>drug W/3 addiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PRE/n</strong></td>
<td>Searches for results in which the first term precedes the second term within a certain number (n) of words.</td>
<td>drug PRE/3 addiction</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wildcards allow you to search for multiple terms at one time.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• The asterisk (<em>) represents any number of characters at all at the end of a word. For example, searching environ</em> will return results containing environment and environmental.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The question mark (?) represents from zero to nine additional characters. Use one question mark for each character you want to replace.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Take care when using wildcards as you may not want to use one with all searches.

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Search Results

Once you’ve entered your search using whatever technique you are most comfortable with, you will be taken to a results page.

As you can see there is a lot of information provided on the results page. You can limit your search by publication type, date, subject, etc. by clicking on one of the tabs to the left of the results list.

Icons to the right of each result show you whether full text or an abstract is available.

- Item is part of your current subscription and you have full text access.
- The publication is Open Access and you have full text access.
- The publication is not part of your current subscription. No full text access.

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You can set up a search alert to be notified by e-mail when new results match a search topic. You need to set up a personal account (choose a username and password) to use this feature. Click **My Settings** then **New Topic Alerts**. Carry out your search and from your search results click **Save search alert** in top right of the results list. Then, login to your ScienceDirect account. Enter a name for the alert and choose the frequency - daily, weekly, monthly. For journals you can be alerted to new volumes/issues by clicking on the link on the journal home page. Similarly, for book series you can be alerted to new volumes.

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