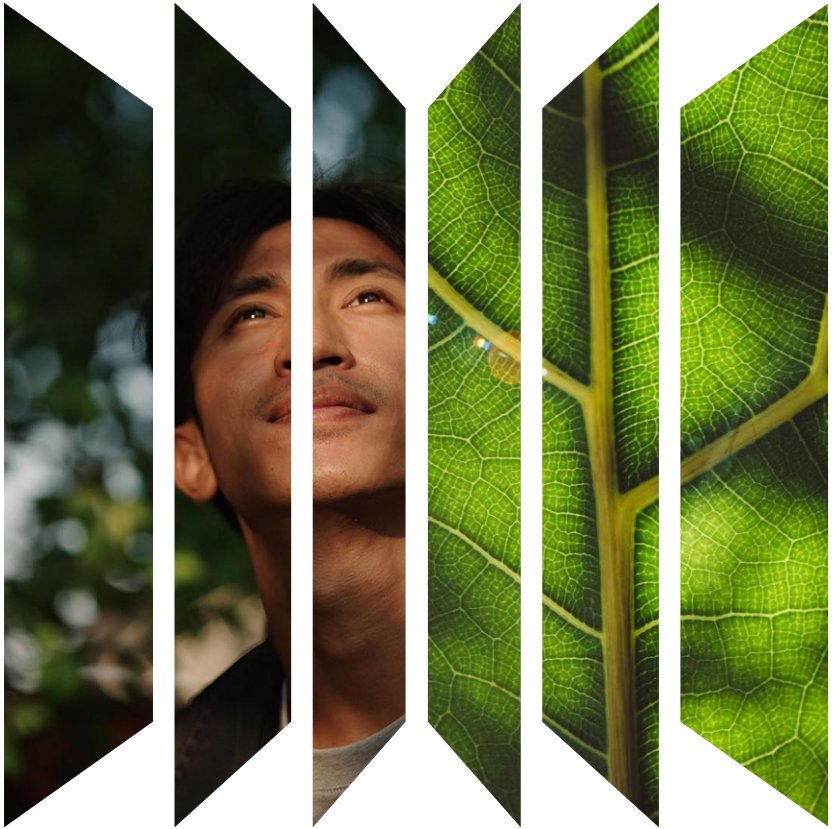
Building Strong Research Foundations with Scopus

Lucia Schoombee, Senior Customer Consultant, Research Analytics, Elsevier (Global)



Scopus

Advancing human progress together

Agenda

- What is Scopus?
- Scopus content coverage
- How Scopus Supports Literature Searches
- Creating powerful search queries
- Master Advanced Search
- Refine Search Results
- Save, Export, Set-up Alerts
- Summary & Key Takeaways
- Resources
- Q&A

What you will learn

- Understand what Scopus is and what types of academic content it includes
- Develop practical skills for discovering, assessing, and working with scholarly literature
- Use keywords and filters to find relevant research efficiently
- Read article records to identify authors, journals, and publication details
- Understand basic indicators such as citation counts and what they can (and cannot) tell you
- Save, export, and organise references for assignments and projectst

What is Scopus?

Scopus is an abstract and citation database carefully curated by independent subject matter experts, ensuring high-quality, unbiased information.

The name, Scopus, was **inspired** by the bird, ***Phylloscopus Collybita***, which reportedly has excellent navigation skills.

Scopus Content Coverage

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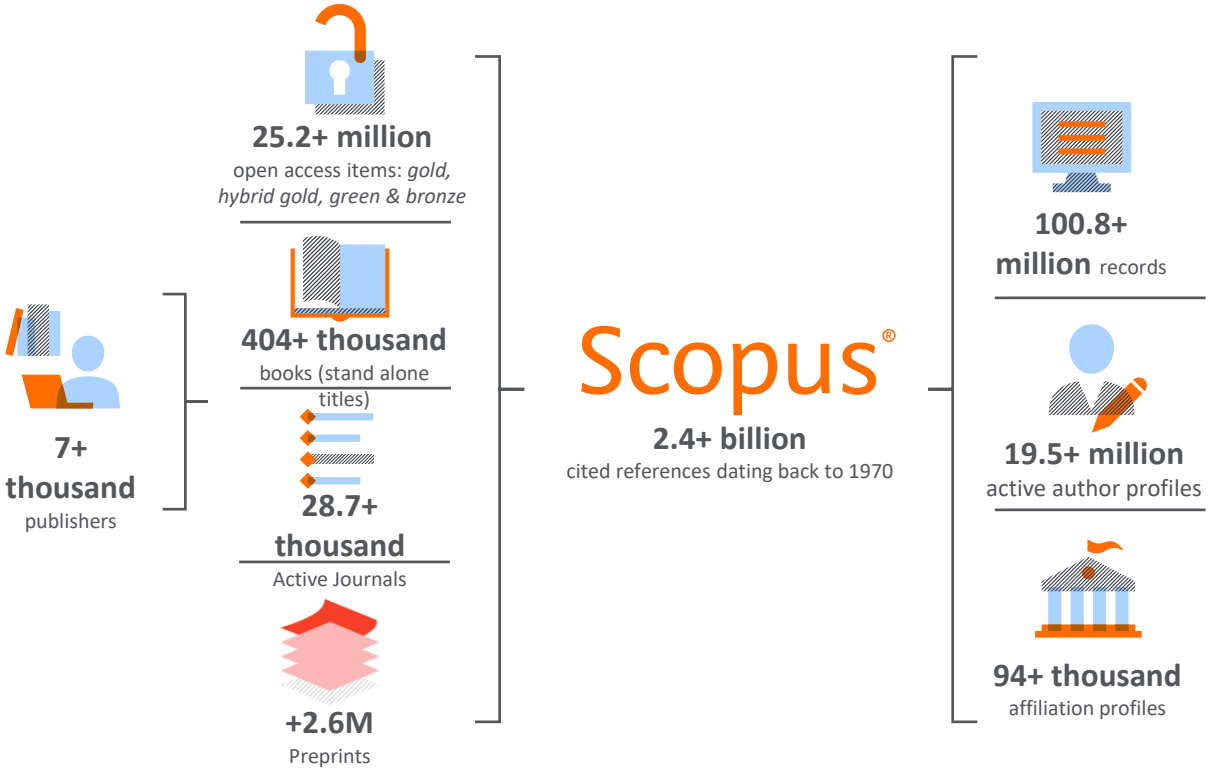
Curated, enriched and connected data that surfaces signals about research that are intuitive to access and understand



- Identify and analyze which journals to read/submit to
- Track and assess a researcher's impact
- Decide what, where and with whom to collaborate
- Track impact of research and monitor global research trends
- Find the current research; what has been published in a research area
- Determine how to differentiate research topics, find ideas

Numbers shown are rounded and current as March 2025. Scopus is updated daily

Scopus at a glance

Scopus is an abstract and citation database carefully curated by independent subject matter experts, ensuring high-quality, unbiased information.

