

Academic Skills

Literature Search

Maxim S. Pshenichnikov Ryan C. Chiechi

Zernike Institute for Advanced Materials
University of Groningen, the Netherlands

The Scientific Literature

The exponentially increasing number of published papers (2.5 million per year by one estimate) makes it more and more difficult for us to manage the flood of scientific information

For young scientists in particular, there is the additional challenge of trying to stay on top of newly published literature while still building up knowledge of their research areas

Staying up to date with the literature is the **single most important skill** that remains crucial throughout a researcher's career.

Without knowing where the current gaps are, your findings will either be old hat or too odd to be cited right away.

Benefits of Skills in Literature Search

- By synthesizing information from previous studies, you will be able to provide a stronger background, justification and discussion for your own study
- You will be able to find gaps and weaknesses of the existing research and thereby come up with useful and meaningful research questions
- Relevant studies yield valuable insights and tips to make your own study better
- It might rescue you from embarrassing moments during your talks

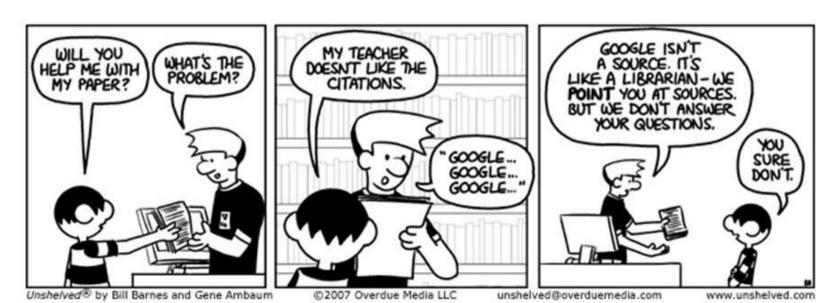






Challenges of Skills in Literature Search

- Reading papers can feel like **dead time**, because it is such a slow and absorbing process
- There are so many papers out there to digest
- Reading can also **feel disheartening**, as you will often find that other people have already published on what you thought was a really novel or original idea



Strategies of Good Literature Search

The university libraries maintain subscriptions to thousands of journals

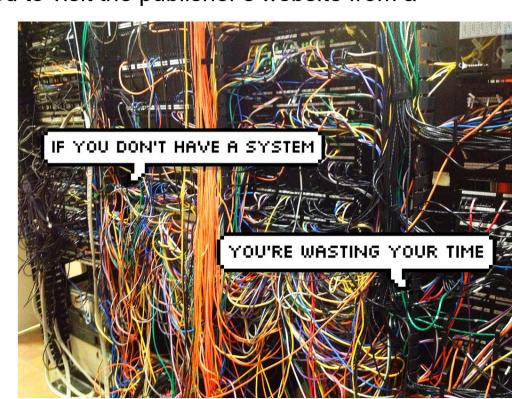
To access their content, you simply need to visit the publisher's website from a

university-linked IP address

Does it help?

NO.

Our goal here is to develop general strategies of literature search which are independent of a particular search engine

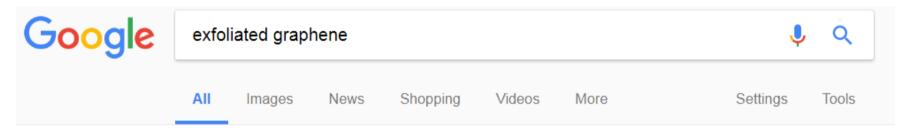


Keyword Searching

IS NOT USEFUL!

When you write a paper or design a project, YOU supply **keywords** Let's try a keyword search for "graphene"

Do you think that will turn up work on "exfoliated graphene"?



About 393.000 results (0,26 seconds)

The **keyword mentality** is an **infectious** disease contracted from the modern Internet. It contributes to the wide-spread phenomenon of "forgotten papers"

DO NOT RELY ON IT!

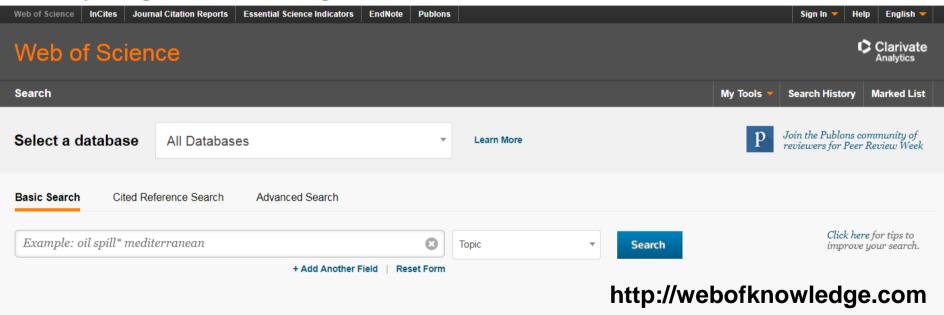
Search Engines

A better method is to find a starting point – a paper, an author, a journal etc – and then work your way out from there

Bibliographic/general databases	Published databases and journal websites	Subject-specific databases
ISI Web of Knowledge Scifinder Google Scholar	APS, ACS, OCA, RSC Elsevier's ScienceDirect SpingerLink	Arxiv.org MathSciNet PhychINFO
Use to - Browse for popular and high quality articles - Start the discovery process and find an initial set of papers	Use to - Browse through journals that frequently publish your topic of interests - Browse through journals specific to your specialization	Used to - Look for articles in a specific discipline - Do in-depth research on a particular topic - Look for articles on obscure or niche topics

