A GUIDE TO INFORMATION SEARCH

Vilnius University Library

In this guide, you will find the main aspects of scientific information search.

1. How can I access the electronic resources subscribed to by the library?

Electronic resources are available from home or any other place outside VU campus if a computer or other device is connected to VU computer network using VPN service.

No separate logins are required when using databases in VU library, faculty or students' dormitory.

You can check whether you are already on VU computer network here.

2. Where can I find the library's resources?

On Virtual Library, you can perform a one-stop search for all VU library's resources, both printed and electronic ones.

A list of all databases subscribed to by the library and other electronic resources.

Subject guides by faculty.

NOTE: Use the search guides you find on the databases, the Help section or the explanations given on the page of advanced search.

3. What steps do I have to make to find relevant electronic resources?

When searching for scientific information on Virtual Library or database platforms, it is important to formulate a search query properly and select the most suitable results.
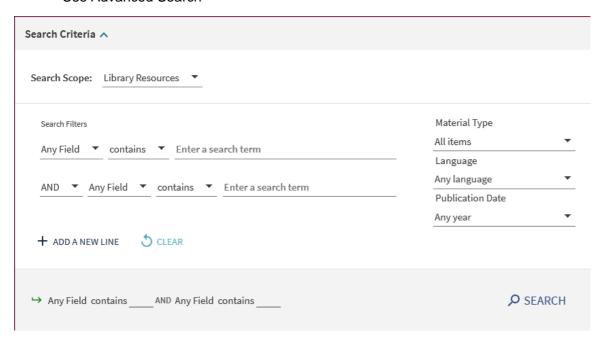
- Choose relevant keywords for your search query. Think of possible keyword alternatives that could change the main ones.

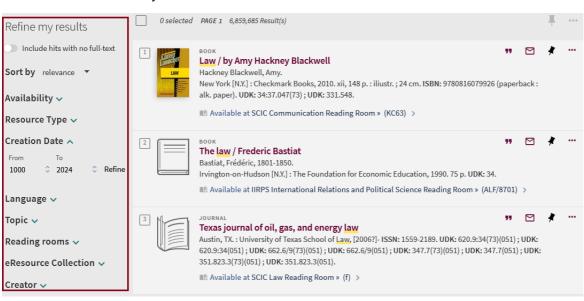| Variations of keywords	Examples
Synonyms/ related terms	word combination / collocation; language disorder / language impairment
Full terms/ widely used abbreviations	second language / L2
Keywords in other languages	Metaphor / metafora / Metapher /métaphore
Spelling variations	Behavioral / behavioural linguistics
Singular / plural forms	Idiom / idioms

- Formulate a search query with Boolean search operators and other search symbols.

Search operator/symbol	Function	Examples
AND	Searches for documents whose descriptions contain all keywords used in a query	Ground water AND pollution; NaCl AND corrosion;
OR	Searches for documents whose descriptions contain one or both of the keywords used in a query	Sodium chloride OR NaCl; olivetol OR оливтол
NOT	Searches for documents whose descriptions do not contain a keyword following operator NOT	Salts NOT Nitrate; air pollution NOT sulfur dioxide
"…"	Searches for an exact phrase	"Sodium chloride"
?	Enables variations of one letter in a word	wom?n = woman, women
*	Enables variations of more than one letter in a word	cultur* = culture, cultures, cultural, culturally

- Use Advanced Search

- Filter and refine your search results.

NOTE: Avoid slang, colloquial words (buck, klick etc.).

Do not use adjectives, conjunctions, interrogative words. Do not search in full sentences.

Use thesauruses.

4. Whom can I contact if I have some questions on information search and management?

Contact the Subject Librarian of your faculty and get a consultation.

5. Where can I find information about the library's services?

Information about the library and its services can be found here.