Advanced Search Tips

Search queries are not case-sensitive.
To search across all fields, do not specify a field name.
Field names must be spelled correctly, including hyphens.
To field search, type the field name, a space, and the search term enclosed in parentheses.
   For example:  keywords (neurotoxin)
              finds all articles which contain neurotoxin as an author keyword or index term

The following data fields (or segments) can be searched in ScienceDirect:

Abstract – full text of the article’s abstract
Title - both English & non-English article titles
Keywords - author keywords & publisher’s index terms
Authors - names of all authors, including collaborations
Affiliation - the institutional affiliation of the article’s author
Appendices - material appended to the end of an article
Full-Text - any words in the full text of an article excluding reference list
ISSN - International Standard Serial Number of journal
Journal-Name - title of the source journal
References - contains the bibliographic reference list of the document

Enhanced Search Syntax

Boolean Logic (and, or, and not)

! = Truncation Wildcard - Finds a root word plus all the words made by adding letters to the end of it.
   Example: Behav! Finds behave, behavior, behaviour

* = Character Space Holder - Replaces a character anywhere in a word, except the first character.
   Example: Wom*n finds woman and women
   You can also use * to hold a space for variations in spelling, e.g. Bernst**n

Proximity Connectors - Used to specify how close search terms can be to one another

w/nn can be used to specify the number of words between search terms. w represents within and nn represents a number from 1 – 255.
   Example: pain w/5 morphine (pain within 5 words of morphine)

To find words in the same phrase, use w/3, w/4 or w/5
To find terms in the same sentence, use w/15
To find terms in the same paragraph, use w/50

not w/nn finds articles where the first word appears, and the second word may appear, but not within the specified number of words.
   Example: tumor NOT w/2 malignant (tumor not within two words of malignant)

pre/n finds two words when the first word must precede the second by a specified number of words.
   Example: neonatal pre/3 screening (neonatal at least 3 words before screening)

w/seg finds searches that appear in the same field (Title, Keywords, Affiliation, etc.).
   Example: lesion w/seg pancreatic (lesion must be in the same field segment as pancreatic)
**Author Searching**

**Author names appear in our service in a variety of formats, according to the source document.**

The order of surname and forename may differ.

Example: to find articles by R Smith and Smith, R, use a proximity connector: smith W/1 r

The presentation of multiple initials may differ.

Example: rj smith finds RJ Smith but not R.J. Smith (with periods) and R J Smith (with spaces). To find all possibilities, use an or connector: rj smith OR r j smith

Note: The system interprets the periods in initials as blank spaces.

A name may be given with or without middle initials.

Example: to find articles by Raymond Smith, Raymond J. Smith and Raymond J. A. Smith use a proximity connector: raymond W/3 smith

First names may be given in full.

Example: to find articles by R. Smith, Ray Smith, and Raymond Smith, use a wildcard character: r! smith

To account for all the possible combinations of name presentation, we recommend a combination of techniques.

Example: smith W/3 r! finds all of the above examples.

**Singular Word Form**

Using the singular word form will retrieve the singular, plural, and possessive forms of most words.

Example: city finds city, cities, city's, and cities'

**Stop Words**

The ScienceDirect system does not search for stop words. Stop words include:

Most articles (the, an, etc.)
Personal pronouns (he, she, we, they, etc.)
Most forms of the verb "to be" (be, is, was, etc.)
Some conjunctions (as, because, if, when, etc.)

**Special Characters and Formula Searching**

Search the Greek alphabet by replacing the characters with the English spelling for the character. (E.g., Kappa)
Subscripted and superscripted characters should be entered on the same line with the other characters. (E.g., H20)
Accented characters should be entered as the same characters without the accent mark. (E.g., Fürst)
Certain non-alpha/numeric special characters (e.g., hyphens, brackets, asterisks, bullets, arrows, daggers, plus signs, minus signs, etc.) are treated as delimiters and are not searchable. (E.g., high risk, without hyphen)

**Prioritizing Search Terms**

When you use more than one connector (or proximity operator) in a search request, the connectors operate in the following order:

1. OR
2. W/nn
3. PRE/nn
4. NOT W/nn
5. W/SEG
6. NOT W/SEG
7. AND
8. AND NOT