

Tip Sheet: Inspec (Engineering Village)

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 Inspec, we recommend Subject/Title/Abstract**, which searches any of the following fields: 'Abstract,' 'Title,' 'Controlled term,' or 'Uncontrolled term'.



The screenshot shows a search bar with a dropdown menu set to 'Subject/Title/Abstract'. A search query is entered: 'e.g. (artificial intelligence OR intelligent computing) AND {social media}'. Below the search bar, there are links: 'Turn on AutoSuggest', '+ Add search field', and 'Reset form'.

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 Inspec, the proximity operator is NEAR/# for 'within # words of' or ONEAR/# for within the number specified in exact order. Note:** In Inspec, NEAR cannot be used with truncation, wildcards, parentheses, braces, or quotation marks.



The screenshot shows a search bar with a dropdown menu set to 'Subject/Title/Abstract'. A search query is entered: 'search term NEAR/2 search term'. Below the search bar, there are links: 'Turn on AutoSuggest', '+ Add search field', and 'Reset form'.

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 Inspec, under Quick search limit by range of publication by year.**



The screenshot shows a search filter panel with the following options:

Databases	Date	Language	Document type	Sort by
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Published	2021 to 2022			
<input type="radio"/> Updates	1			

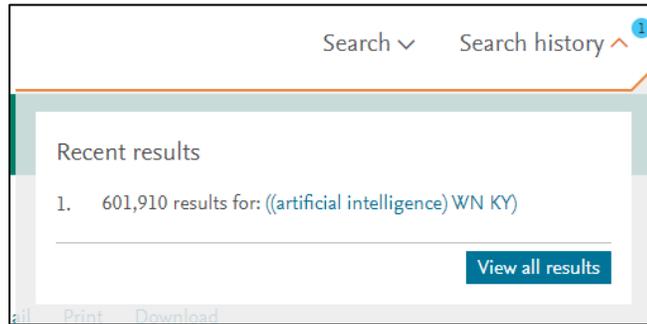
Database Quirks:

- Inspec translates search terms entered in the **Quick Search field tag “Subject/Title/Abstract”** from your **search term** into **((search term) WN KY)** in the search history, which is what gets recorded in your manuscript.

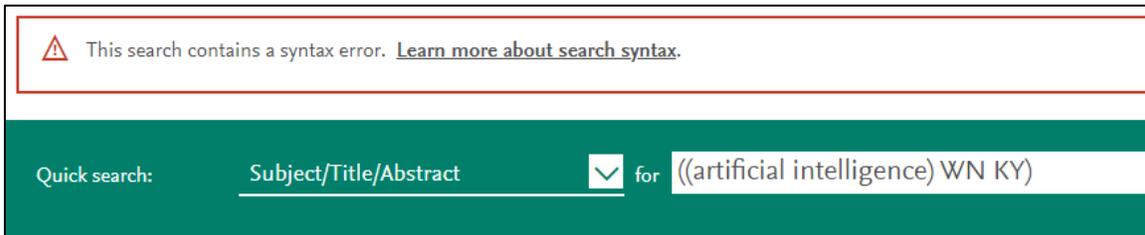


Quick search: Subject/Title/Abstract for

Turn on AutoSuggest | + Add search field | Reset form



If you need to re-run your search you cannot copy/paste this back in the Quick Search box - you get a “*This search contains a syntax error*” message instead. **Searches must instead be completely rebuilt to re-run.**



This search contains a syntax error. [Learn more about search syntax.](#)

Quick search: Subject/Title/Abstract for