

Using Scopus for your research

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By the end of this session, you will be able to:

Construct simple and complex searches

Navigate filters

Understand effective search query techniques

Save and export results

Extract further information from your results



What we'll cover



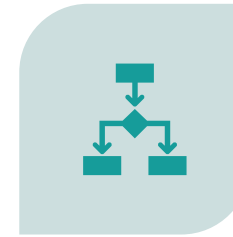
DEMO AND
PRACTICE
BASIC
SEARCHES



EXPERIMENT
WITH FILTERS




THE PRINCIPLES
BEHIND
CONSTRUCTING
A SEARCH



TESTING AND
COMBINING
SEARCH TOOL



HIGHLIGHT
FEATURES IN
SCOPUS

The background of the slide is a dense, overlapping collage of various colored sticky notes in shades of yellow, blue, pink, orange, and green, creating a vibrant and busy visual texture.

What search tools do you currently use for your research?

Answer our poll

What is Scopus?

- An abstract and citation database containing 94million+ records from over 7000+ publishers
- Covers the sciences, medicine and social sciences
- Contains peer-reviewed journals, books and conference papers
- Also limited pre-print articles 2million+, from 2017 onwards
- Predominantly coverage of Europe and North America but includes some global content

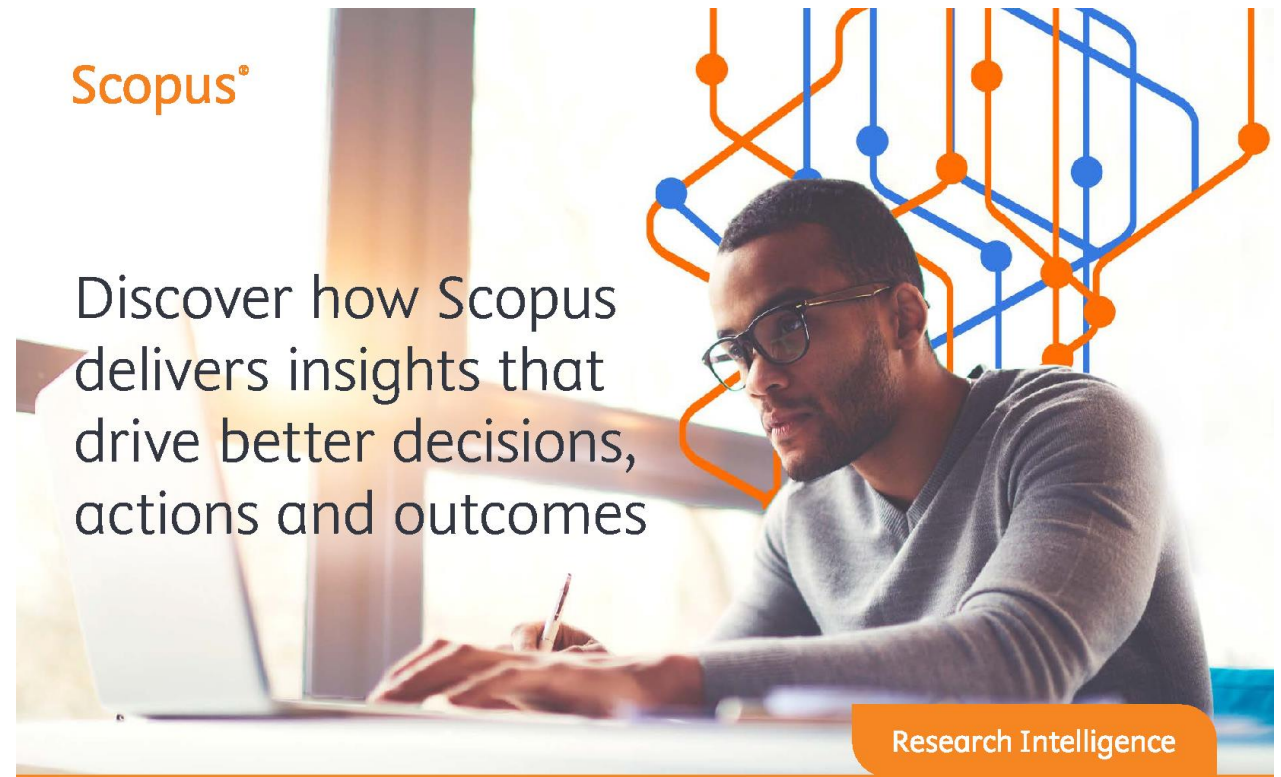


Image from Scopus

**NO DATABASE COVERS
EVERYTHING**


A background image of a hand-drawn musical score on aged, yellowish paper. The drawing is in black ink and shows a treble clef on the left, followed by a five-line staff. A single note is drawn on the staff, with a stem and a circular head. The drawing is slightly out of focus, giving it a soft, artistic feel.