100M records from **28.7K** active journals | More than **7,000+** publishers in **105** countries | Updated daily ~**13,000** articles per day indexed | **20,5 M** active author profiles | **94+ K** affiliation profiles

Number of journals by subject area**

- **Physical sciences** 15,744
- **Health sciences** 15,525
- **Social sciences** 16,279
- **Life sciences** 8,414

Journals

28,791** active peer-reviewed journals

167 trade journals

8,137 OA Journals (DOAJ/ROAD)

25.1M open access documents (Gold, Hybrid Gold, Bronze & Green)

23.4M fully-indexed funding acknowledgements

Conferences

167K conference events

12.91M conference papers

Mainly Engineering and Computer Sciences

Books

399K stand-alone books

3.56M total book items

Focus on Social Sciences and A&H

Preprints

2.6M preprints

7 preprint servers:

- arXiv
- ChemRxiv
- bioRxiv
- medRxiv
- SSRN
- TechRxiv
- Research Square

*Journals may be classified in multiple subject areas: this count includes current actively indexed titles only
**Total number of Scopus journals in database including inactive titles is 45,495

Numbers shown are rounded and current as February 2025. Scopus is updated daily

Content Selection & Advisory Board (CSAB)

- Independent board of subject experts from all over the world
- Comprised of **17 Subject Chairs**
- Chosen for their expertise in specific subject areas; most have (journal) Editor experience.
- Rigorous and transparent quality and ethics selection criteria used to evaluate potential titles
- Regularly re-evaluates Scopus content and discontinues titles no longer meeting the guidelines

- https://www.elsevier.com/solutions/scopus/how-scopus-works/content/scopus-content-selection-and-advisory-board
- https://www.elsevier.com/products/scopus/content?dgcid=RN_AGCM_Sourced_300005030#3-selection-standards

Scopus Key Use Cases

USER NEED	FEATURES
Find literature	SEARCH
Analyze research topics	SEARCH
Whom to partner?	AUTHOR/AFFILIATION PROFILES
Which journals to read / submit to	JOURNAL ANALYZER
Track impact of research	ALERTS
Manage research career – citation counts and *h*-index	PROFILES

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Source: Scopus Own Data, Scopus Exit Survey, 2015

Broad based scholarly support

How Scopus support Literature Searches

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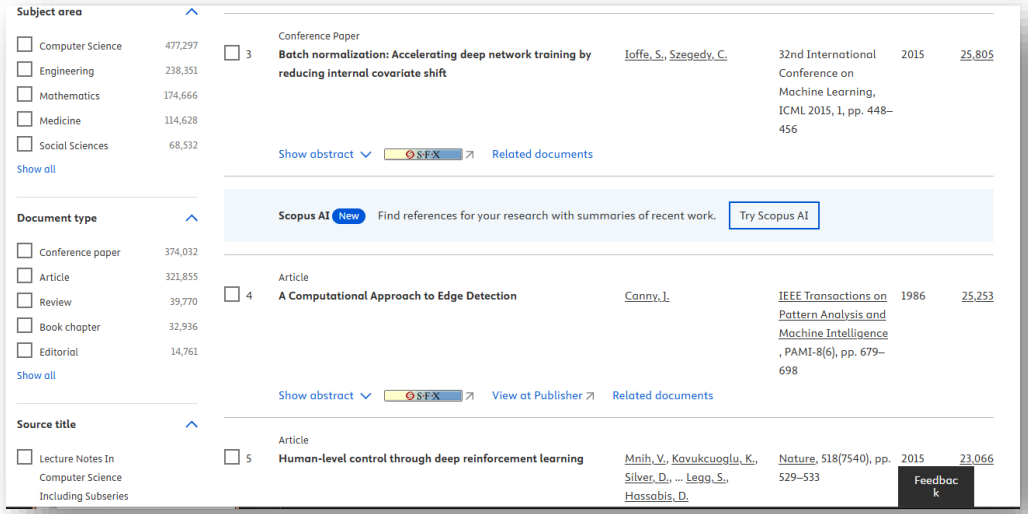
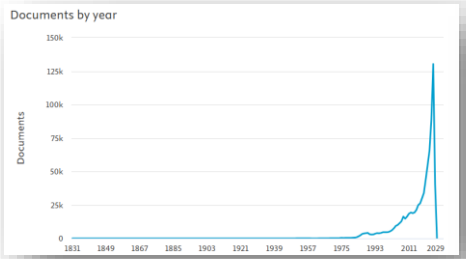
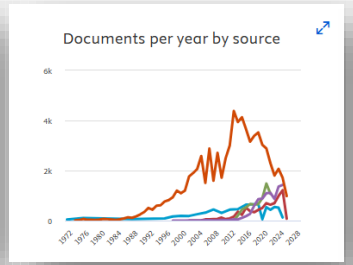
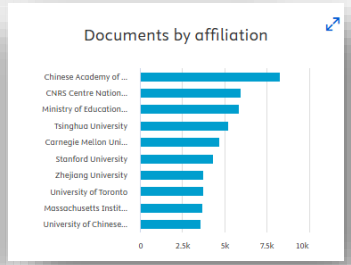
How Scopus Supports Literature Retrieval



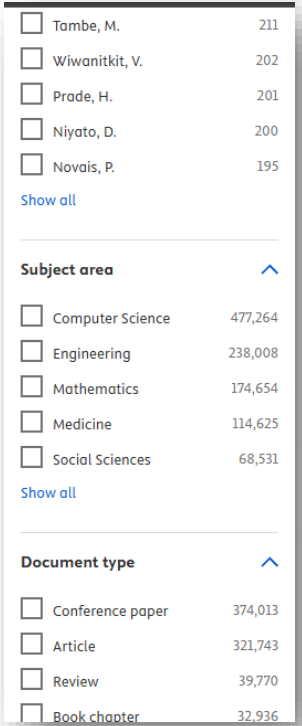


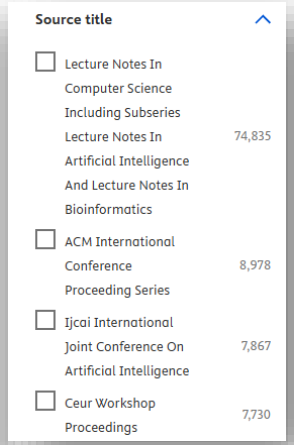


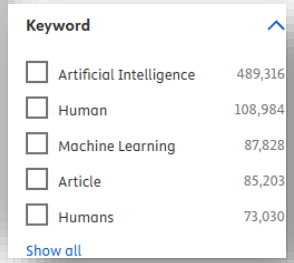


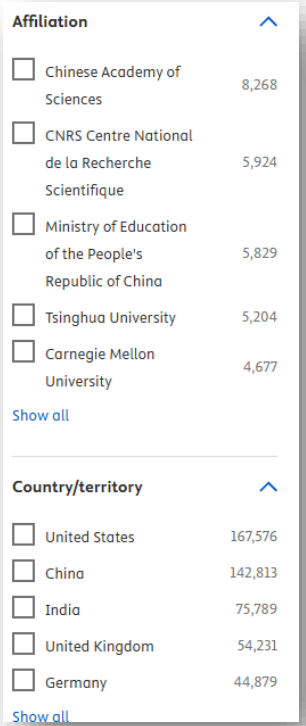
- Discover published research across disciplines
- Identify key authors/experts, journals, and institutions
- Track development of a topic over time
- Analyze citation impact to prioritize sources
- Evaluate topic trends and impact through citing document analysis

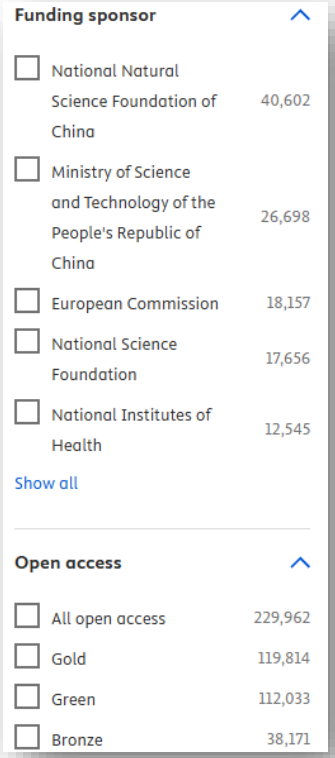
Structuring and Prioritizing Literature





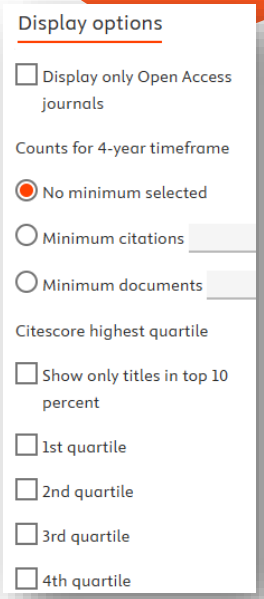






Filter by subject area, publication year, source type etc.