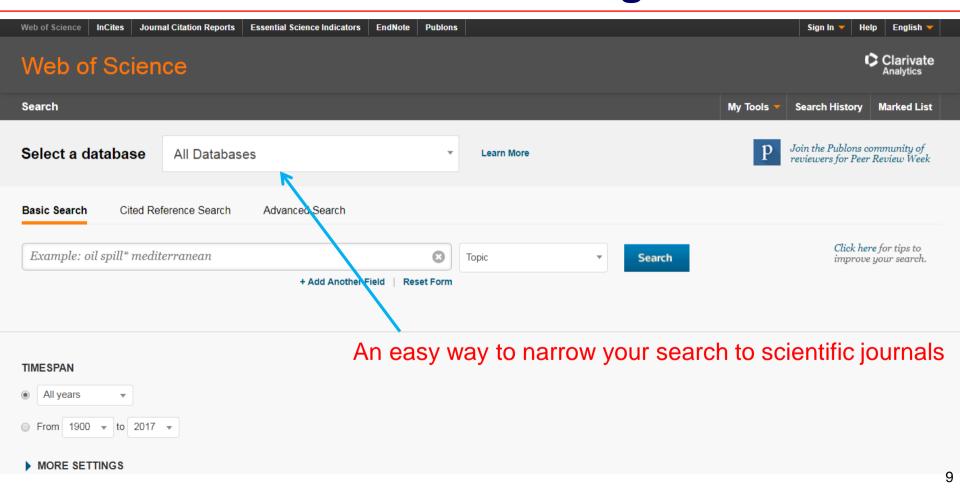
Web of Knowledge

The Web of Knowledge is maintained by Thompson Reuters and indexes just about **everything worth indexing**

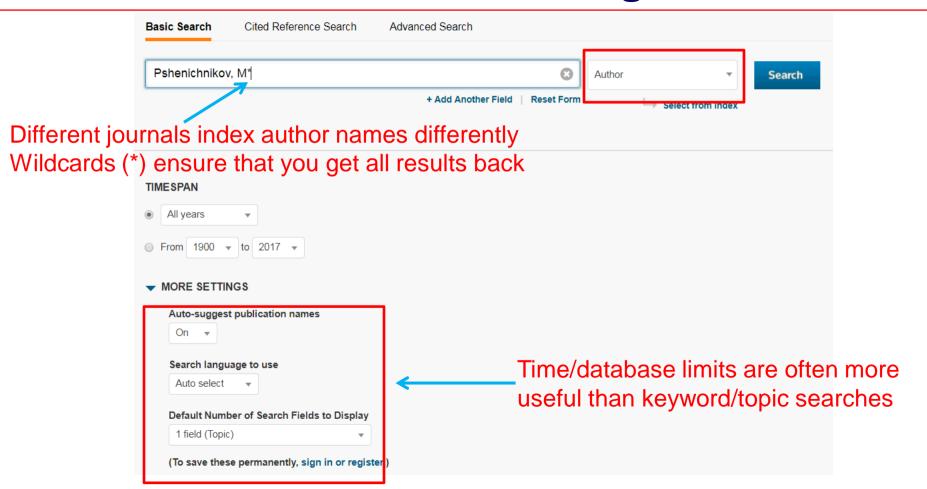


However, sometimes it is difficult to narrow the results down to a manageable level

Web of Knowledge

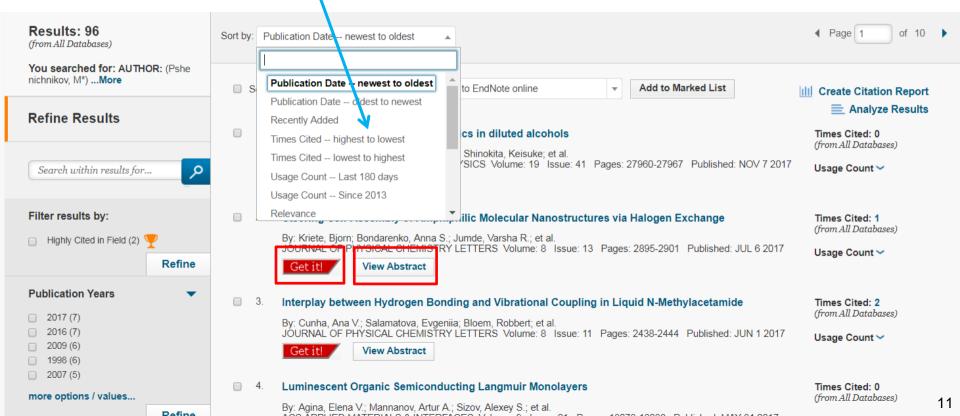


Web of Knowledge

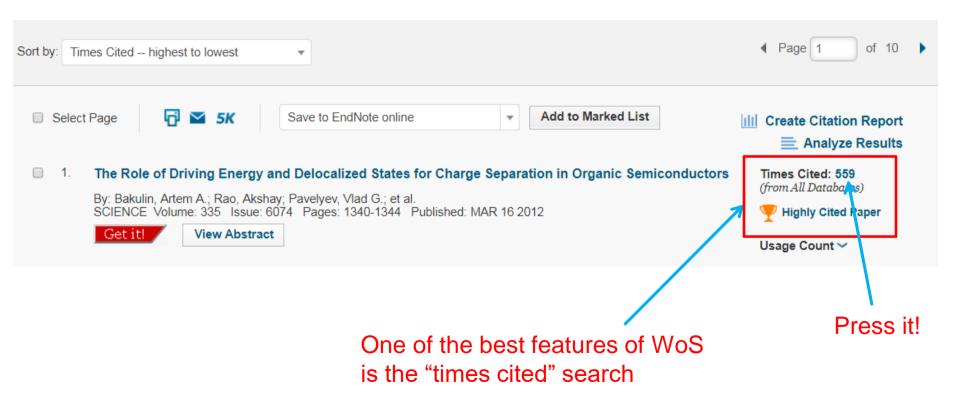


Web of Knowledge: Backward Search

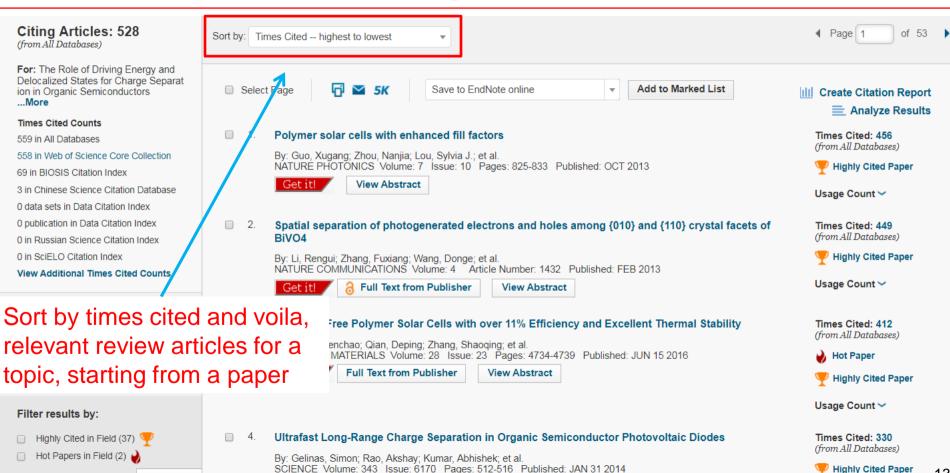
To get a feeling for how "important" a paper is, you can sort by citations instead of date



