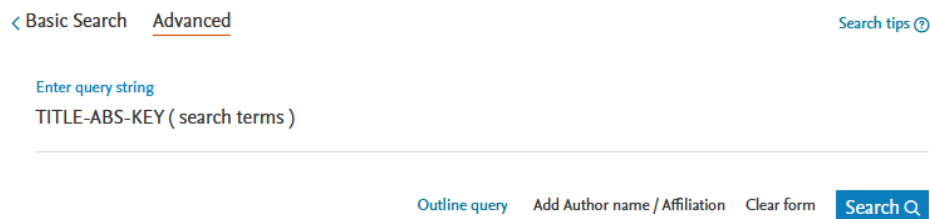


Tip Sheet: Scopus

Suggested Field Tags:

One of the ways that key word searches can be narrowed in databases when running a comprehensive and systematic search is through the use of field tags – most commonly those associated with title, abstract, and key words. The specific field tags that can/should be used differ by database. **In Scopus, we recommend TI-ABS-KEY**, which searches the title, abstract, and keywords.



A screenshot of the Scopus search interface. At the top, there are navigation links: '< Basic Search' and 'Advanced' (underlined). On the right, there is a 'Search tips ?' link. Below the navigation, there is a text input field with the placeholder 'Enter query string' and the text 'TITLE-ABS-KEY (search terms)'. At the bottom of the search bar, there are several options: 'Outline query', 'Add Author name / Affiliation', 'Clear form', and a blue 'Search Q' button.

Proximity Operators:

Proximity operators in databases allow you to search for one word/phrase within a certain proximity to another word. For example, you could use a proximity operator to find the word *systematic* *within two words of* the word *protocol*. Proximity operators are best used to create relationships or associations between words that cannot be accomplished through phrase searching and other search functions. **In Scopus, the proximity operator is W# for 'within # words of' or PRE/# for 'precedes by'.**



A screenshot of the Scopus search interface. At the top, there are navigation links: '< Basic Search' and 'Advanced' (underlined). On the right, there is a 'Search tips ?' link. Below the navigation, there is a text input field with the placeholder 'Enter query string' and the text '(search term 1) W/2 (search term 2)'. At the bottom of the search bar, there are several options: 'Outline query', 'Add Author name / Affiliation', 'Clear form', and a blue 'Search Q' button.

Updating a Search:

When you need to update a search that you have previously performed, best practice is to use database commands that *capture the records entered into the database* after the date of the last search run where such commands are available. Due to a lag between an item's publication and its inclusion in the database, entry date is not always the same as publication date, making it a less precise search option that should only be used in cases where the database is not able to distinguish between the two. **In Scopus, the command is PUBYEAR AFT YYYY.**



A screenshot of the Scopus search interface. At the top, there are navigation links: '< Basic Search' and 'Advanced' (underlined). On the right, there is a 'Search tips ?' link. Below the navigation, there is a text input field with the placeholder 'Enter query string' and the text 'PUBYEAR AFT 2020'. At the bottom of the search bar, there are several options: 'Outline query', 'Add Author name / Affiliation', 'Clear form', and a blue 'Search Q' button.

Database Quirks:

- Phrase searching is done using these types of brackets {phrase} instead of "phrase" – and this is for exact phrase. You can still use quotations for close phrases