Use citation counts and journal metrics



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Create Powerful Search Queries

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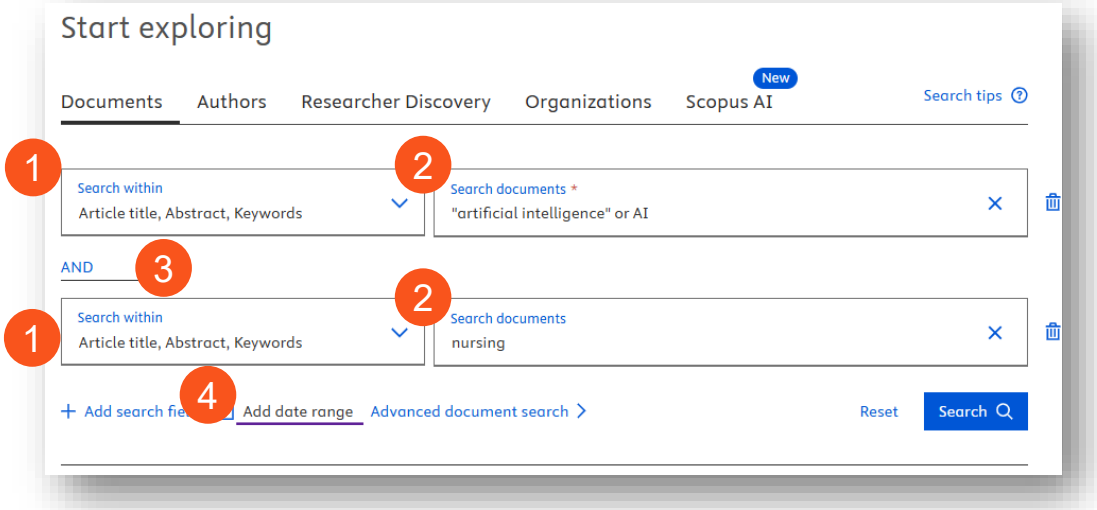
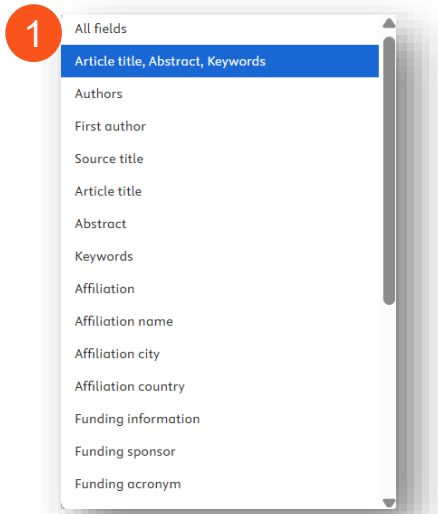
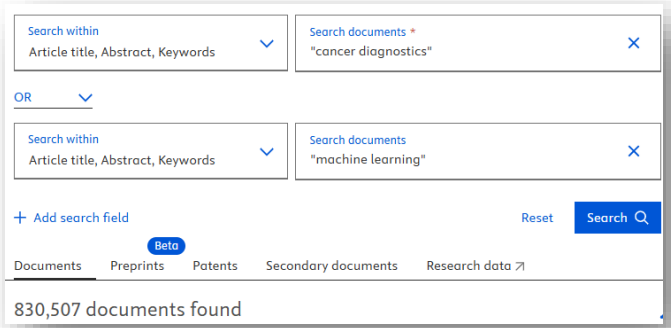
Basic search



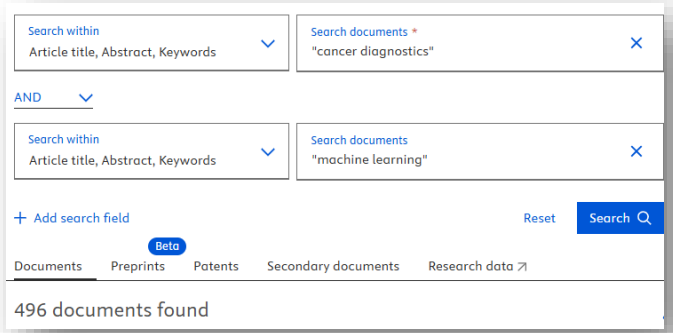


1. To create a search query in Scopus, start by selecting the appropriate search field such as title, abstract, or keywords etc.
2. Enter your search terms
3. Combine them (if needed) using Boolean operators like AND, OR, or NOT for more control
4. You can also refine your results by adding a date range to limit the publication years.

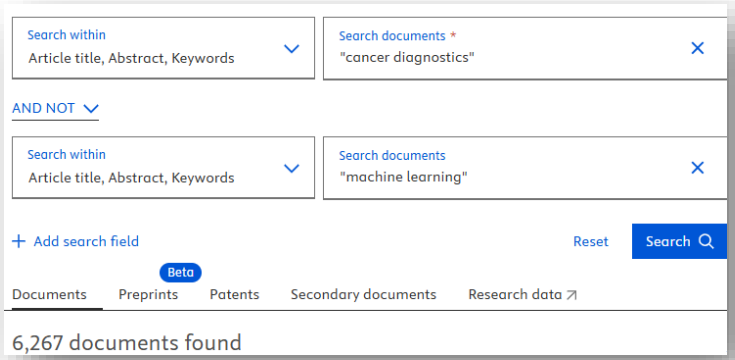
Boolean operators



OR – usually increases number of results



AND – usually decreases the number of results



AND NOT – usually decreases the number of results by excluding those that match the query following AND NOT

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Approximate and Exact Phrases, Wildcards

Operator	Example
Double quotation marks " "	Loose phrase: TITLE-ABS-KEY("heart attack") searches for documents where heart attack appear together in the title, abstract, or keywords. **Heart attack** : 837 results and **"heart attack“:** 22 results
Braces { }	To find documents that contain an exact phrase, enclose the phrase in braces: {oyster toadfish}. Result includes any stop words, spaces, and punctuation which you included in the braces.
Asterisk *	Replaces zero or more characters. Useful when you're not sure about the exact spelling of a word or want to include several variations of a term in one query. Example: **psycholog*** → finds psychology, psychological, psychologist, etc.
W/n	It indicates the distance between words, but not the order - e.g. **journal W/2 publishing**, where **'journal'** can be found two words away from the word **'publishing'**
Pre/n	Terms should appear in specific word order – e.g. **behavioral PRE/3 disturbances,** where **'behavioral'** precedes **'disturbances'** by three words.

What Scopus search does automatically

- **Accented characters:** Dvořák or dvorak
- **Lemmatization:** attack, attacks; wide, wider
- **Equivalents:** ω and omega; behaviour and behavior
- **Punctuation:** is ignored – commas, hyphens, ? ! etc.
- **Stop words:** Words like “the”, “it”, and “of” are excluded from search

(You can find the list here)