Web of Knowledge: Forward Search



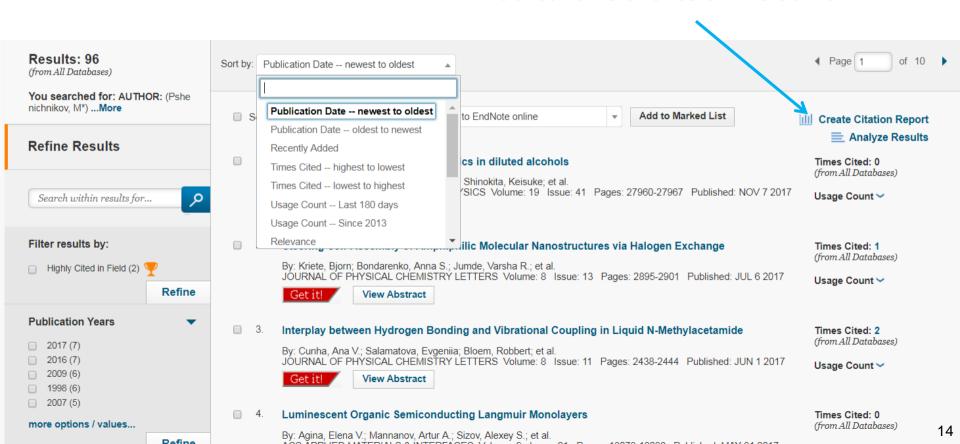
Web of Knowledge: Forward Search

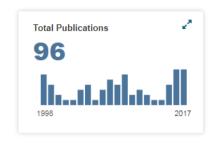


Cot it! View Abstract

Refine

Publication statistics on the author

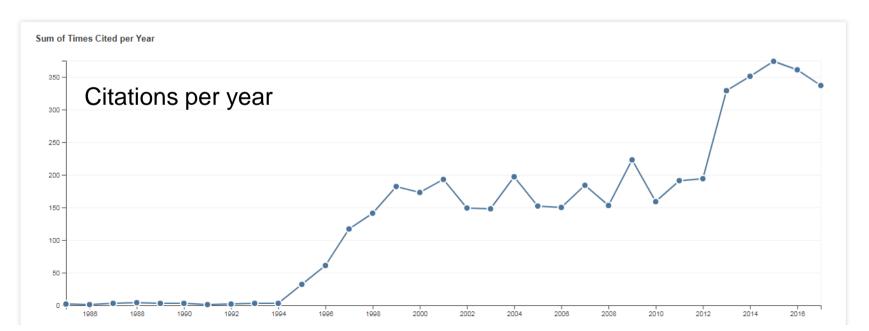


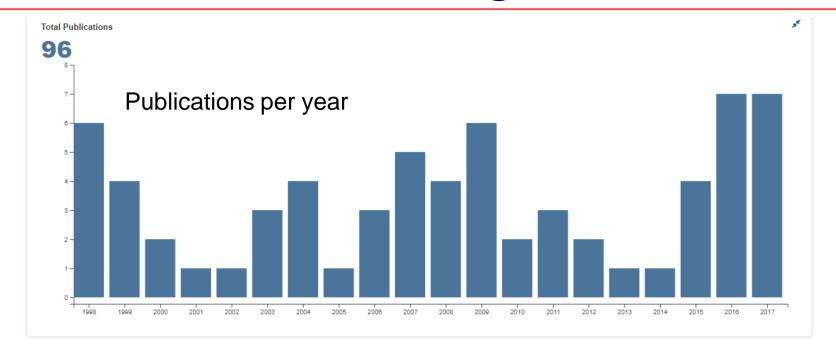


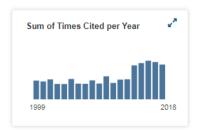










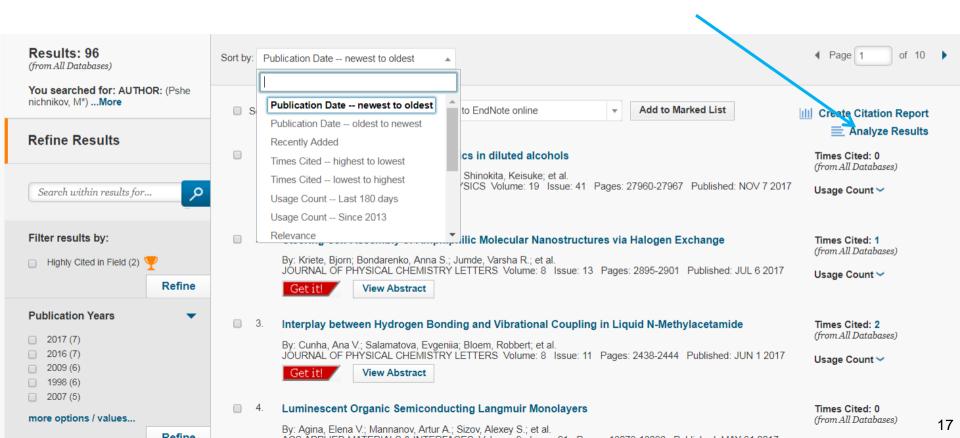


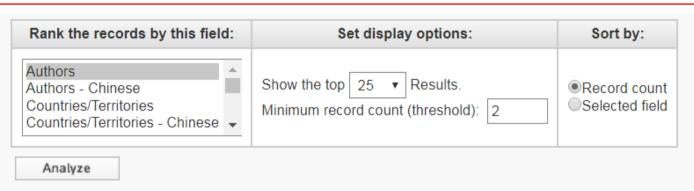






Analysis of the results

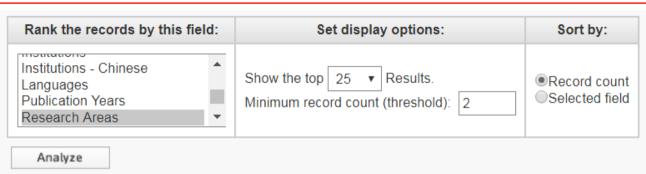




Co-authors

Use the checkboxes below to view the records. You can choose to view those selected records, or you can exclude them (and view the others).

