

## Citation databases: Overview

Evaluation of research and publications at universities and research departments has become an important part of today's university world. Citation analysis has an ever-increasing significance in evaluating scientific achievement.

Citation databases have been developed for evaluating publications. Citation databases enable you to count citations and check which articles or journals are the most cited ones.

In contemporary scientific world, the matter of publishing an article in a journal that is part of a scientometric database has become really relevant if you want to make your research visible, easily discovered and frequently cited by other scholars.

But whether you are writing a thesis, dissertation, or research paper it is a key task to survey prior literature and research findings first. Especially, you will be looking for trusted resources, most likely peer reviewed research articles. Academic research databases make it easy to locate the literature you are looking for.

We have compiled a list of reliable academic resources to help you get started with your research:

**SCOPUS** is the largest bibliographic database containing abstracts and citations of peer reviewed journal articles. Scopus covers scholarly literature from almost any discipline. Besides searching for research articles, Scopus also provides academic journal rankings and author profiles.

**WEB of SCIENCE** also known as Web of Knowledge is an interdisciplinary article- and citation database like Scopus. The database covers the natural sciences, the social sciences, and the humanities. Web of Science includes articles and conference papers from the 1960s and onwards, as well as references to older material.

Scopus and WoS adhere to the strictest peer-review policy, and the expert advice from these databases ensures a careful selection of scientific content. Access to WOS and Scopus is by corporate subscription only.

Being subscribed to both databases, Southern Federal University provides its students and teachers with access to Scopus and WOS via corporate account.

However, most researchers start their quest with Google Scholar.

**GOOGLE SCHOLAR** is a free academic search engine that indexes scientific literature that is either available on the Internet free of charge, or that Google is permitted to crawl from the publishers' databases. Google Scholar has a **wider** coverage of publication types as well as research areas, than traditional quotation databases Scopus and Web of Science.

At the same time, Google is less careful in what it includes in search results than Scopus and Web of Science. It's all done automatically, but still most of the results of a search tend to be reliable scholarly sources. So, it is worth making your own assessment of the credibility of resources linked through Google Scholar.

Summing up, if you understand how citation databases work and are structured, you will be able to better manage your publications and enhance your professional reputation.