

Aggregators and Preprint Repositories	Boolean operators	Nesting brackets	Truncation	Wildcards	Exact phrase or Proximity searching	Search fields	Filters (post-query refinement)	Exporting (bulk and single)	Additional Notes
<p><a href="#">Europe PMC</a></p> <p>Limit to preprints in Advanced search or after a search using the filters</p>	<p>AND OR NOT</p> <p>Note: Must be upper case</p>	Yes	<p>*</p> <p>Replaces any number of characters. Can be used within a word or at the end of a root word.</p> <p>Example 1: <a href="#">Librar*</a></p> <p>Example 2: <a href="#">librar*s</a></p>	<p>Not available. Use the truncation operator within a word instead.</p>	<p>Phrase: Yes – requires double quotation marks</p> <p>Example: <a href="#">“pet therapy”</a></p> <p>Note: Cannot use truncation inside quotation marks</p> <p>Proximity: Not found in the help pages, but a webinar pointed out the following syntax:</p> <p><a href="#">"term1 term2"~N</a> (where N is the number of words allowed <u>between</u> the specified terms)</p> <p>e.g. <a href="#">"chronic pain"~4</a></p> <p>No truncation allowed inside proximity strings</p>	<p>Many different search fields. See complete list here</p> <p>TITLE: ABSTRACT: TITLE_ABS: KW:</p> <p>Note: Field tags cannot be used outside brackets and should be applied to each term.</p>	<p>- Source (where Preprint is an option)</p> <p>- Date or date range</p>	<p>Single export: Yes via “add to export list”</p> <p>Bulk export: Yes (up to 50,000) including abstracts in the following formats: RIS, BIBTEX, XML, Excel CSV</p>	<p>Europe PMC includes preprints from 30 different preprint servers including arXiv, ChemRxiv, bioRxiv, MedRxiv, SciELO preprints, PeerJ Preprints, SSRN, Preprints.org, Research Square. Complete list can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>It has advanced search functionality similar to a database. See their <a href="#">Syntax guide</a></p> <p>Note: Unbalanced parenthesis will cause the search to return with no search results.</p>
<p><b>Web of Science Preprint Citation Index</b></p>	<p>AND OR NOT</p>	Yes	<p>*</p> <p>At least 3 characters must be used before or after the</p>	<p>\$ (Replaces 0 or 1 character)</p>	<p>Phrase: Yes - Requires “ “ double quotation marks.</p> <p>Accepts straight or curly quotes.</p>	<p>- Title - Abstract - Author keywords - Topic (which searches title,</p>	<p>- Publication year - Web of Science</p>	<p>Single export: Yes</p> <p>Bulk export: Yes, with the usual</p>	<p>The Web of Science Preprint Citation Index pulls from the following 5 preprint servers: BioRxiv, ChemRxiv, arXiv, MedRxiv, &amp; <a href="#">Preprints.org</a>. As of late 2025, some</p>

