

Databases – where, how and when?

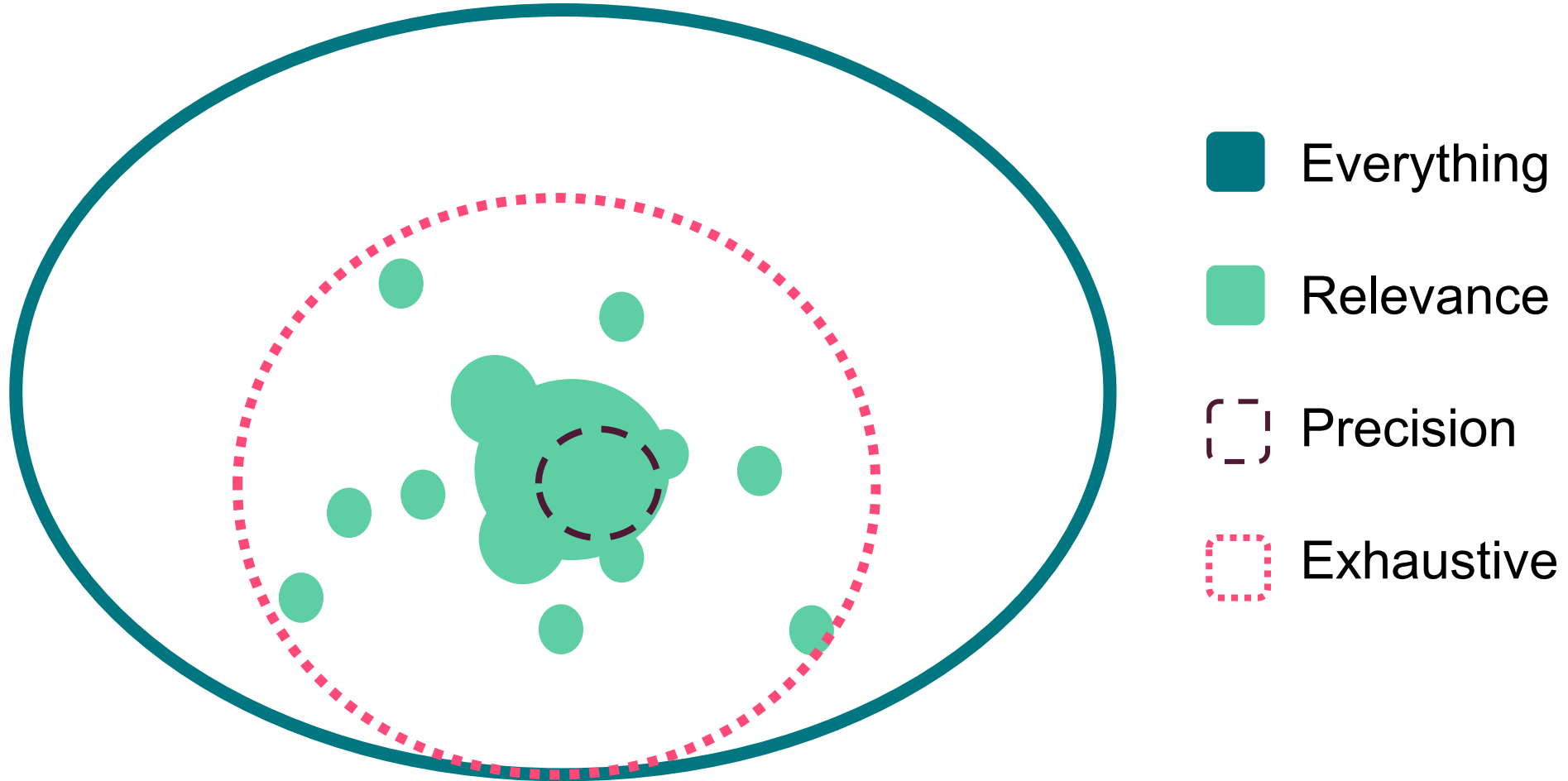
Isabelle Nesterud, SLU Library

1. Where to search

- Reference databases
 - General or subject specific
- Multidisciplinary search tools
- AI search tools