More details: Searching for a document

Advanced Search

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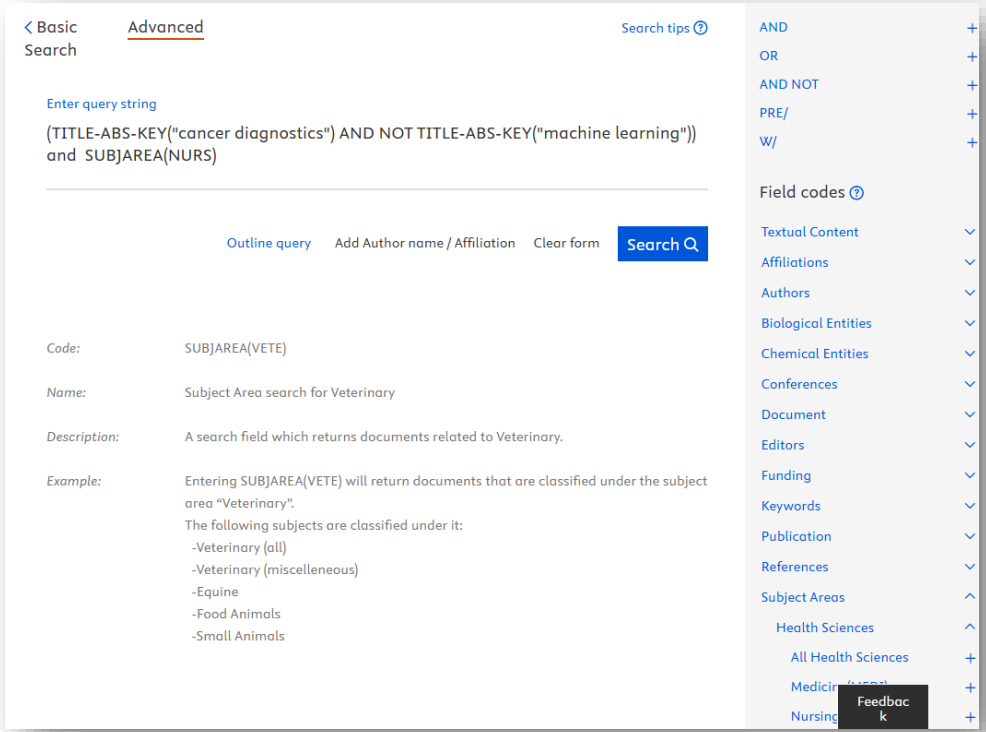
Advanced Search Interface



Scopus Advanced Search allows users to build **precise and structured searches** using field codes and Boolean logic. It is especially useful when basic keyword searching returns **too many or irrelevant results**.

Purpose

The purpose of Advanced Search is to help users **control exactly where and how Scopus searches for information** within article records. Instead of searching the entire database broadly, users can target specific fields such as **title, abstract, author, affiliation, or references**.

For example:
TITLE-ABS-KEY("artificial intelligence" AND healthcare)
This search retrieves articles where the terms appear in the **title, abstract, or keywords**, which usually improves relevance.

Value for Researchers and Students

1. More precise results
2. Greater control over search strategy
3. Reproducible searches
4. Efficient literature discovery

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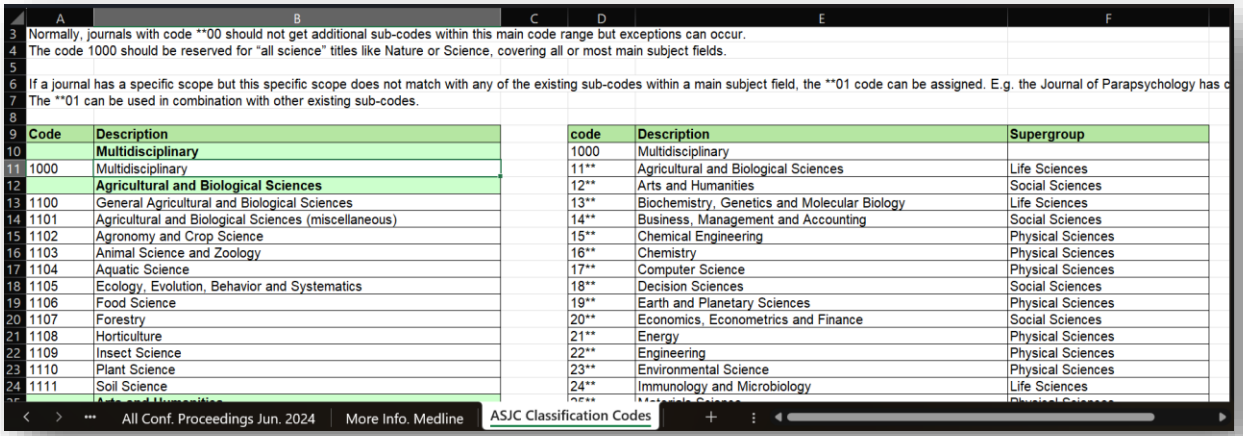
ASJC – All Science Journal Classification



Normally, journals with code **00 should not get additional sub-codes within this main code range but exceptions can occur.
The code 1000 should be reserved for "all science" titles like Nature or Science, covering all or most main subject fields.

If a journal has a specific scope but this specific scope does not match with any of the existing sub-codes within a main subject field, the **01 code can be assigned. E.g. the Journal of Parapsychology has c
The **01 can be used in combination with other existing sub-codes.

Code	Description
	Multidisciplinary
1000	Multidisciplinary
	Agricultural and Biological Sciences
1100	General Agricultural and Biological Sciences
1101	Agricultural and Biological Sciences (miscellaneous)
1102	Agronomy and Crop Science
1103	Animal Science and Zoology
1104	Aquatic Science
1105	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics
1106	Food Science
1107	Forestry
1108	Horticulture
1109	Insect Science
1110	Plant Science
1111	Soil Science

code	Description	Supergroup
1000	Multidisciplinary	
11**	Agricultural and Biological Sciences	Life Sciences
12**	Arts and Humanities	Social Sciences
13**	Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology	Life Sciences
14**	Business, Management and Accounting	Social Sciences
15**	Chemical Engineering	Physical Sciences
16**	Chemistry	Physical Sciences
17**	Computer Science	Physical Sciences
18**	Decision Sciences	Social Sciences
19**	Earth and Planetary Sciences	Physical Sciences
20**	Economics, Econometrics and Finance	Social Sciences
21**	Energy	Physical Sciences
22**	Engineering	Physical Sciences
23**	Environmental Science	Physical Sciences
24**	Immunology and Microbiology	Life Sciences

All Conf. Proceedings Jun. 2024 | More Info. Medline | ASJC Classification Codes

4 supergroups, 27 subject areas, 334 subcategories

Advanced Search – type SUBJMAIN *(code of subcategory)*

Example: SUBJMAIN (2906) – where 2906 is code for "Critical Care Nursing" subcategory

Source: ASJC - Scopus Content Coverage page – Download the Source Title list

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Working with Search Results

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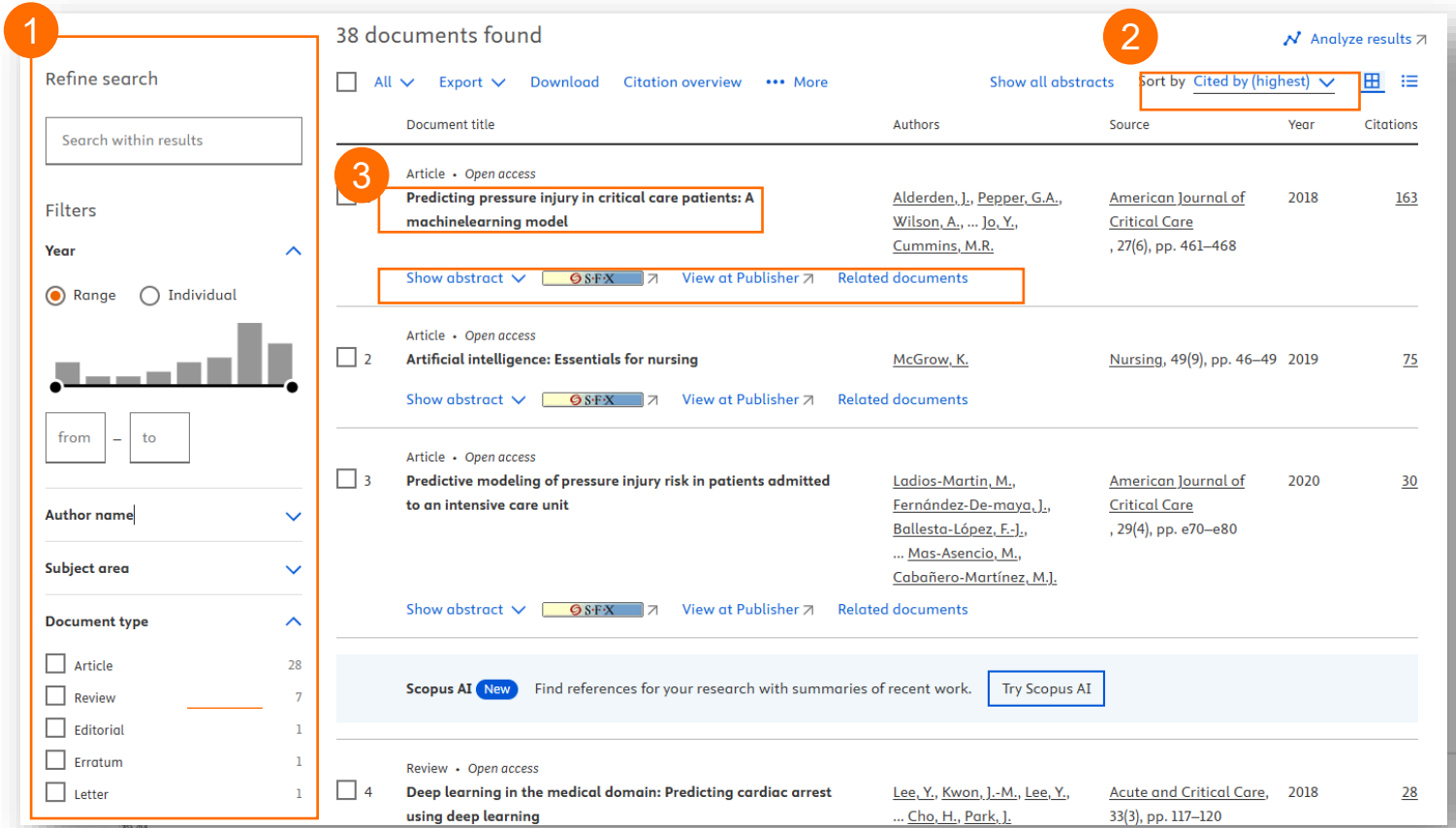
Results



