

Brief guide to Scopus

What is Scopus?

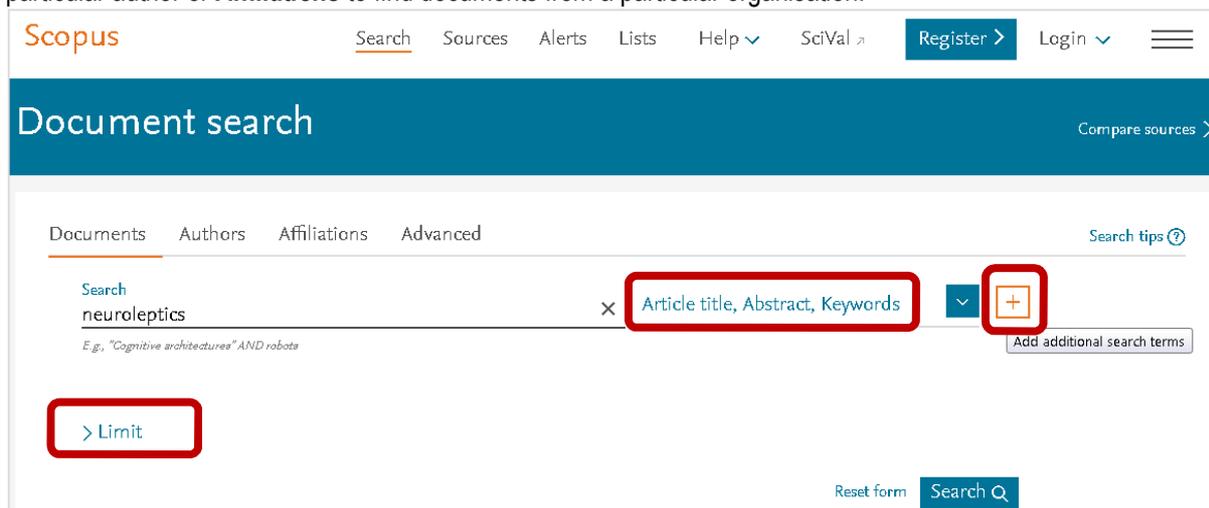
Scopus is a multidisciplinary indexing and abstracting database, covering citations from journals, the Web, patent databases and other sources in the sciences, social sciences and the arts & humanities publications. Scopus claims to be 'the largest abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature and quality web sources'.

Accessing Scopus

Access Scopus either at: www.scopus.com or via the UCL Library Services databases list at: www.ucl.ac.uk/library/electronic-resources/databases. UCL staff and students may gain access from any UCL computer; off-site access requires a UCL login. UCLH staff may gain access within a UCL Library, using a dedicated UCL computer.

Searching Scopus

The default search mode is **Document search**. Alternatively you can use **Authors** to find documents from a particular author or **Affiliations** to find documents from a particular organisation.



- Enter a textword in the **Search** box. The default is to search in *Title, Abstract and Keywords* but you can change this (e.g. to search only in the *Article title*) by choosing an option from the drop-down menu.
- To add more search terms click the **+** icon to add a new row for entering a new concept. Choose to combine the rows together using **AND, OR** or **AND NOT**.
- Click **Limit** if you want to specify a date range or a document type.
- Click **Search** to complete the search.

Tips:

- Search words are not case sensitive.
- Use "quotation marks" to search for a phrase
- Common words (*the, his, because, etc*) are ignored, unless you enclose them in quotation marks.
- Use **?** to replace a single character - *wom?n* will find *women* or *woman*.
- Use ***** to replace multiple characters - *toxic** will find *toxicology, toxicity, etc*.
- Scopus searches for most plurals, e.g. *criterion* will also find *criteria*.
- Boolean commands are processed in the following order of precedence: **OR > AND > AND NOT**.

Working with search results

Main results - the number of results is displayed at the top, along with a summary of your query. Use the icons to edit the search, save it, or set up an email alert. You will need to register for a personal account to access these features – see below for details.

Extra results are also available, including: *secondary results* that are not available directly in Scopus, they are extracted from the references lists of items that are held in Scopus and data may be incomplete; *patent results* and *data results*.

The screenshot shows a search results interface with the following elements highlighted by red boxes:

- 692 document results**: Total number of results at the top left.
- Search filters**: A sidebar on the left with 'Search within results...' and 'Refine results' sections.
- Show all abstracts**: A button above the results table.
- Sort on: Date (newest)**: A dropdown menu for sorting results.
- SFX@UCL**: Buttons next to 'View abstract' for each record.
- Cited by**: Numbers in the rightmost column of the results table.