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			wildcard in a Title or Topic search	<p>Example: <code>colo\$r</code> retrieves color or colour</p> <p><code>?</code> (Replaces any 1 character)</p> <p>Example: <code>ne?t</code> returns nest, but not net</p>	<p>Truncation within quotes allowed: <code>"Information litera*"</code></p> <p>Proximity: Yes using <code>NEAR/n</code></p>	abstract, & author keywords)	<p>categories/ subjects</p> <p>- Repositories</p> <p>+ all the other typical Web of Science filters.</p>	limits of WoS. Includes RIS, plain text, Excel, etc.	<p>other preprint repositories are appearing in the results, but ingestion does not appear to be complete (e.g., date ranges are inconsistent).</p> <p>It has all of the usual functionality that the Web of Science platform has, including an RIS export limit of 1000 records at a time.</p> <p>More info: <a href="https://lib.uvic.ca/10.5260/chara.25.1.12">10.5260/chara.25.1.12</a></p>
<a href="#">OSF Preprints</a>	<p>+ serves as the AND operator</p> <p>  (pipe or vertical bar) serves as the OR operator</p> <p>Hyphen serves as the NOT operator</p>	Yes	*	~ after a word enables broader or "fuzzy" matching	<p>Phrase: Yes - Requires straight quotes only</p> <p>Example: <code>"information literacy"</code></p> <p>Proximity: Not available</p>	<p>Not available</p> <p>A specific repository (e.g., EdArXiv) could be selected upfront for a more narrow search.</p>	<p>- Creator (Author)</p> <p>- Date created (YYYY)</p> <p>- Subject (Child Psychology)</p> <p>- License (e.g., CC-BY, CC0)</p> <p>- Provider (repository)</p> <p>- Institution (but only if institution is an OSF member institution)</p>	<p>Single export: No</p> <p>Bulk export: Not available</p>	<p><a href="#">More information on the current search syntax</a></p> <p>OSF Preprints hosts several subject-specific, language-based, geography-based, and publication-type (e.g., Thesis Commons) preprint repositories (e.g., PsyArXiv).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AfricArXiv*</li> <li>• AgriXiv*</li> <li>• arabxiv**</li> <li>• BioHackrXiv</li> <li>• BodoArXiv</li> <li>• CoP Preprints</li> <li>• EarthArXiv*</li> <li>• EcoEvoRxiv*</li> <li>• ECSarXiv</li> <li>• EdArXiv</li> </ul>

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							- Additional filters (Has Related Resource) (e.g., preregistration, supplemental materials)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• engrXiv*</li> <li>• FocUS Archive</li> <li>• Frenxiv**</li> <li>• INA-Rxiv**</li> <li>• IndiaRxiv**</li> <li>• LawArXiv**</li> <li>• Law Archive</li> <li>• LIS Scholarship Archive**</li> <li>• MarXiv**</li> <li>• MediArXiv</li> <li>• MetaArXiv</li> <li>• MindRxiv**</li> <li>• NewAddictionsX</li> <li>• NutriXiv**</li> <li>• OSF Preprints</li> <li>• PaleorXiv</li> <li>• PsyArXiv</li> <li>• SocArXiv</li> <li>• SportRxiv*</li> <li>• Thesis Commons</li> </ul> <p><i>*OSF iteration not accepting new submissions. Shifted to different platform</i>  <i>**Not currently accepting new submissions. No new platform.</i></p>
<b>Scopus</b>	OR AND AND NOT -	Yes	*	? (any 1 character)	Phrases: " " will search a loose phrase	All search fields available for document search can be used, however pre-print	All typical Scopus post-query filters including:	Single export: Not available  Bulk export: Not available	Scopus covers preprints from 2017 onwards from the following repositories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• arXiv</li> <li>• ChemRxiv</li> </ul>

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Pre-prints can be searched in the regular Documents search. Once a search query is executed, then the pre-prints tab will be shown.	AND NOT should always be used at the end of the query			Example: <a href="#">colo?r</a> retrieves colour but does not retrieve color	Accepts straight quotes or curly quotes  Truncation within loose phrases allowed: <a href="#">"information litera*"</a>  { } will search an exact phrase. Truncation not allowed with exact phrase  Proximity: Yes  <a href="#">W/n</a> searches for words in any order with up to n words distance.  <a href="#">PRE/n</a> searches for words in the specific order but within n words distance.	records do not contain all metadata fields. Fields that specifically apply to pre-print records include: - preprint title - unique identifier (preferably DOI) - abstract - language - publication date - author(s) - author affiliation(s) - references	- Year - Language - Country - Repository - Author Name - Affiliation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• bioRxiv</li> <li>• medRxiv</li> <li>• SSRN</li> <li>• TechRxiv</li> <li>• Research Square</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Google Scholar</a>  Possible to search pre-prints separately using the source operator (source:"medrxiv" )	AND OR NOT -  Note: Must be upper case	Yes, but there might be limits. Simple combinations appear to work  Example: <a href="#">"systematic</a>	Not available  But without quotation marks, Google does its own auto lemmatization	Not available	Phrase: Yes using double quotation marks.  Proximity: Technically yes using the AROUND(#) operator. But, does not always work properly.	Search in title using <a href="#">intitle:</a> or <a href="#">allintitle:</a>  Search for Author using <a href="#">author:</a>  Search for a Source (journal or	Date	Single export: Yes  Bulk export: Requires starring individual records before doing a batch	Google Scholar limits how many characters (256) and words (150) can be searched.  See the Google searching guide <a href="#">here</a>