1. Refine and sort your results to focus on what matters most—e.g., filter by document type like reviews for comprehensive overviews

2. Sort by citations to highlight the most impactful research.

3. Open the record to view the abstract directly

Detailed Page

Predicting pressure injury in critical care patients: A machinelearning model

American Journal of Critical Care • Article • Open Access • 2018 • DOI: 10.4037/ajcc2018525

Alderden, Jenny [a,b] ; Pepper, Ginette Alyce [b] ; Wilson, Andrew [b] ; Whitney, Joanne D. [c] ; Richardson, Stephanie [d] ; +3 authors

[a] School of Nursing, Boise State University, Boise, ID, United States

Show all information

Full text · Export · Save to list

210 98th percentile Citations

7.57 FWCI

Document · Impact · Cited by (210) · References (23) · Similar documents

Abstract

Background Hospital-acquired pressure injuries are a serious problem among critical care patients. Some can be prevented by using measures such as specialty beds, which are not feasible for every patient because of costs. However, decisions about which patient would benefit most from a specialty bed are difficult because results of existing tools to determine risk for pressure injury indicate that most critical care patients are at high risk. Objective To develop a model for predicting development of pressure injuries among surgical critical care patients. Methods Data from electronic health records were divided into training (67%) and testing (33%) data sets, and a model was developed by using a random forest algorithm via the R package "randomforest." Results Among a sample of 6376 patients, hospital-acquired pressure injuries of stage 1 or greater (outcome variable 1) developed in 536 patients (8.1%) and injuries of stage 2 or greater (outcome variable 2) developed in 257 (4.0%). Random forest models were developed to predict stage 1 and greater and stage 2 and greater injuries by using the testing set to evaluate classifier performance. The area under the receiver operating characteristic curve for both models was 0.79. Conclusion This machine-learning approach differs from other available models because it does not require clinicians to input information into a tool (eg, the Braden Scale). Rather, it uses information readily available in electronic health records. Next steps include testing in an independent sample and then calibration to optimize specificity. © 2018 American Association of Critical-Care Nurses.

Abstract
Indexed keywords
Funding details
Corresponding authors

Indexed keywords

MeSH

Adult; Aged; Beds; Critical Care; Electronic Health Records; Female; Humans; Iatrogenic Disease; Machine Learning; Male; Middle Aged; Predictive Value of Tests; Pressure Ulcer; Risk Assessment; Risk Factors; ROC Curve; Severity of Illness Index

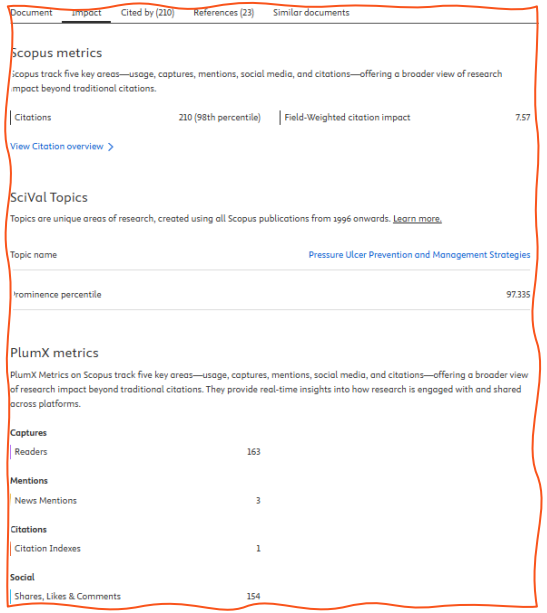
EMTREE medical terms

adult; aged; bed; classification; decubitus; electronic health record; female; human; iatrogenic disease; intensive care; machine learning; male; middle aged; predictive value; procedures; receiver operating characteristic; risk assessment; risk factor; severity of illness index

Funding details

Details about financial support for research, including funding sources and grant numbers as provided in academic publications.

Funding sponsor	Funding number	Acronym
National Institutes of Health See opportunities by NIH		NIH



Document · Impact · Cited by (210) · References (23) · Similar documents

Scopus metrics

Scopus track five key areas—usage, captures, mentions, social media, and citations—offering a broader view of research impact beyond traditional citations.

Citations	210 (98th percentile)	Field-Weighted citation impact	7.57

View Citation overview >

SciVal Topics

Topics are unique areas of research, created using all Scopus publications from 1996 onwards. Learn more.

Topic name	Pressure Ulcer Prevention and Management Strategies
Prominence percentile	97.335

PlumX metrics

PlumX Metrics on Scopus track five key areas—usage, captures, mentions, social media, and citations—offering a broader view of research impact beyond traditional citations. They provide real-time insights into how research is engaged with and shared across platforms.

Captures

Readers	163

Mentions

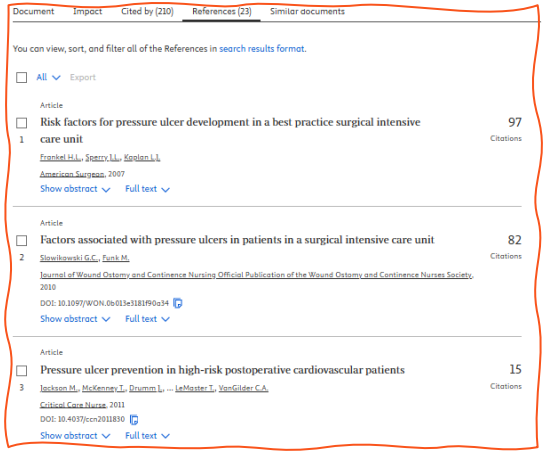
News Mentions	3

Citations

Citation Indexes	1

Social

Shares, Likes & Comments	154



Document · Impact · Cited by (210) · References (23) · Similar documents

You can view, sort, and filter all of the References in search results format.

All · Export

Article

1 Risk factors for pressure ulcer development in a best practice surgical intensive care unit — 97 Citations

Frankel H.L., Sperry L.L., Kaplan L.J.

American Surgeon, 2007

Show abstract · Full text

Article

2 Factors associated with pressure ulcers in patients in a surgical intensive care unit — 82 Citations

Slowikowski G.C., Funk M.