→ View Records					Save Analysis Data to File
× Exclude Records	Field: Authors	Record Count	% of 96	Bar Chart	Data rows displayed in tableAll data rows (up to 200,000)
	PSHENICHNIKOV MS	91	94.792 %		
	PSHENICHNIKOV M S	56	58.333 %		
	WIERSMA DA	41	42.708 %		
	WIERSMA D A	35	36.458 %		
	PSHENICHNIKOV MAXIM S	25	26.042 %		
	BALTUSKA A	17	17.708 %		
	KRASNIKOV VV	16	16.667 %		

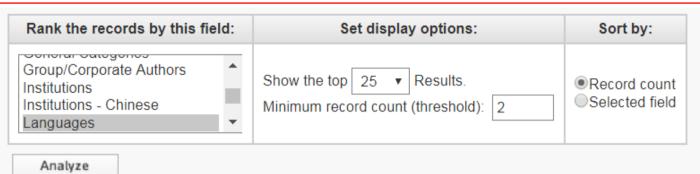


Research areas

Use the checkboxes below to view the records. You can choose to view those selected records, or you can exclude them (and view the others).

→ View Records					Save Analysis Data to File
× Exclude Records	Field: Research Areas	Record Count	% of 96	Bar Chart	Data rows displayed in tableAll data rows (up to 200,000)
	PHYSICS	76	79.167 %		
	CHEMISTRY	50	52.083 %		
	OPTICS	36	37.500 %		
	SPECTROSCOPY	34	35.417 %		
	MATERIALS SCIENCE	24	25.000 %		
	ENGINEERING	17	17.708 %		
	SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY OTHER TOPICS	15	15.625 %		
	MATHEMATICS	9	9.375 %		19

Savo Analysis Data to File



Languages

Use the checkboxes below to view the records. You can choose to view those selected records, or you can exclude them (and view the others).

→ View Records × Exclude Records	Field: Languages	Record Count	% of 96	Bar Chart	 Save Analysis Data to File Data rows displayed in table All data rows (up to 200,000)
	ENGLISH	81	84.375 %		
	RUSSIAN	15	15.625 %		
→ View Records × Exclude Records	Field: Languages	Record Count	% of 96	Bar Chart	Save Analysis Data to File Data rows displayed in table All data rows (up to 200,000)

The "Web" of Science

Think of WoS searches as a "web" of papers connected by citations and authors

production of producer gas, wa

climate change mitigation tech-

mixing, e.g. dissolving, emuls

methods or apparatus for steri

layered products, i.e. product chemical treatment of natural

Start: a known quantity, such as a specific paper or author segment and specific paper or author segments.

printed circuits

circuit arrangements or system

vehicles, vehicle fittings, or magnets

coin-freed or like apparatus

pianos, harpsichords, spinets

recognition of data

Next: follow the web to get a feeling for how it fits into the literature

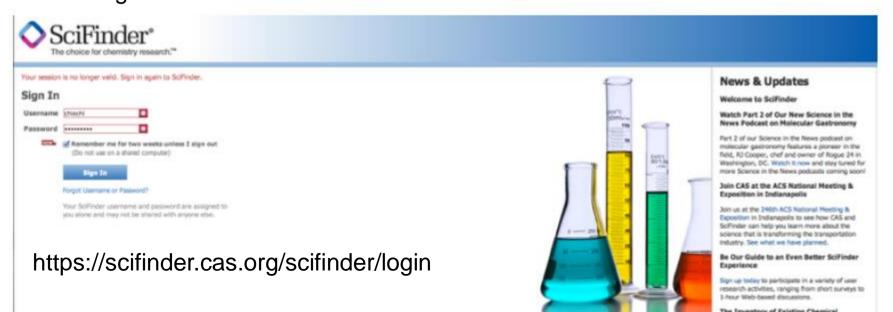
This type of searching is critical for grant proposals and similar "background" searches.

devices for fastening or secur

You know you are doing a good job if your search results make you depressed because everything has already been thought of and tried

Scifinder

Most fields of materials science use **chemical compounds** in some context **Searching by names**, particularly in the non-chemistry literature is **inefficient** Scifinder is good for **structure-based sear**ching, finding reactions for specific transformations, and gauging how difficult and/or common the synthesis of something is



Free Online Search Engines

Academic Search Engine	URL	Disciplines	Help Files
Google Scholar	scholar.google.com (http://scholar.google.com)	All	scholar.google.com/intl/en/scholar/help.htm (http://scholar.google.com/intl/en/scholar/help.html)
ScienceDirect	http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/search (http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/search)	All	NA
Pubmed	www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed	Life sciences	www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/disted/pubmedtutoria/

Pubmed

www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed
(http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/)

Life sciences

www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/disted/pubmedtutorial
(http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/disted/pubmedtutorial/)

IEEE Xplore

ieeexplore.ieee.org/Xplore/guesthome.jsp
(http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/Xplore/guesthome.jsp)

Electronics, Electrical
engineering, Computer
science

Education Resources
Information Center (ERIC)

NA

https://www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects/competitions/finding-and-accessing-scientific-papers 3/

Google Scholar

Google Scholar

http://scholar.google.com/

pshenichnikov, ms		Q
	Articles	
Recommended articles		
electron-withdrawing pl	rmally stable alkyl-free star-shaped D-π-A oligomer with henyldicyanovinyl groups for organic photovoltaics ukhin, AL Mannanov Organic Electronics, 2017	
Plastic Solar Cells: Who	ere the Current Begins	
O ROZIOV		

