

SciFinder Tutorial

Chapter 1 - HOW TO SEARCH ON A TOPIC

By the end of this chapter you will know:

- What a topic search is
- How to develop a topic search in SciFinder Scholar
- What SciFinder Scholar does to your search “behind the scenes”

SciFinder Scholar works differently than other databases.

You can search by topic in SciFinder Scholar, but you must use an English phrase.

Example: effect of antibiotics on dairy products

Example: properties of spider silk

SciFinder does several things to your search “behind the scenes”:

- Automatic truncation
 - The word “prevent” in your search may also find “prevent,” “prevents,” or “prevention”
- Synonyms
 - A search with “sugar” may also find “glucose” or “fructose”
- “Closely Associated”
 - SciFinder Scholar may find your keywords or synonyms in the same sentence. Example: if your search is “the effect of antibiotics on dairy products,” SciFinder Scholar may find these words in a sentence that reads “dairy heifers were treated with five antibiotic products.”

Most databases use the words AND and OR to combine ideas in a search. [**note: the words “AND” and “OR” will hyperlink to VIN diagrams that explain how they work**]

But SciFinder Scholar doesn’t use AND and OR in to combine topics.

So this search...

- Antibiotics and dairy products

Would produce different results than this search:

- The effects of antibiotics on dairy products

Use the English phrase search in SciFinder Scholar!

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Project funded by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
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