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or (source:"Preprints")		review" AND (covid OR coronavirus))				repository name) using: <a href="#">source:</a>		export, which is tedious.	
<p><a href="#">OpenAlex</a></p> <p>To filter to preprints, use the "Type" dropdown menu to select preprints</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> This is for the GUI interface. It is possible that additional options are permitted when searching with the API.</p>	<p>AND OR NOT</p> <p>Note: Must be upper case</p> <p>Note 2: Can be typed within a single search line which searches a specific field.</p>	Yes	<p>* = 0 or more characters.</p> <p>Can be used mid-word or at the end, but there must be at least 3 characters before the symbol</p>	<p>? = exactly 1 character.</p> <p>Must have at least 3 characters before the wildcard</p>	<p>Phrase: Yes using double quotation marks.</p> <p>Only straight quotes work; curly quotes will be ignored by the system.</p> <p>Truncation can not be used within phrases</p> <p>Proximity: Yes</p> <p>"search terms"~N</p> <p>For example: "<a href="#">climate change</a>"~5 retrieves climate and change within 5 words of each other</p> <p>Truncation cannot be combined with proximity.</p> <p>Stemming is controlled by a different setting. Stemming can be enabled to apply to phrases searched with quotation</p>	<p>- Title - Title and Abstract - Title and Abstract and Fulltext - Keyword - fulltext - Topic - Author - Country - Domain - Funder and more</p> <p>A complete list can be found <a href="#">here</a></p>	<p>All fields mentioned to the left are implemented as "filters". This is why each line is added with an AND</p>	<p>Single export: Yes</p> <p>Bulk export: Yes</p>	<p>Top 20 preprint sources (by count, as of Sept 2024): arXiv (Cornell University), HAL (Le Centre pour la Communication Scientifique Directe), RePEc: Research Papers in Economics, Research Square (Research Square), bioRxiv (Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory), medRxiv (Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory), Authorea (Authorea), viXra, IACR Cryptology ePrint Archive, F1000Research, PubMed, Nature Precedings, EarthArXiv (California Digital Library), Wellcome Open Research, SciELO (SciELO Preprints), Qeios, AIP conference proceedings, Lecture notes in computer science, Gates Open Research, IFIP advances in information and communication technology</p>

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					marks or proximity strings.				
<a href="https://www.lens.org/">Lens.org</a>  Limit to preprints using one of two approaches:  1) Query text box: type publication_type :preprint, 2) Filter menu on the left side: Document type = preprint	AND OR NOT	Yes	*  Replaces any number of characters.  Available as left, right, and mid-word truncation.	?  Replaces any 1 character.  Can be used within a word or at the end of the word.  Note: If stemming is turned on (in Query tools), the wildcard may be ignored as stemming takes precedence.	Phrase: Yes - Requires " " double quotation marks.  Truncation within quotes: not allowed  Proximity: Yes using "term1 term2"~N (where N is the number of words allowed <u>between</u> the specified terms)  "chronic pain"~4  Cannot use truncation with proximity	- Title - Abstract - Keyword - MeSH Heading - MeSH Term - fulltext - DOI and many more  A complete list can be found at this <a href="#">link</a>	- Date Range - Author - Institution - Institution - Country/Region - Identifier type - Funding - Journal - Conference name - Document Type - Publisher	Single export: Yes  Bulk export: Yes. Up to 50000, but no ability to select a specific range.  Export formats: RIS, CSV, BibTex, JSON, JSON Lines	No set list of what preprint servers are included. You can find the names by looking at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Journal filter</li> <li>Publisher filter</li> </ul> Some common ones include: arXiv, Research Square, Center for Open Science (OSF), Authorea, etc.
<a href="https://www.agriRxiv.org/">agriRxiv</a>	AND OR NOT  - Note: Must be upper case	Yes	Not available	Not available	Phrase: Yes, using double quotation marks  Proximity: Not available	Title Keywords Abstract Author Affiliation Date	Date Author Keyword Topic (e.g., Plant Science) Geographic location Language	Single export: Yes  Bulk export: Yes	If you select Advanced Search, you are searching beyond just the preprint repository and instead searching all of the CABI Digital Library content.