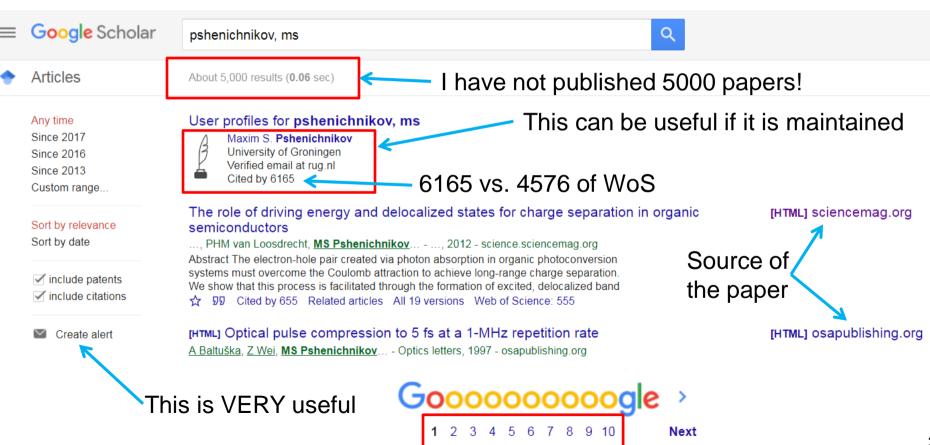
Google Scholar is good for searching while off campus, but it returns a lot of irrelevant results

It is less restrictive than WoS

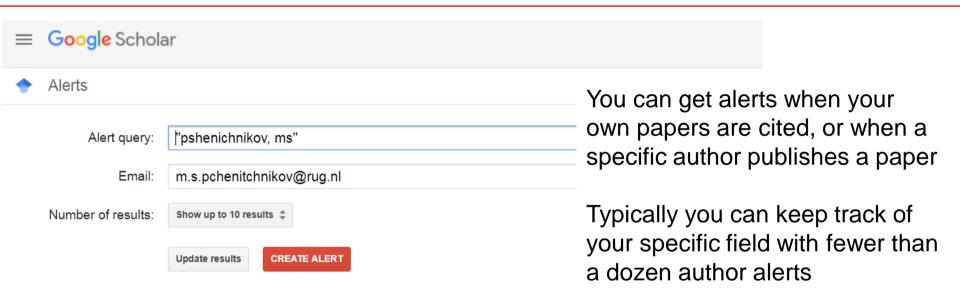
Stand on the shoulders of giants

Go to Google Scholar

Google Scholar



Citation Alerts



Sample results since 2017:

[HTML] Interplay Between Hydrogen Bonding and Vibrational Coupling in Liquid N-Methylacetamide

AM Cunha, E Salamatova, R Bloem, SJ Roeters... - The Journal of Physical ..., 2017 Intrinsically disordered proteins play an important role in biology, and unraveling their labile structure presents a vital challenge. However, the dynamical structure of such proteins thwarts their study by standard techniques such as x-ray diffraction and NMR spectroscopy.

Hydrogen bond and lifetime dynamics in diluted alcohols

E Salamatova, AV Cunha, K Shinokita, TLC Jansen... - ... Chemistry Chemical Physics, 2017 Hydrogen-bonding plays a crucial role in many chemical and biochemical reactions. Alcohols, with their hydrophilic and hydrophobic groups, constitute an important class of

Google Scholar Metrics



TITLE

Optics letters 22 (17), 1344-1346

Maxim S. Pshenichnikov /



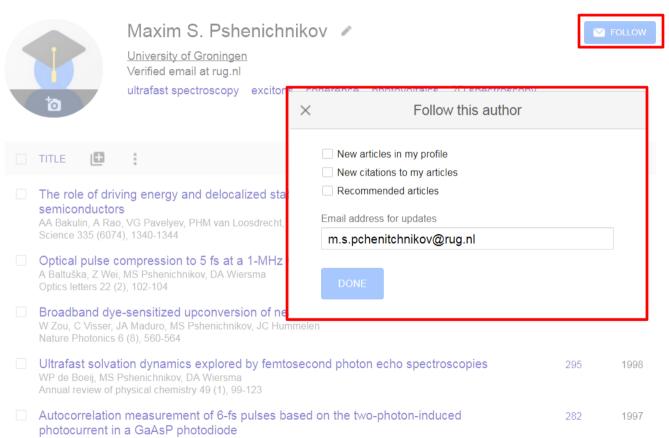
<u>University of Groningen</u> Verified email at rug.nl

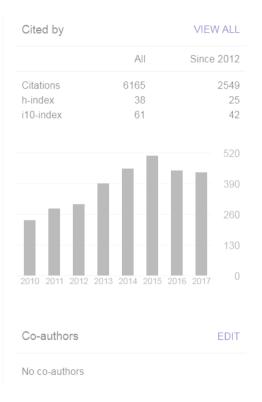
ultrafast spectroscopy excitons coherence photovoltaics 2D spectroscopy

TITLE LEW :	CITED BY	TEAR
The role of driving energy and delocalized states for charge separation in organic semiconductors AA Bakulin, A Rao, VG Pavelyev, PHM van Loosdrecht, Science 335 (6074), 1340-1344	655	2012
Optical pulse compression to 5 fs at a 1-MHz repetition rate A Baltuška, Z Wei, MS Pshenichnikov, DA Wiersma Optics letters 22 (2), 102-104	411	1997
Broadband dye-sensitized upconversion of near-infrared light W Zou, C Visser, JA Maduro, MS Pshenichnikov, JC Hummelen Nature Photonics 6 (8), 560-564	409	2012
Ultrafast solvation dynamics explored by femtosecond photon echo spectroscopies WP de Boeij, MS Pshenichnikov, DA Wiersma Annual review of physical chemistry 49 (1), 99-123	295	1998
Autocorrelation measurement of 6-fs pulses based on the two-photon-induced photocurrent in a GaAsP photodiode JK Ranka, AL Gaeta, A Baltuska, MS Pshenichnikov, DA Wiersma	282	1997

Cited by		VIEW ALL
	All	Since 2012
Citations h-index i10-index	6165 38 61	2549 25 42
		520
Ш		260
2010 2011 2012 2 Co-authors	013 2014 2015 :	2016 2017 °C
No co-authors		

