What is Web of Science?

Web of Science is a citation database with multidisciplinary coverage of over 10,000 high-impact journals in the sciences, social sciences, and arts and humanities, as well as international proceedings coverage for over 120,000 conferences. Adding unmatched power to this database is the ability to perform cited reference searching, use citation Maps and link into the power of the Journal Citation Report Tool.

A Basic Web of Science Search

You’re interested in researching air pollution’s role in exacerbating asthma.

Enter in the search box:  Asthma air pollution
Results: 2075 citations. This is a sizeable retrieval, but it’s possible to broaden your search by using the wild card symbol “*”, which will allow your search to retrieve alternate search terms.

Enter in the search box: Asthma* air pollut*
Results: 2545. This search using the wild card “*” function, will retrieve alternative endings for the search terms (e.g. asthma* will search for asthma and asthmatic).

Refine your search by using the left navigation bar’s option to refine by:
- Subject Areas
- Document Types
- Authors
- Source Titles
- Publication Year

A Cited Reference Search

Web of Science citations include the number of times that the citation has been cited. By clicking on the related hyperlink you can view the citing citations. You can also search for a specific article and its related citations by performing a cited reference search.
Web of Science: Tips and Hints for Searching

When searching:
  o Access Web of Science via Lane Library’s homepage:
  o Utilize the refine search options to target your search
  o Remember searching takes practice, time and patience.
  o If frustrated contact a medical librarian.

The Boolean Operator AND:
  o Narrows a search so that retrieved citations contain information
    about both search terms. For example, “asthma AND air pollution”
    retrieves information about both asthma AND air pollution.
  o AND is automatically inserted between search terms.

The Boolean Operator OR:
  o Broadens searches so retrieved citations contain information about
    either search terms. For example, “smog OR air pollution” retrieves
    information about either smog or air pollution.
  o This is a good technique to use for searching with synonyms.

Refining searches:
  o Refine searches by applying refining images one a
  o Using the “back to previous” it is possible to deselect refining
    options.

The Journal Citation Report (JCR):
  o Provides access to journal Impact Factors.
  o It is important to consider a journal’s impact factor within the
    context of the journal’s field.
  o Is searchable by specific journal, all journals or by a subject-specific
    set of journals.

Cited Author Search:
  o Allows for pinpointing authors and their works to determine the
    number of times that they have been cited.
  o Provides insight into field leaders and potential collaborators.
  o Once an author is selected, their citations are grouped using the
    “Distinct Author Set.” Beware this feature is great, but not always
    reliable in terms of capturing an author’s complete citation record.