

Scopus Searching Worksheet

This will walk you through developing a search strategy and exploring Scopus. It is meant to be completed along with the lecture by WVU Librarian Jeff Werst but can be completed separately if needed.

What is your research question? Share it below.

Ex: How does electric current affect the magnetic field produced by a wire?

Search String Development

Remember that a search string is composed of keywords and search modifiers.

Keywords

Remember that keywords are meant to reflect the main points of your research question, and that you should identify synonyms for each keyword, when possible, in case your first choice does not yield results. See my example below.

Keyword(s)	Synonym(s)
Electric current	Current, amperage, charge flow
Magnetic field	Magnet, magnetic flux
Wire	Conductor, filament, metal (or other material)

Now work to develop your own keyword and synonym list, adding or deleting rows as needed.

Keyword(s)	Synonym(s)

Adding Search Modifiers

Now you'll use the search modifiers covered in the video to combine your keywords.

Hint: Use parentheses to group similar terms, Booleans (AND, OR, NOT) to connect keywords and narrow/broaden your search, quotation marks for exact phrase searching, and truncation/wildcard to search multiple forms of a word.

Examples:

- *"electric current" AND "magnetic field" AND wire*
- *(electricity OR "electric current" OR current) AND (magnetism OR electromagnetism) AND (wire OR conductor)*

Write your search string(s) below:

Reflect: Why did you choose the search modifier(s) you did? How do you expect your selected search modifier(s) to impact your results?

Database Searching

Using the table below, track your searches. List the databases you choose to search, and each search string used while searching that database. Then, list the number of results each search string (and accompanying filters) garners followed by the number of sources you have chosen to save or download from the database. I've included an example in the first row.

Search String Used (also list any filters used)	Number of Results from each search	Total Number of Sources Selected from Database
"electric current" AND "magnetic field" AND wire	977	2