Google Scholar Metrics

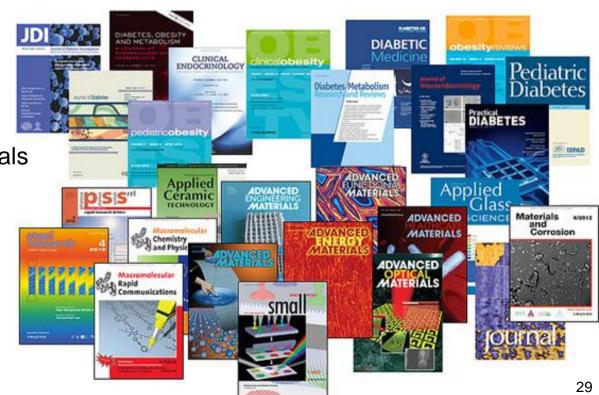




Publishers' Websites

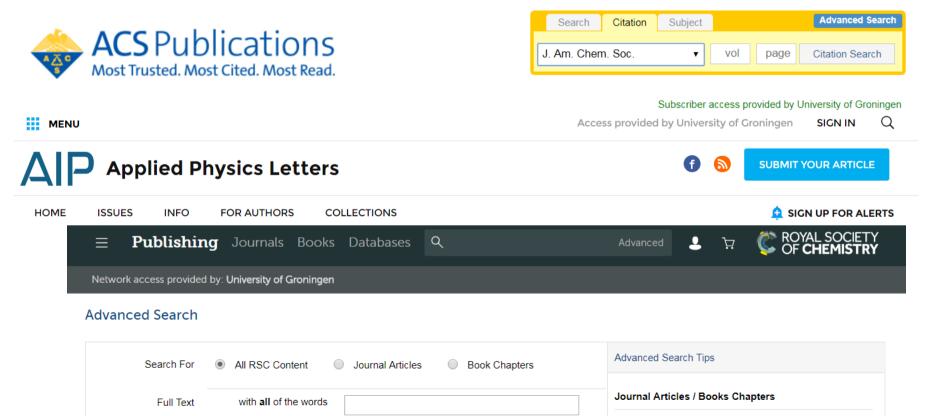
Publishers often offer nice search features right on their own websites Societies generally do it better than for-profit journals, however

pubs.acs.org
pubs.rsc.org
journals.aip.org
www.aps.org/publications/journals
onlinelibrary.wiley.com
sciencedirect.com
www.aaas.org/publications
www.nature.com/siteindex



Publishers' Websites

Publishers often offer nice search features right on their own websites. Societies generally do it better than for-profit journals, however.



Alerts

Publishers also offer alert services These are mostly useful for following specific topics in specific journals





Subscriber access provided by University of Groningen



Social-Literature-Search

Community-based, social sites like **Research Gate**, **LinkedIn**, **Facebook** are becoming increasingly popular

But they all suffer from the same **generational problem**: science is driven by mid-to-late career scientists, essentially none of whom use social media If you want to interact with other students and junior researchers, then these are great But do not rely on them for anything else!

Advance your research

Discover scientific knowledge, and make your research visible.

Join for free

Connect with Linkedin f Connect with Facebook

Open Access

Everyone likes the idea of open access scientific journals

There are some top-tier, free, open access journals

Journals > physics > open access			
Open Physics	Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics	Progress in Physics	Living Reviews in Relativi
European Physical Journal	Journal of Physics: Conference Series	Electronic Journal of Theoretical Ph	Living Reviews in Solar P
Physical Review X	Research Letters in Physics	Journal of Cosmology and Astropart	Physics in Medicine and E
Journal of High Energy Physics	Advances in Theoretical and Mathe	Astrophysics and Space Science	Journal of Optics

On the other hand, the **proliferation** of journals is **out of control**. The push for open access has created an entire **new industry of for-profit publishers** whose "peer review" system is a mere technicality. You do need to be extra careful when citing "grey" literature in your paper.

Get to know your field!

Metrics

Metrics like **impact factors** are not useful because it is not clear what they measure

The **impact factor** (**IF**) is the **number of citations**, received in that year, of articles published in that journal during the two preceding years, divided by the total number of articles published in that journal during the two preceding years

The only metric that matters is **readership**

Speciality journals often contain the most rigorous science in a field, but will have a

low impact factor because of the narrowness of the topic

Conversely, broad-topic journals (Nature, Science etc.) tend to publish condensed versions of major claims that are better described in follow-up publications in topical journals

Learn what journals are read in your field

https://www.impactfactorlists.com/

2017

37,852

36,917

30,733

29,518

29,300

22,806

21,818

18,588

17,833

17,476

17,425

17,382

16,721

14,311

14,098

14,020

2016

31,167

33,177

37,846

25,427

32,000

18,791

18,000

16,379

12,368

13,157

16,784

15,230

12,933

13,600

12,333

Rank Journals Title 1 NATURE Photonics 2 Reviews Of Modern Physics 3 Annual Review Of Astronomy And Astrophysics 4 Energy & Environmental Science 5 Living Reviews In Relativity 6 NATURE Physics 7 Advances In Physics	impact Factors: Physics	
2 Reviews Of Modern Physics 3 Annual Review Of Astronomy And Astrophysics 4 Energy & Environmental Science 5 Living Reviews In Relativity 6 NATURE Physics 7 Advances In Physics	Rank Journals Title	
Annual Review Of Astronomy And Astrophysics 4 Energy & Environmental Science 5 Living Reviews In Relativity 6 NATURE Physics 7 Advances In Physics	1 <u>NATURE Photonics</u>	
4 Energy & Environmental Science 5 Living Reviews In Relativity 6 NATURE Physics 7 Advances In Physics	2 <u>Reviews Of Modern Physics</u>	
5 <u>Living Reviews In Relativity</u> 6 <u>NATURE Physics</u> 7 <u>Advances In Physics</u>	3 <u>Annual Review Of Astronomy And Astrophysics</u>	
6 <u>NATURE Physics</u> 7 <u>Advances In Physics</u>	4 Energy & Environmental Science	
7 <u>Advances In Physics</u>	5 <u>Living Reviews In Relativity</u>	
	6 <u>NATURE Physics</u>	
8 Annual Review Of Condensed Matter Physics	7 <u>Advances In Physics</u>	
o Militade New Or Condensed Matter 1 Trysics	8 <u>Annual Review Of Condensed Matter Physics</u>	

9 Advances In Optics And Photonics

13 Advanced Energy Materials

14 Reports On Progress In Physics

16 Annual Review Of Fluid Mechanics

15 Light: Science & Applications

11 Physics Reports: Review Section Of Physics Letters

12 Progress In Energy And Combustion Science

10 Nano Today

Impact Factors: Physics

Medicine 2017 - Impact Factor Ranking

2017

37.852

36.917

30.733

29.518

29.300

22,806

21,818

18.588

2017

72,406

47.831

44,405

29,886

2016

31.167

33.177

37,846

25,427

32,000

18.791

18,000

16.379

2016

59.558

44.002

30,357

Rank Journals Title	
1 <u>NATURE Photonics</u>	
2 Reviews Of Modern Physics	
3 Annual Review Of Astronomy And Astrophysics	
4 Energy & Environmental Science	
5 <u>Living Reviews In Relativity</u>	
6 NATURE Physics	

7 Advances In Physics

Journals Title

4 NATURE Medicine

2 <u>Lancet</u>

Rank

8 Annual Review Of Condensed Matter Physics

1 New England Journal Of Medicine

3 JAMA: Journal Of The American Medical Association

Impact Factors

Who likes impact factors?