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<a href="#">arXiv</a>	<p>AND OR</p> <p>Both AND and OR can be inputted in all caps to be effective boolean operators</p> <p>NOT isn't effective in inputted text, but it is effective when selected from the menu in the Advanced Search feature.</p>	Yes	<p>*</p> <p>Replaces any number of characters. Can be used within a word or at the end of a root word. Cannot be used in the first character position.</p>	<p>?</p> <p>Replaces any 1 character. Can be used within a word or at the end of the word. Cannot be used in the first character position.</p>	<p>Phrase: Yes, straight double quotation marks only. Per their search tips, only works in the following fields: title, abstract, and comments.</p> <p>Proximity: Not available</p>	<p>-Title -Abstract -Comments -Fulltext -ACM Classification -MSC Classification -Author -Subject -Date</p>	Not available	<p>Single export: BibTeX only</p> <p>Bulk export: No</p>	<p>The syntax is clearly explained here: <a href="https://arxiv.org/search/physics">https://arxiv.org/search/physics</a></p>
<a href="#">bioRxiv</a>	<p>AND, + OR NOT</p>	No	<p>*</p> <p>Replaces any number of characters. Can be used within a word or at the end of a root word.</p>	Not available	<p>Phrase: Yes, double quotation marks</p> <p>Warning: "Stand-alone phrase search is not to be used in combination with Boolean operators and not to be used with single quotation marks." Source:</p>	<p>-Full Text -Abstract -Title -Subject Areas (e.g., Zoology)</p>	<p>-Subject -Date</p>	<p>Single export: Yes</p> <p>Bulk export: Yes, but you have to select each item or entire page</p>	<p>medRxiv &amp; bioRxiv appear to use the same syntax. They can also be crosssearched via the Advanced Search options, but when you do that, you lose the ability to search by Subject Area because the Subject Area categories differ between medRxiv and bioRxiv (e.g., Zoology). Search tips provided by the repository:</p>

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					<a href="https://www.medrxiv.org/content/search-tips">https://www.medrxiv.org/content/search-tips</a>  Proximity: Not available				<a href="https://www.medrxiv.org/content/search-tips">https://www.medrxiv.org/content/search-tips</a>  Stemming occurs in some but not all of the search fields. <a href="#">See Search Tips guide</a>  128 character limit
<a href="#">ChemRxiv</a>	Not available	No	Not available	Not available	No	-Subject categories (e.g., Chemical Education)	-Subject categories -Content types (e.g., review) -publication date -Keywords -Authors	Single export: No  Bulk export: No	The query expansion is challenging to decipher. Some level of lemmatization and stemming appears to be occurring on every search which aids recall and hinders precision.
<a href="#">CrimRxiv</a>	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	There are no advanced search options. Search syntax is very hard to identify after several tests (e.g., "campus police", campus OR police, campus AND police, campus NOT police, campus police, etc. It appears that the search functionality favors query expansion and does not accommodate precision searching.
<a href="#">EarthArXiv</a>	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	You cannot filter search results by subject, but you can browse by subject (e.g., Glaciology)