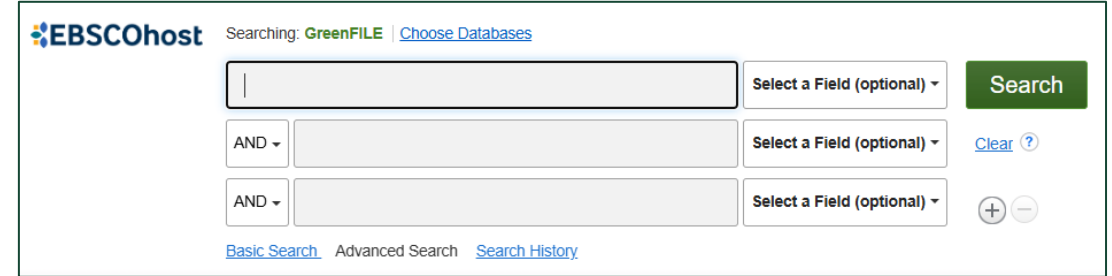


Search with precision or search exhaustive



Reference databases

- multidisciplinary or subject specific
- Content:
 - Scholarly publications, mainly articles
 - Curated selection of publications
- Access:
 - Usually behind paywall, need subscription
- Suitable for:
 - Structured and controlled searches
 - Modifying searches with filter and limitations
 - Follow citations, i.e. snowball search
- Limitations:
 - Need to know the search logic
 - Low coverage of smaller or non-english journals
 - Bias in representation of research disciplines



EBSCOhost Searching: GreenFILE | [Choose Databases](#)

Select a Field (optional) ▾ Search

AND ▾ Select a Field (optional) ▾ Clear ?

AND ▾ Select a Field (optional) ▾ (+) (-)

[Basic Search](#) [Advanced Search](#) [Search History](#)

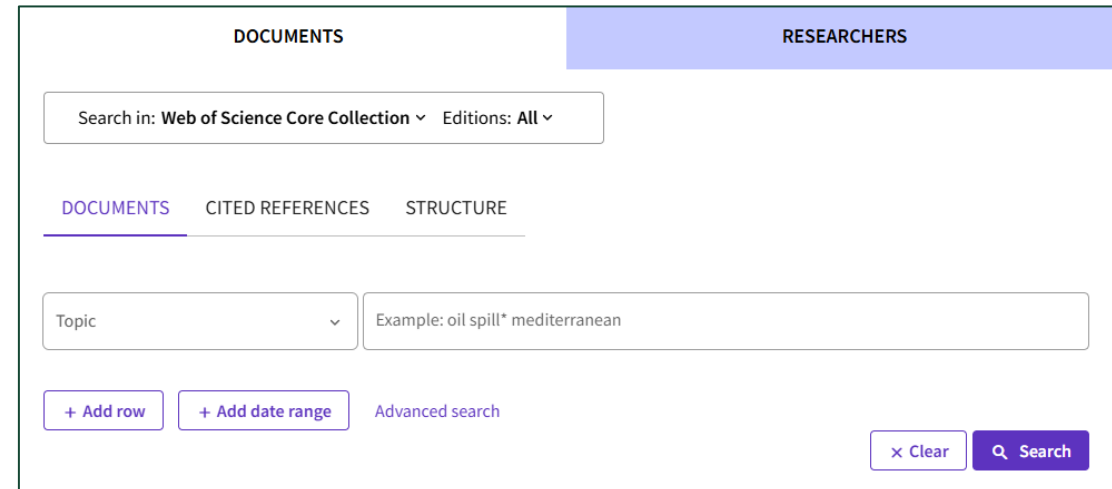


PubMed®

Search

Advanced

PubMed® comprises more than 38 million citations for biomedical literature from MEDLINE, life science journals, and online books. Citations may include links to full text content from PubMed Central and publisher web sites.