Document title	Authors	Year	Source	Cited by
1 High prevalence of prescription of psychotropic drugs for older patients in a general hospital	Arnold, I., Straube, K., Himmel, W., (...), Hummers-Pradier, E., Nau, R.	2017	BMC Pharmacology and Toxicology 18(1),76 Open Access	0
2 Plasmapheresis responsive rapid onset dementia with predominantly frontal dysfunction in the context of Hashimoto's encephalopathy	Endres, D., Vry, M.S., Dykierok, P., (...), Meyer, P.T., van Elst, L.T.	2017	Frontiers in Psychiatry 8(OCT),212 Open Access	0
3 Increased Risk of Bullous Pemphigoid after First-Ever Stroke: A Population-Based Study	Shen, A.-L., Lin, H.-L., Lin, H.-C.	2017	Neurodegenerative Diseases	0

- **Sorting** – by default the results are shown in date order (newest first) or can be re-sorted using options from the drop down box (top right).
- **Refining a search** – use the menus on the left to further refine your search:
 - enter more search terms in the *Search within results* box
 - make selections from the *Refine results* area and click either *Limit to* or *Exclude*.
Tips: scroll down and/or click *View more* to see all of the options to refine or exclude.
- **Abstracts** - view an abstract (where available) by clicking *View abstract* alongside each record, or click *Show all abstracts* to see the abstract for all items in your list of search results.
- **View more details** – click the title to see more details for each document. Click the SFX@UCL button to check for full text availability at UCL.
- **Selecting items** – use the tick-boxes alongside each record to select items for *exporting*, *printing*, *emailing* or *downloading* (this option allows you to save the PDFs, where available).
- **Cited by** – click the number in the *Cited by* column on the right of each document to see any documents that are held within *Scopus* and have cited that document.
- **Related documents** – click this to find documents that share the same references, keywords or authors.

Search history & saving searches

Click **Search** at the top of the screen to return to the initial search screen. Scroll down to view your *Search history* (beneath the search box). From here you can edit or combine previous searches.

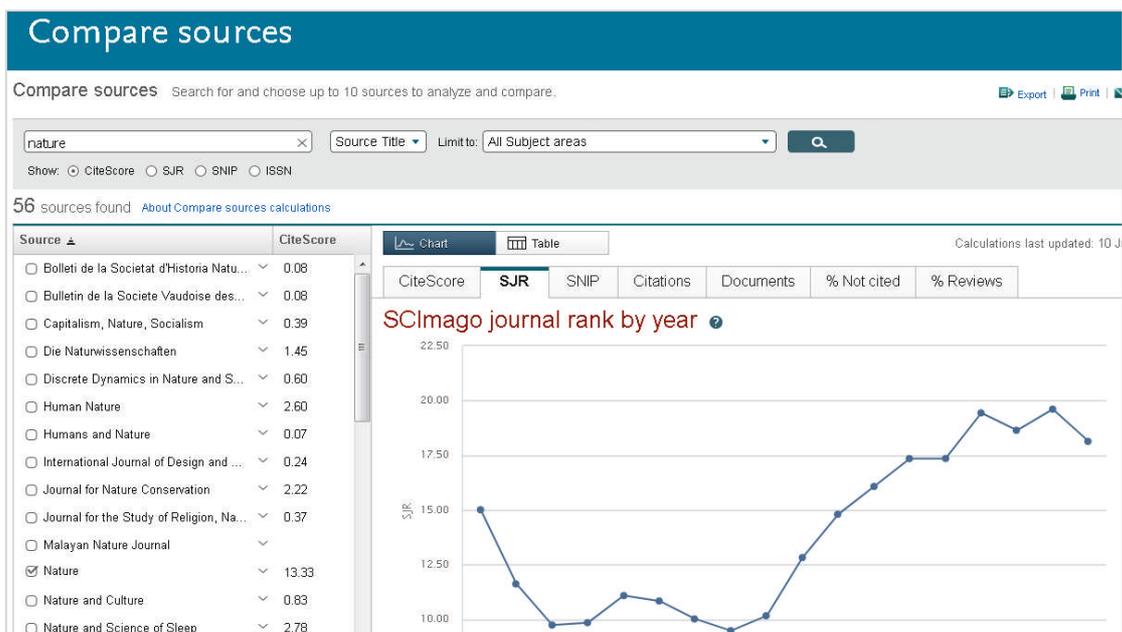
Some functions in *Scopus* require you to set up a **personal account** – simply click *Register* at the top right to do this. As a registered user you can save searches and receive email alerts (e.g. for new publications on your topic, new publications by a particular author, etc.).

Citation analysis

Scopus lists the citations within each documents and uses the data to track citation patterns and generate metrics (e.g. to find out how many times a paper has been cited, to calculate an h-index, to check what impact a particular journal has on its field, etc.).

To see the citations for one document, click the number in the *Cited by* column. To see the citations for a group of documents, select the documents you need and click *View cited by* at the top of the results list; to view a table showing a breakdown by year of citations for each of your selected documents, click *View citation overview*.

To analyse the impact of a journal, click *Compare sources* on the right of the *Document search* screen. Search for and select up to ten journal(s) to generate a chart. Use the tabs at the top of the chart to view different metrics. The data can also be viewed as simple values, by clicking *Table* just above the charts area.



- **CiteScore** is the average citations received per document in a particular journal.
- **SCImago Journal Rank (SJR)** is the value of weighted citations per document.
- **SNIP** is an impact measure, corrected for differing citation rates in different fields (similar to the Journal Impact Factor (JIF) available in *Web of Science*).
- **Citations** shows the no. of citations the journal receives in a year, considering all articles
- **Documents** shows the no. of articles published in the journal per year
- **% not cited** shows the percentage of papers published in that year with no citations to date