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<a href="#">The Earth and Space Science Open Archive (ESS Open Archive)</a>	unclear	unclear	unclear	unclear	unclear	-Title -Keyword -Author	-Subject (e.g., Indigenous studies, Geology)	Single export: Yes, as a Bibtext file  Bulk export: No	
<a href="#">MedRxiv</a>	AND, + OR NOT	No	* Replaces any number of characters. Can be used within a word or at the end of a root word.	Not available	Phrase: Yes, double quotation marks Warning: "Stand-alone phrase search is not to be used in combination with Boolean operators and not to be used with single quotation marks." Source: <a href="https://www.medrxiv.org/content/search-tips">https://www.medrxiv.org/content/search-tips</a>  Proximity: Not available	-Full Text -Abstract -Title -Subject Areas (e.g., Health Policy)	-Subject -Date	Single export: Yes  Bulk export: Yes, but you have to select each item or entire page	medRxiv & bioRxiv appear to use the same syntax. They can also be crosssearched via the Advanced Search options, but when you do that, you lose the ability to search by Subject Area because the Subject Area categories differ between medRxiv and bioRxiv (e.g., Zoology). Search tips provided by the repository: <a href="https://www.medrxiv.org/content/search-tips">https://www.medrxiv.org/content/search-tips</a>  Stemming occurs in some but not all of the search fields. <a href="#">See Search Tips guide</a>  128 character limit
<a href="#">PeerJ Preprints</a>	Use + before words to require them (e.g., +fMRI)  Use - before terms to	Yes, (e.g., +ASD -"Acute Stress Disorder")	* Replaces any number of characters. Can be used within a word or at the	? Replaces any 1 character. Can be used within a word	Phrase: Yes, straight double quotation marks only  Proximity: Not available	Not available	Recency of deposit Subject Area Date Number of Downloads	Single export: No  Bulk export: No	

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	exclude them (e.g., -"Acute Stress Disorder")		end of a root word.	or at the end of the word					
<a href="https://preprints.org">Preprints.org</a>	AND OR NOT -  Note: Must be upper case	Yes	Not available	Not available	Not available  If Exact Match is selected, a phrase (if inputted) would be searched in order (e.g., pelvic trauma)	-Title -Abstract -Keywords -Subject Area (e.g., Chemistry) -Sub-Subject Area (e.g., Organic Chemistry) -Author -Date	Not available	Single export: No  Bulk export: No	
<a href="https://www.researchsquare.com">Research Square</a>	Not available	Not available	Does not appear to be available. Testing was inconclusive.	Not available	Not available	-Title -Abstract -Subject Area -Author -Date	Title Abstract Subject Area Author Date	Single export: Yes, but only to Papers  Bulk export: No	More info: <a href="https://www.researchsquare.com/chara.24.2.43">10.5260/chara.24.2.43</a>
<a href="https://www.scielo.org/preprints">SciELO Preprints</a>	AND OR NOT	Yes	*	Search results were inconclusive when ? and # were attempted. It's unclear if those characters are supported.	Phrase: Yes, straight double quotation marks only  Proximity: Not available	-Areas of Knowledge (e.g., Applied Social Sciences)	-Author -Publication date	Single export: Yes, RIS and BibTex  Bulk export: No	It does not appear that search capabilities in SciELO Preprints are the same as SciELO (proper).

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<a href="#">SportRxiv</a>	AND OR NOT	Yes	*	?	Phrase: Yes, straight double quotation marks only  Proximity: Not available	-Subject Areas (e.g., Clinical Research)	- Subcategories (e.g., Rehabilitation)	Single export: No  Bulk export: No	Share feature on item records gives error message as of July 24, 2023. Unclear if this (when working) permits single export.
<a href="#">SSRN</a>	Not available, but spaces between words appear to be treated as AND	Not available	Not available	Not available	Phrase: Yes, straight double quotation marks only  Proximity: Not available	-Title -Abstract -Keywords -Author -Full Text -SSRN Network (e.g., Law)	Not available	Single export: No  Bulk export: No	A sophisticated search in the main search box does not seem effective, but you are able to continue performing searches within search results. Therefore, you could search by one component (e.g., population) and then search within the results for the next component (e.g., intervention).

Technically, Research Square, Preprints.org, SSRN, PeerJ Preprints, SciELO Preprints, MedRxiv, bioRxiv, ChemRxiv, and arXiv can all be searched as part of EuropePMC (which has superior functionality). However it isn't confirmed how often records are updated and whether all records are included or not.

ASAPbio created a preprint directory containing disciplinary scope, ownership, indexing and more, but that directory has not been updated since the launch of the Web of Science Preprint Citation Index.

<https://asapbio.org/preprint-servers>

How to cite:

Premji, Z., & Riegelman, A. (2025, July 22). Preprint repository search syntax table. Retrieved from <https://lib.uvic.ca/preprintsearchsyntax>