DOCUMENTS RESEARCHERS

Search in: Web of Science Core Collection ▾ Editions: All ▾

DOCUMENTS CITED REFERENCES STRUCTURE

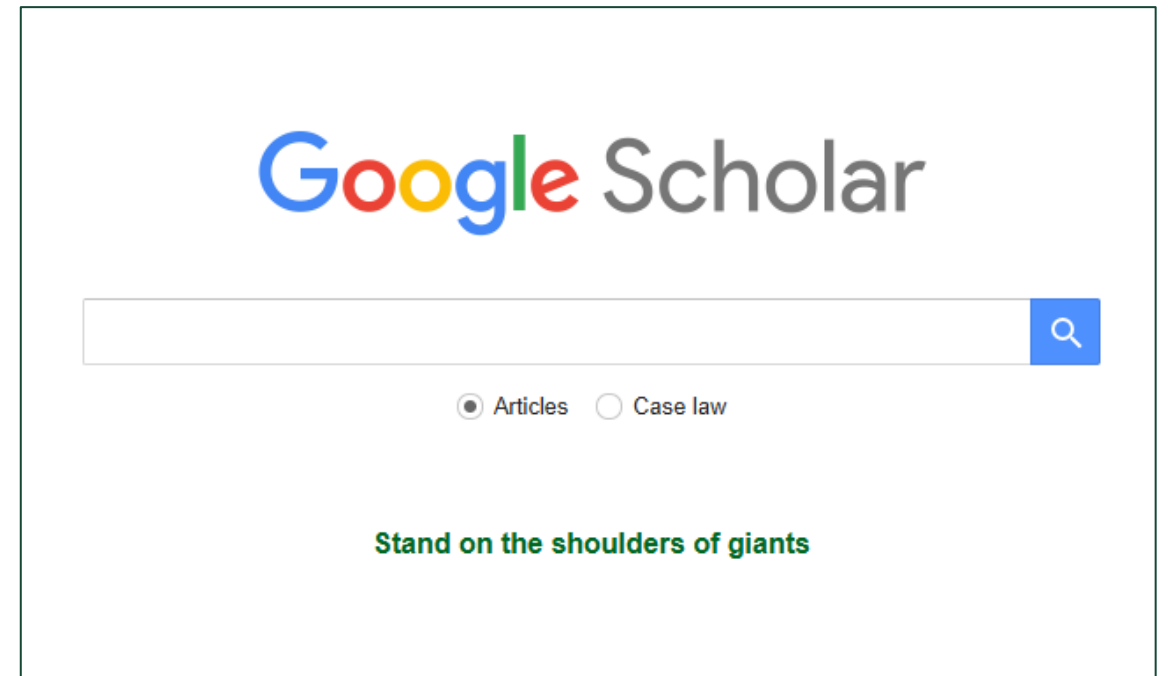
Topic ▾ Example: oil spill* mediterranean

+ Add row + Add date range Advanced search

x Clear Search

Multidisciplinary search tool: Google scholar

- Content:
 - Various kinds of academic publications: articles, reports, theses, book chapters
- Access:
 - Free to use
 - Content may be behind paywalls
- Suitable for:
 - Finding specific articles (search on title)
 - Get an overview
 - See citations and snowball search
- Limitations:
 - Hard to narrow down result
 - Can't handle controlled search
 - No quality control




Other multidisciplinary search tools

- Content:
 - Various kinds of academic publications: articles, reports, theses, book chapters, but also pre prints
- Access:
 - Free to use
 - Content may be behind paywalls
- Suitable for:
 - Finding pre print
 - Finding grey publications
 - More structured searching
- Limitations:
 - No quality control

bioRxiv

THE PREPRINT SERVER FOR BIOLOGY

Search 
Advanced Search

Login English 

Basic search Advanced search Browsing Search history



Search 421,558,735 documents from 11,779 content providers

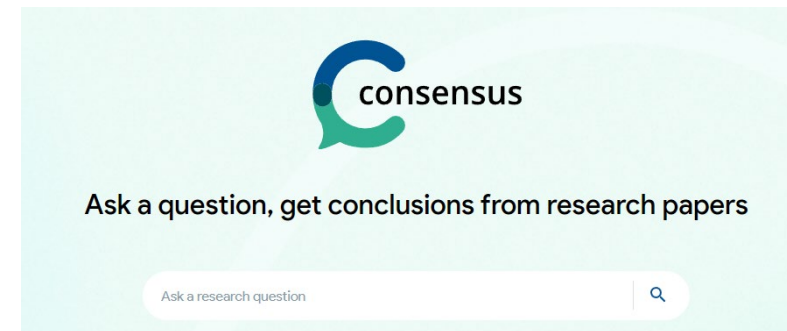
 Dimensions



LENS.ORG

AI search tools

- Content:
 - Usually scholarly publications, like articles
- Access:
 - Account, free or subscription
- Suitable for:
 - Get an overview
 - Summarize topics
- Limitations:
 - Black box
 - Hard to follow the search process