Journal of Wound Ostomy and Continence Nursing Official Publication of the Wound Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society, 2010

DOI: 10.1097/WON.0b013e3181f90a34

Show abstract · Full text

Article

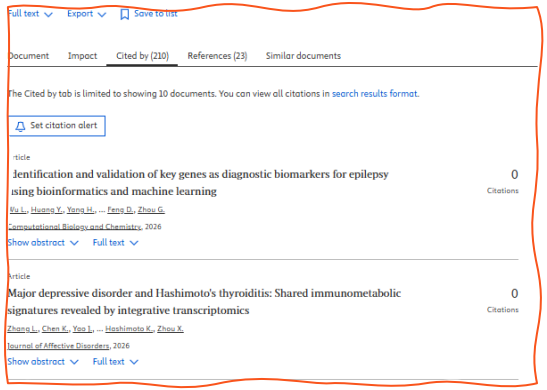
3 Pressure ulcer prevention in high-risk postoperative cardiovascular patients — 15 Citations

Jackson M., McKenney T., Drumm J., ... LeMaster T., VanGilder C.A.

Critical Care Nurse, 2011

DOI: 10.4037/ccn2011830

Show abstract · Full text



Full text · Export · Save to list

Document · Impact · Cited by (210) · References (23) · Similar documents

The Cited by tab is limited to showing 10 documents. You can view all citations in search results format.

Set citation alert

Article

Identification and validation of key genes as diagnostic biomarkers for epilepsy using bioinformatics and machine learning — 0 Citations

Wu L., Huang Y., Yang H., ... Feng D., Zhou G.

Computational Biology and Chemistry, 2026

Show abstract · Full text

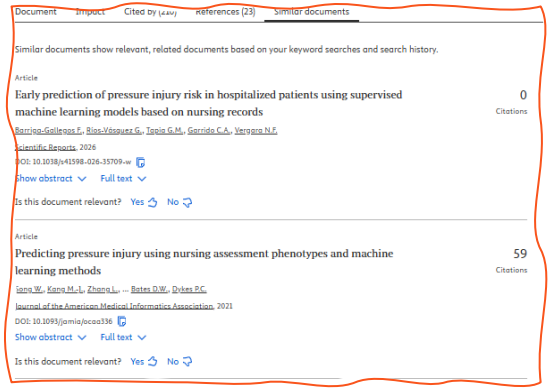
Article

Major depressive disorder and Hashimoto's thyroiditis: Shared immunometabolic signatures revealed by integrative transcriptomics — 0 Citations

Zhang L., Chen K., Yao J., ... Hashimoto K., Zhou X.

Journal of Affective Disorders, 2026

Show abstract · Full text



Document · Impact · Cited by (210) · References (23) · Similar documents

Similar documents show relevant, related documents based on your keyword searches and search history.

Article

Early prediction of pressure injury risk in hospitalized patients using supervised machine learning models based on nursing records — 0 Citations

Barriga-Gallegos F., Ríos-Vásquez G., Tapia G.M., Garrido C.A., Vergara N.F.

Scientific Reports, 2026

DOI: 10.1038/s41598-026-35709-w

Show abstract · Full text

Is this document relevant? Yes No

Article

Predicting pressure injury using nursing assessment phenotypes and machine learning methods — 59 Citations

Jang W., Kang M.-J., Zhang L., ... Bates D.W., Dykes P.C.

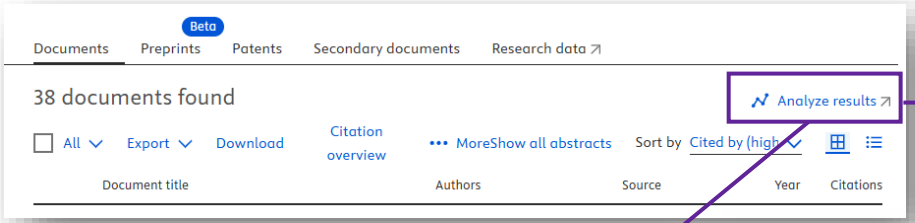
Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association, 2021

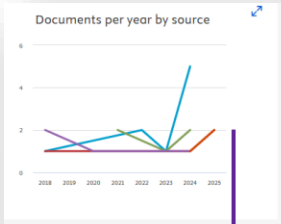
DOI: 10.1093/jamia/ocaa336

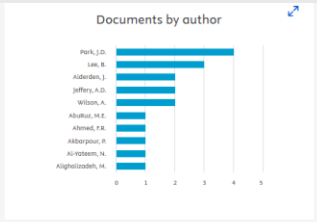
Show abstract · Full text

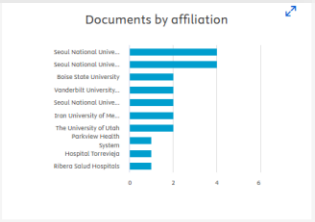
Is this document relevant? Yes No

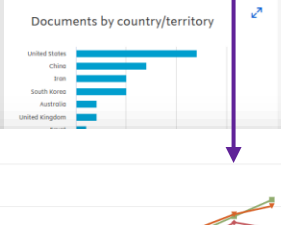
Analyze Results

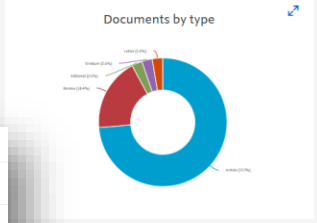


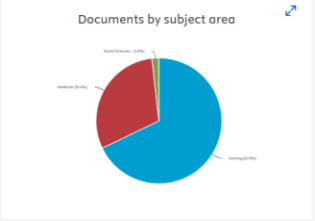


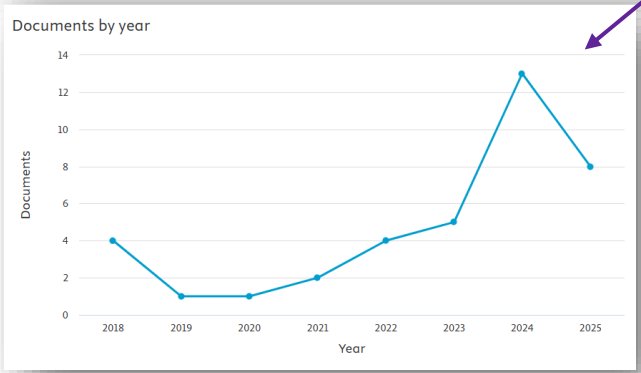


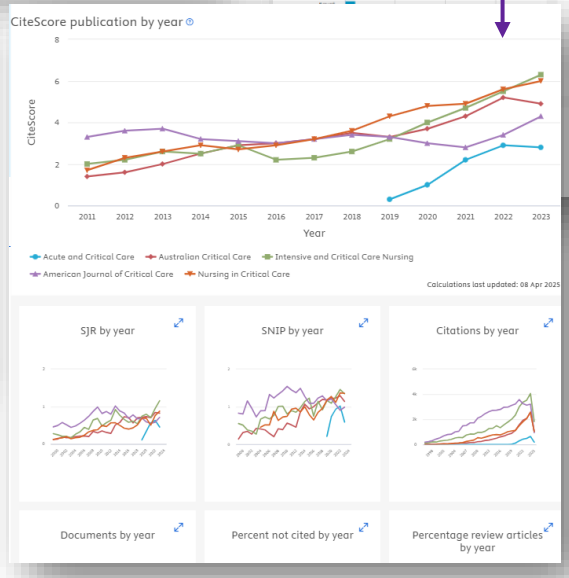












Analyze publication trends, key contributors, and top journals using built-in Scopus analytics