Our research question:

**Can you produce music
with artificial intelligence?**

Let's look at Scopus

Brought to you by [the Bodleian Libraries of the University of Oxford](#)

 Scopus


Search Sources SciVal    RS

Start exploring


Documents Authors Researcher Discovery Organizations [Search tips](#)

Search within
Article title, Abstract, Keywords

Search documents *
"artificial intelligence" AND "music generat"

+ Add search field  Add date range [Advanced document search](#) > Reset Search

Search History Saved Searches

 Start searching and your history will appear here. If you need help to start searching, see our [search tips](#).

Sign in to SOLO to access Scopus



The screenshot shows the SOLO search interface. At the top left, there are logos for SOLO (SEARCH OXFORD LIBRARIES ONLINE) and the UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD. The navigation bar includes links for NEW SEARCH, HELP, PURCHASE REQUEST, and NEED MORE?. A search bar contains the text 'scopus' and a search button. To the right of the search bar is an 'ADVANCED SEARCH' button. Below the search bar, a yellow banner displays the message: 'Sign in to get complete results and to request items' with a 'Sign in' button and a 'DISMISS' button. The search results section is titled '& Filter Results' and shows a list of results. The first result is a 'DATABASE' entry for 'Scopus' by Elsevier (Firm), with a green dot indicating 'Online Access'. The second result is a 'JOURNAL' entry for 'Scopus'. The interface also includes a 'SELECT ALL' checkbox, a page indicator 'PAGE 1', and a result count '1-10 of 60,853,966 Results'. On the left side, there are filters for 'Relevance' and 'Only: ^'.

How to plan a search

Ask a clear research question

- e.g. Can you produce music with artificial intelligence?

Break the question into search concepts:

- e.g. Thing being tested, method, outcome, comparisons.

Develop search terms and synonyms

- Music generation, music composition, artificial intelligence, AI

Combine terms into a search strategy using Boolean connectors

- e.g. “Music generation” AND (“artificial intelligence” OR AI)

Find more terms from retrieved records whilst you are searching

	Concept 1	Concept 2	Concept 3	Concept 4
Ideas	Thing being tested	Method	Outcome	Comparisons
E.g.s	Music Generation	Artificial Intelligence	new music	n/a

**Breaking down
a research
topic in
concepts**

Can you produce music with
artificial intelligence?

Generate concepts, choose your keywords, search

Concept 1

Concept 2

Thing being tested

Method

Keywords

- Music generation
- Artificial Intelligence

- Music creation
- AI

Synonyms

Generate concepts, choose your keywords, search

Concept 1

Concept 2

Thing being tested

Method

Keywords

- Music generation

- Artificial Intelligence

- Music creation

- AI

Synonyms

- Music composition

- Machine learning

Wildcard and phrases

Truncation

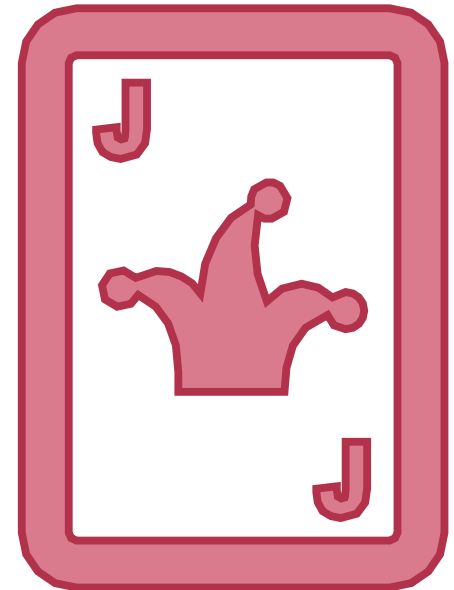
- *
- music prod* *for* production, produced,...