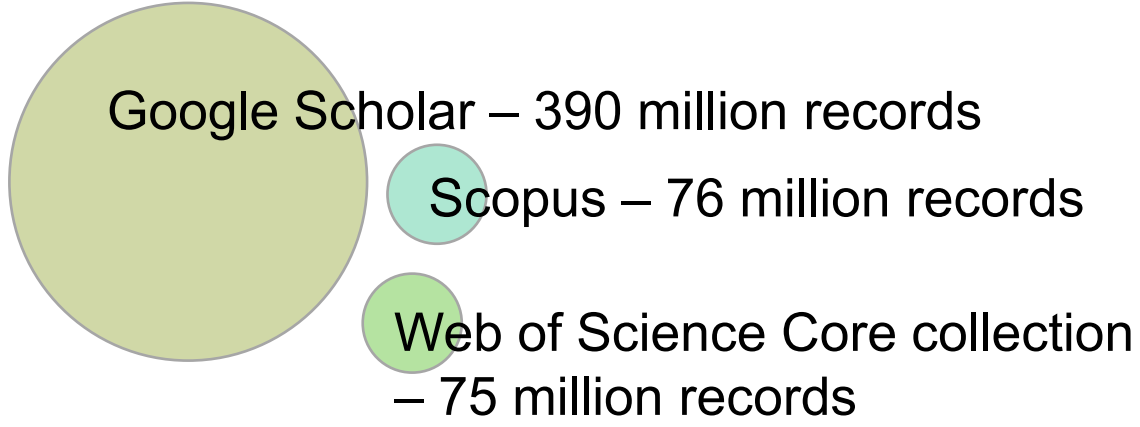


2. How to search

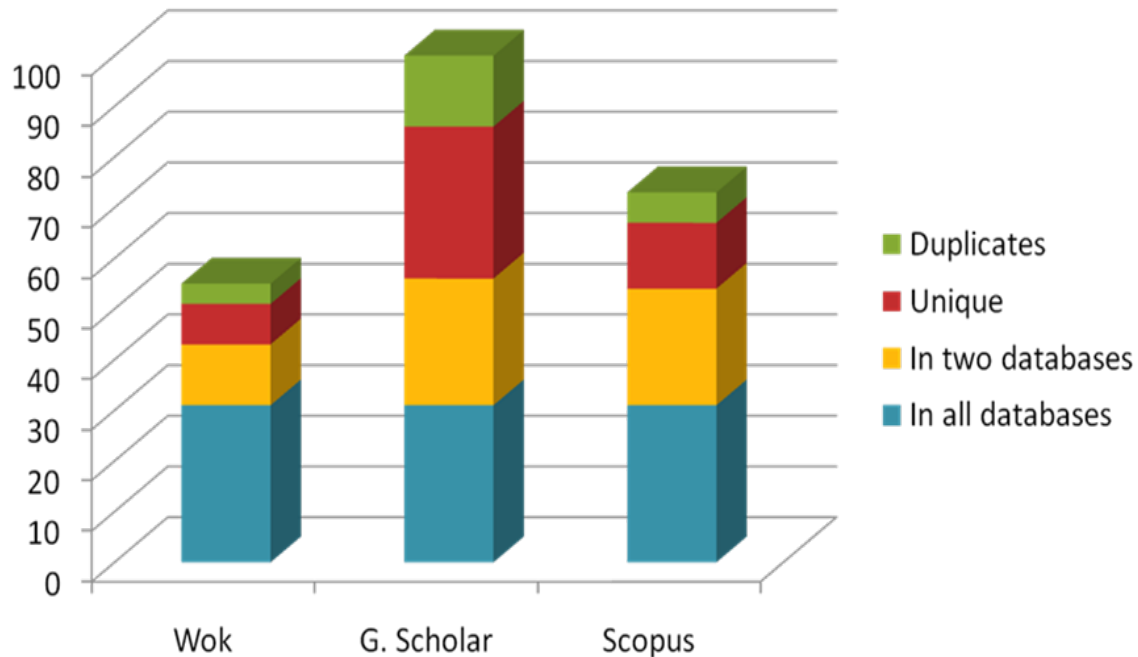
- **Precision search**
 - Few specific keywords, article title (Google scholar)
- **Exhaustive and/or structured searches**
 - Traditional databases (Web of Sciences etc)
- **Snowball search**
 - Follow citations (Google scholar, WoS, Scopus etc)
 - Search from key article in AI-tools, (ex Research rabbit)
- **Overview search**
 - AI-tools with complete research question, (ex Elicit, Concensus etc.)