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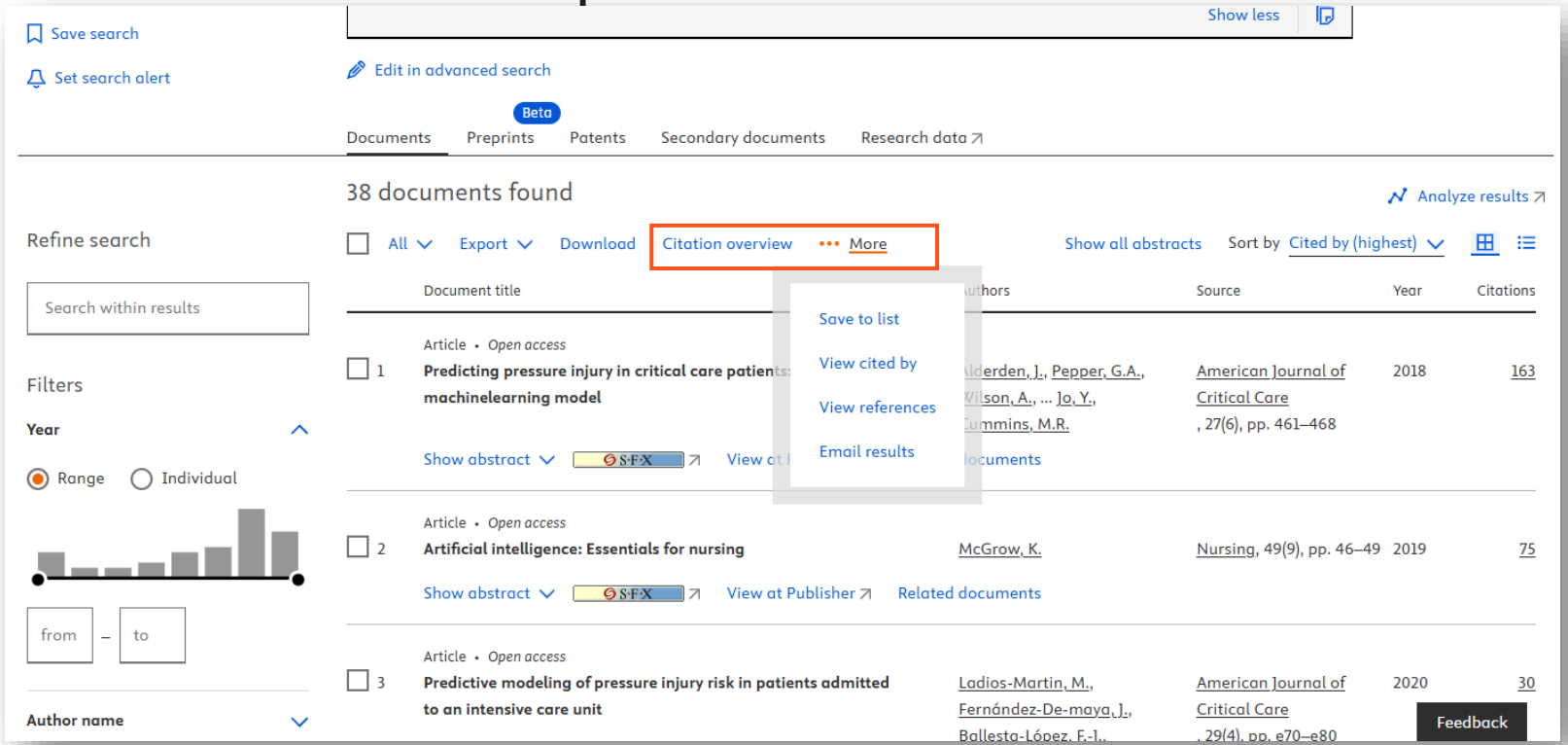
Trace Citations and Explore Reference Networks



Track how key papers are cited over time, examine their reference lists, and explore citing documents to understand topic development and influence

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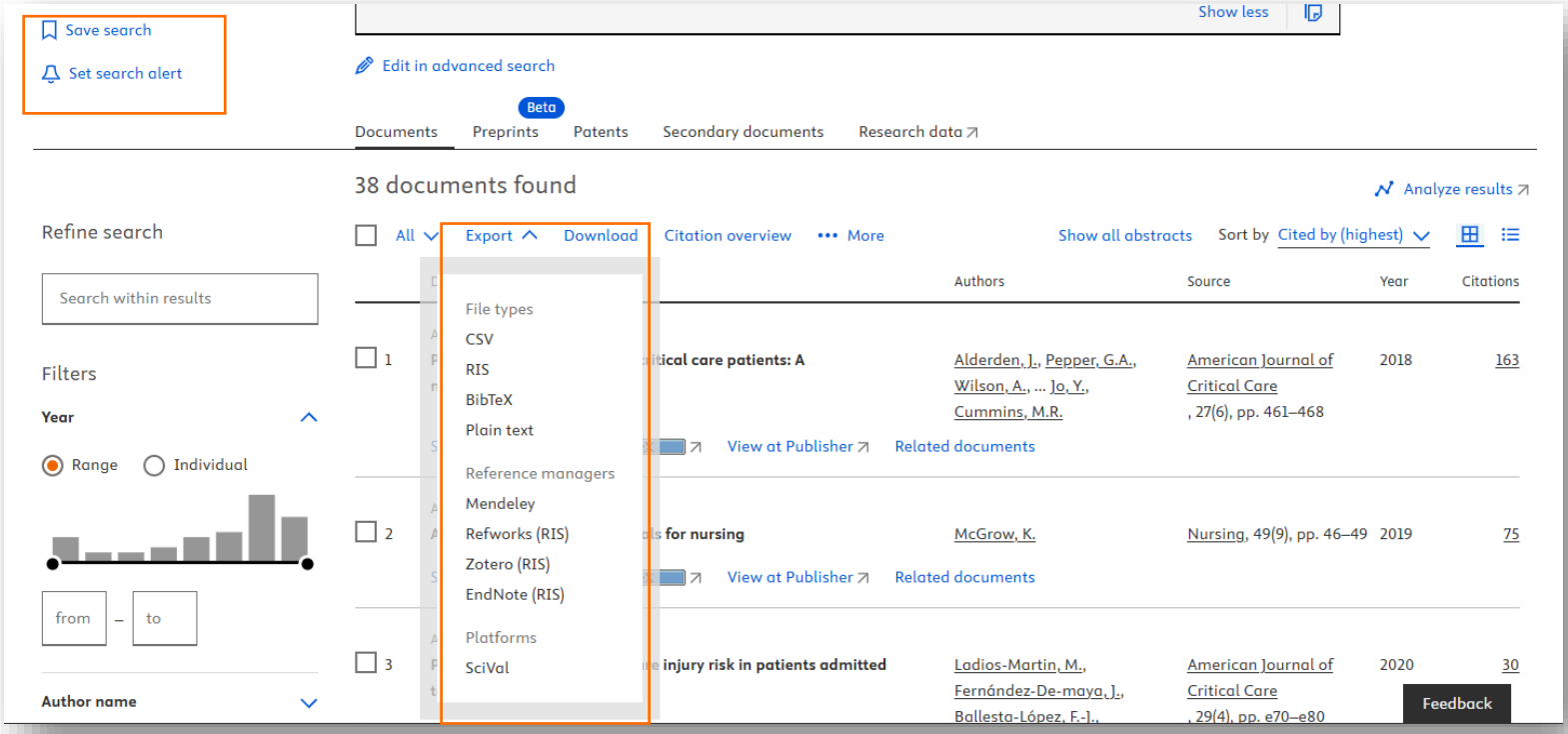
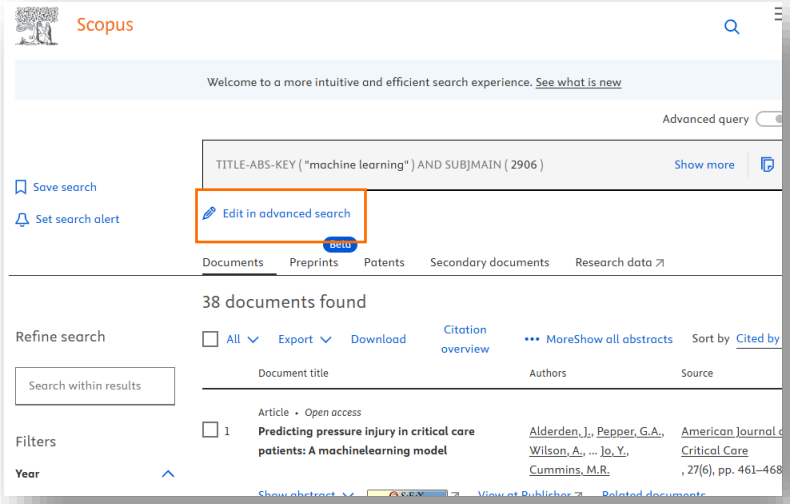
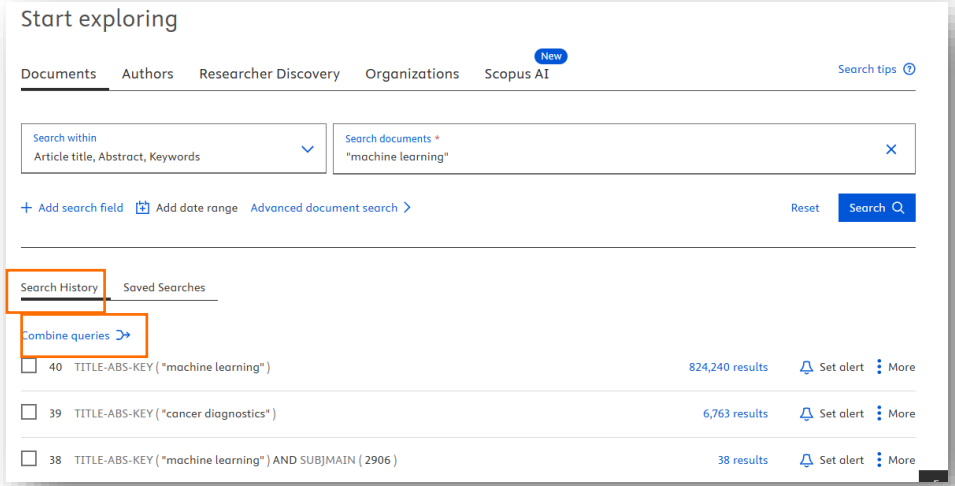
Export, Save & Set Alerts