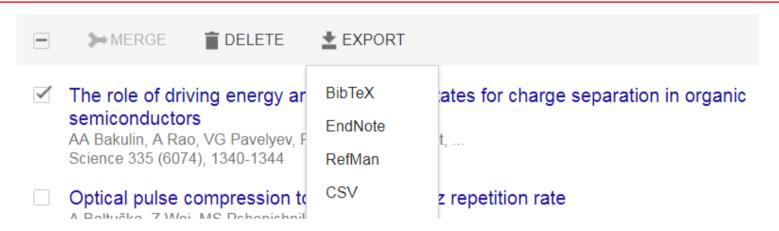
Editors hate impact factors. Consider a small, specialized journal that publishes monthly versus a letter/communication journal that publishes bimonthly or an accounts/review journal that publishes quarterly. They will have widely different impact factors based only on how they are structured and having nothing to do with the quality of the content.

Scientists hate impact factors. We want to publish in respectable journals that are read by our peers, not journals that some algorithm deem important

Funding agencies likes impact factors. In the modern era of "accountability" funding agencies need metrics to justify diverting taxpayer money to endeavors that are published in paywalled journals and that lead to patents owned by universities

Get to know your field!

Reference Management Software



Pick one, any one, it doesn't make a difference. But develop good habits!

Use tags! A few tags reminding you of why you were interested in a particular paper can be a lifesaver months or years later.

Don't Be Afraid to delete! Don't hoard papers — if, once you take the time to read a paper, you realize it is useless, delete it. You won't miss it

Use Groups/Folders! As soon as you have a target—a manuscript, a thesis chapter, a grant proposal, etc.—create a folder and start populating it

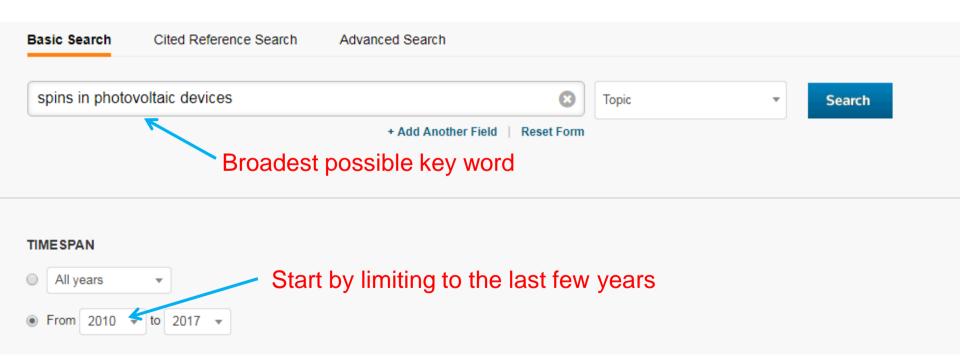
Unless you are digging in a familiar field, your first challenge will be to find an entry point into the literature.

Let's say you want to research in "spins in photovoltaic devices"

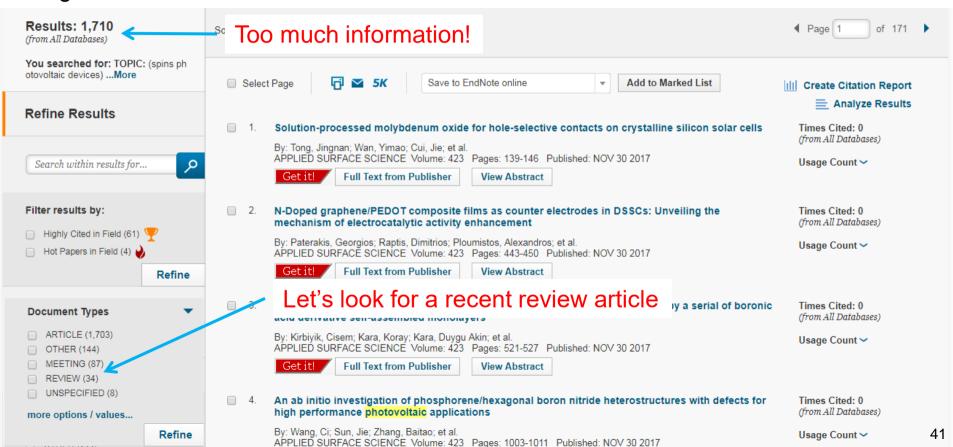
Where do you start?