Content and overlap




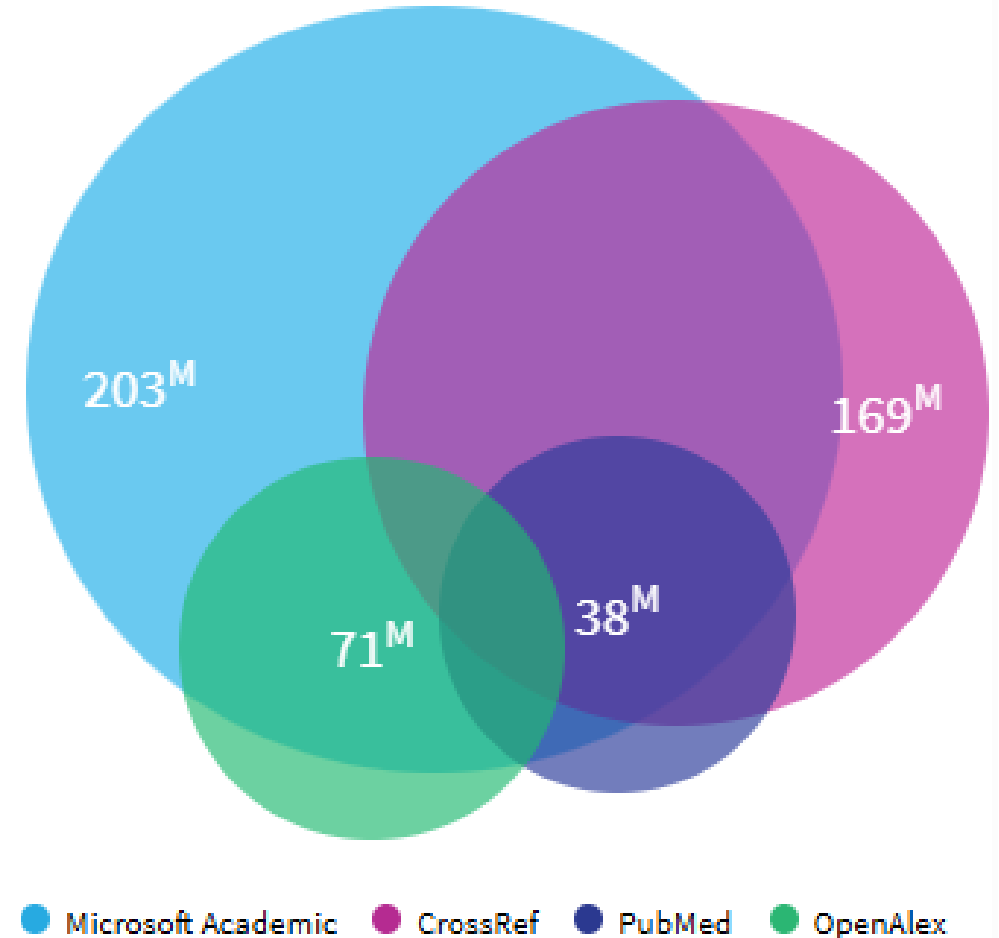
Martín-Martín, A. et al (2021) <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11192-020-03690-4>



Statistics from 2015

Scholarly Data Sources

 Last updated: Jul 3, 2025 (Release 202526).
 Updates are performed on a fortnightly basis at the present time.



<https://www.lens.org/lens/search/scholar/structured> - Data set

Central American Journals Online

<https://www.camjol.info/index.php/index>



LILACS

Latin American and Caribbean
Health Sciences Literature

<https://lilacs.bvsalud.org>

<https://scielo.org/>



Scientific Electronic Library Online



AJOL

AFRICAN JOURNALS ONLINE

<https://www.ajol.info/>

Time for your questions!

Feel free to contact me:

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List of resources

- Free, multidisciplinary search tools
 - Google scholar: <https://scholar.google.com/>
 - BioRxiv: <https://www.biorxiv.org/>
 - Base: <https://www.base-search.net/>
 - Dimensions: <https://www.dimensions.ai/>
 - Lens: <https://www.lens.org/>
- AI tools (some examples)
 - Consensus: <https://consensus.app/>
 - Elicit: <https://elicit.com/>
 - Perplexity: <https://www.perplexity.ai/>
 - ResearchRabbit: <https://www.researchrabbit.ai/>
 - SciSpace: <https://scispace.com/>





SCIENCE AND
EDUCATION **FOR**
SUSTAINABLE
LIFE