Download results in multiple formats or add to your Reference manager, save searches, and set alerts to stay updated on new publications

Edit, Search History and Combine Your Queries





Edit your search, revisit past queries, and combine them for deeper exploration

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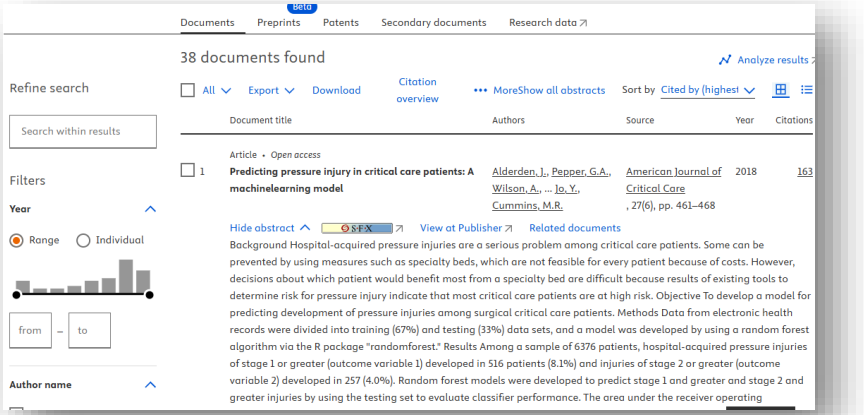
Summary & Key Takeaways



Scopus empowers researchers to conduct effective literature reviews through:

- ✓ Comprehensive and curated global content
- ✓ Powerful search and filtering options
- ✓ Advanced search capabilities using structured queries
- ✓ Built-in tools to analyze and track research trends
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Use Scopus to simplify your literature review process and gain deeper insights into your field!

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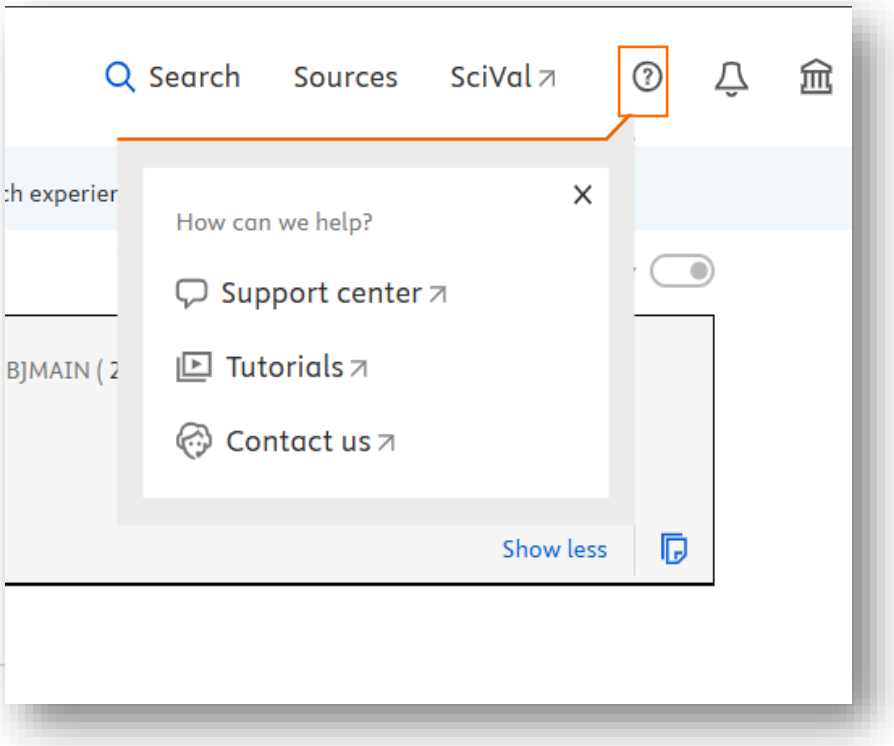
Getting help

Scopus Support Center

https://service.elsevier.com/app/overview/scopus/

Contact your Elsevier representative or our Scopus Support Team if you have any questions or problems with Scopus



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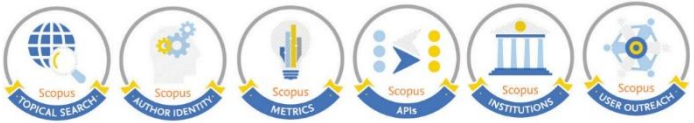
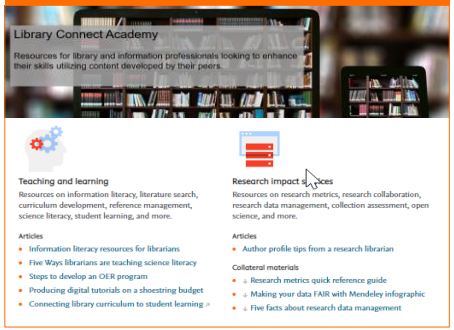
Resources that drives knowledge

Supporting your professional development

Scopus Certification Program for Librarians



Library Connect Academy



Library Connect newsletter, webinars & social media

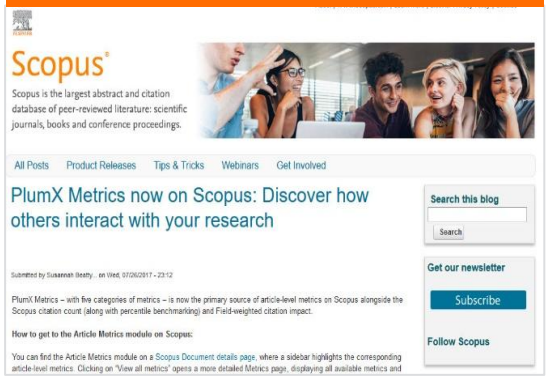
Librarian toolkit

Supporting user onboarding and engagement

Scopus info site: elsevier.com/scopus

Scopus LibGuide

Blog.Scopus.com



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Q&A