British and American Spelling

- ?
- Characteri?ation

Phrases

- ""
- search for phrase, will usually look for plurals & some spelling variations
- **"artificial intelligence"**



Tools unique to Scopus

Proximity operators

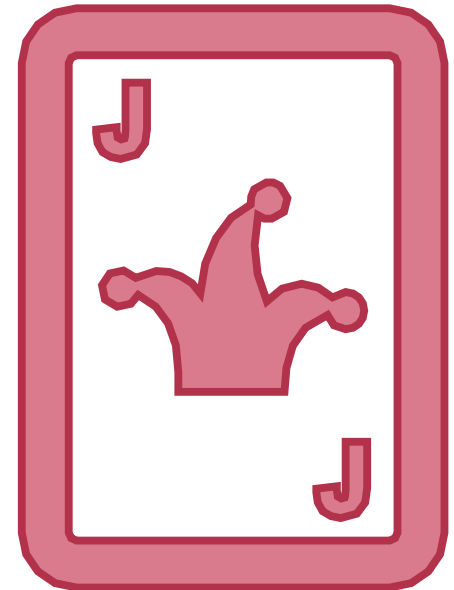
- W/n searches for a word or phrase within n words of another phrase
- **Music W/2 production**
- PRE/n searches for a word or phrase n words before the next word
- **Deep PRE/2 intelligence**
- Don't combine PRE/n and W/n in the same search

Phrases

- {} search for the exact phrase, no variations
- **{artificial intelligence}**

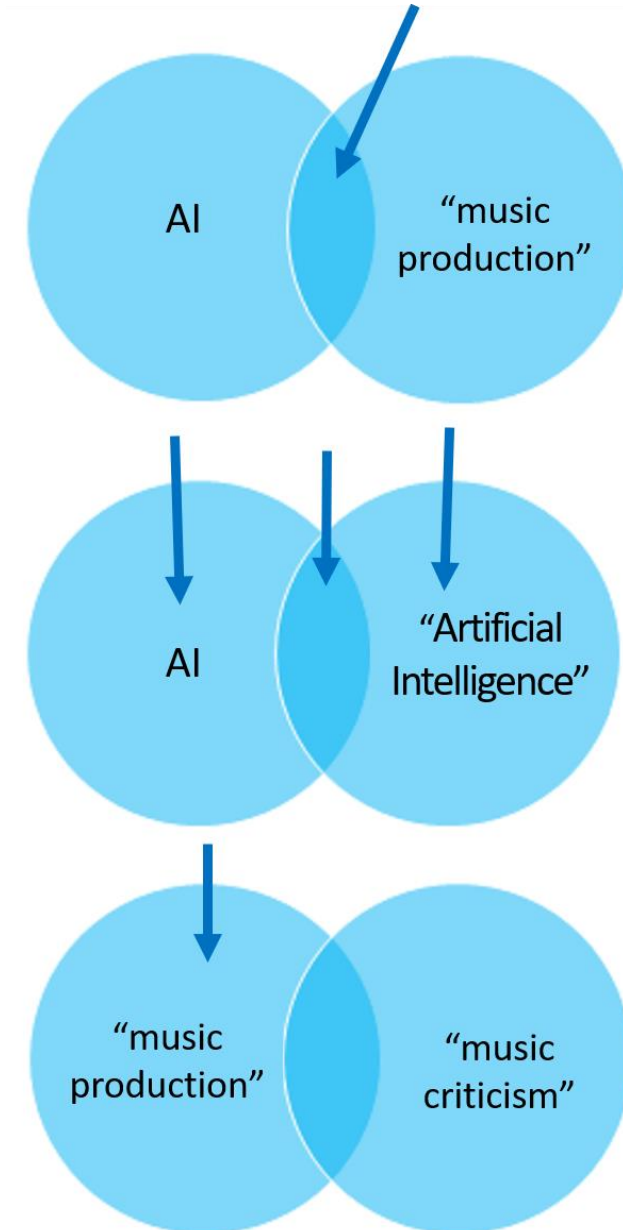
Search within

- Article titles, Abstract, Keyword
- Recommended field for general searching



Boolean operators

- **AND** – includes
- **OR** – broadens out
- **NOT** – excludes



Mix and match



- Mix and match your search terms, wildcards and operators
- Get wider pools of more accurate results
- Search, search and search again....

Now it's your turn!

Search the following search strings and compare results:



artificial intelligence
AND
music composition



"artificial intelligence"
AND
"music composition"



"artificial intelligence"
AND
music* PRE/O (compos* OR
generat* OR produc*)

Top tips

Check your search history and **combine** your previous searches

Create an **account** to save your searches and set **search alerts**



Top tips

You can **export** references directly from Scopus

Analyse results can give background information on your results

Scopus also allows access to PrePrints, patents, metrics data and more.



Any questions?



- If you think of something after the session, please contact us

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