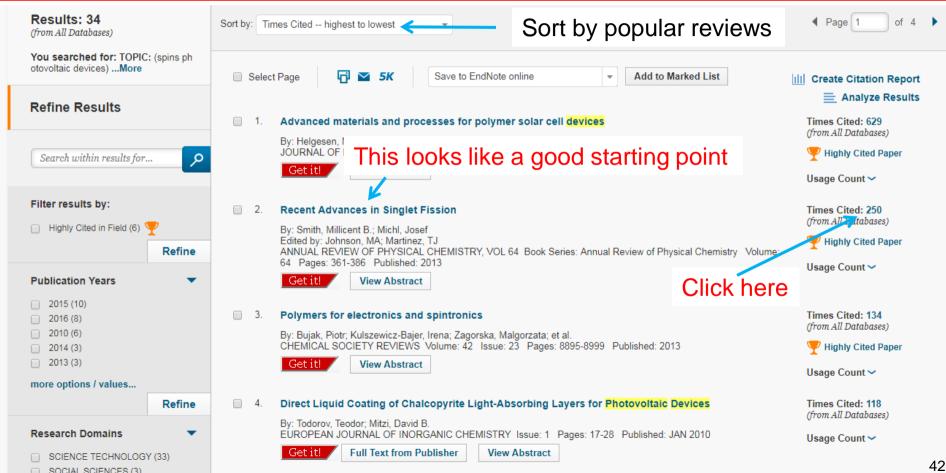


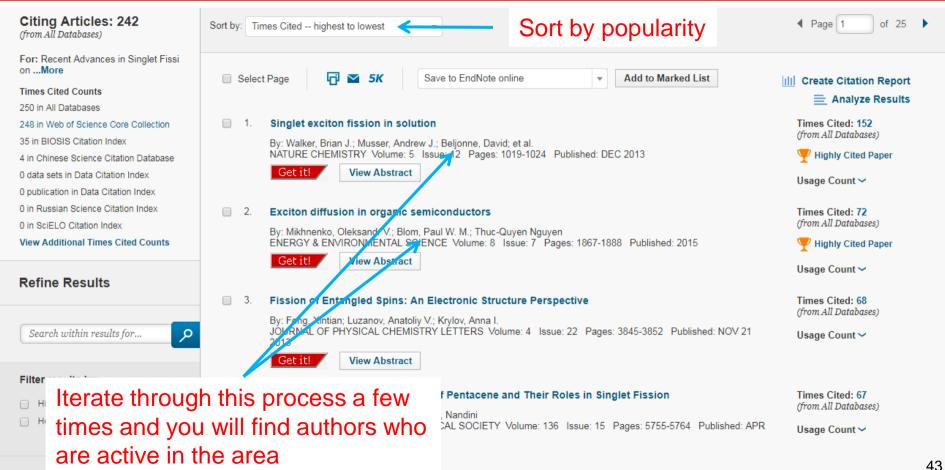
Start where your knowledge ends Let's say that you know very little about the topic and so you want to start at the top



The goal is to return too much information and then refine it to a useful amount







Databases

What did we learn?

Notice that the most-cited review on the topic of "spins in photovoltaic devices" was actually a review on **singlet fission**

And the most-cited paper cited by that review was also about **singlet exciton fission**This is already a decent indication that "spins in photovoltaic devices" are mostly mentioned in the context of singlet fission.

We can infer three things:

- 1) "Spins in photovoltaic devices" are probably **not well-defined**
- 2) You will probably be able to dig up specific papers on the topic, but reviews will be about **exciton fission**
- 3) The best strategy will be to find a **group of authors** and dig up their papers (see if they list pubs on their websites).

See how much you can learn from two minutes of searching?

Simple Rules for Searching and Organizing

1. Facilitate an in-depth knowledge of your field

Having identified seminal papers, typically by the number of times they are cited, enables to explore the network for other frequently cited papers

2. Identify papers, which are the most important to your research

Papers of extraordinary interest will form the seeds from which you can mine for new literature

3. Stay on-top of the literature

Create citation alerts for the papers of extraordinary interest

4. Archive digital copies

Save the PDF version of the articles within a hierarchically organized folder structure and give the files meaningful names

- 5. Archive references in a citation program immediately
- 6. Label unread papers with what you expect from it; use tags and groupings

From: Bauer, "Ten Simple Rules for Searching and Organizing the Scientific Literature" http://precedings.nature.com/documents/3867/version/1

What's Next?

The purpose of this introduction is to help you search the literature

Ultimately, searching the literature is a skill that you have to develop and maintain in order to keep up with changing technologies, trends in research and publishers

Conferences are great for seeing what people are trying to publish, but there is no substitute for reading papers that are published

HOW MUCH SCIENCE IS THERE?

CENTRAL DEBUTS

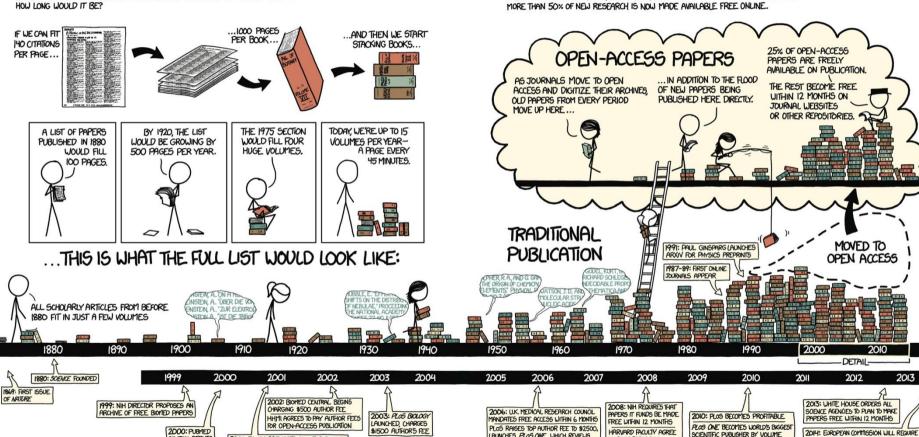
PLOS FOUNDED

2001: 30,000 SCIENTISTS CALL FOR BOYCOTT

OF JOURNALS THAT DON'T ALLOW FREE

ACCESS ON PUBMED WITHIN 6 MONTHS

SCIENTIFIC PUBLISHING HAS BEEN ACCELFRATING—A NEW PAPER IS NOW PUBLISHED ROUGHLY EVERY 20 SECONDS. LET'S IMAGINE A BIBLIOGRAPHY LISTING EVERY SCHOLARLY PAPER EVER WRITTEN. HOW LONG WOULD IT BE?



LAUNCHES PLOSONE. WHICH REVIEWS

FOR SCIENTIFIC RIGOR, NOT IMPORTANCE

TO POST PAPERS IN

UNIVERSITY REPOSITORY

HOW OPEN IS IT?

SINCE THE ADVENT OF THE WEB. MUCH OF SCIENTIFIC PUBLISHING HAS BEEN MOVING TO OPEN ACCESS.

ACCORDING TO SCIENCE-METRIX, OPEN ACCESS REACHED A "TIPPING POINT" AROUND 2011:

FREE ACCESS WITHIN 6-12 MONTHS

Resources

https://www.editage.com/insights/tips-for-effective-literature-searching-and-keeping-up-with-new-publications

http://libguides.humboldt.edu/c.php?g=303801&p=2028842

https://www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects/competitions/finding-and-accessing-scientific-papers 3/

From: Bauer, "Ten Simple Rules for Searching and Organizing the Scientific Literature" http://precedings.nature.com/documents/3867/version/1