SciFinder® lets you explore an area of research by entering a phrase or sentence in English. It uses relationships among the key words to quickly retrieve results that are relevant to your research interests.

1. Enter a topic of interest.
   
   Apply limits such as publication year(s) and document types.
   
   Click Search.

Tips:

- Specify two or three concepts using plain English.
- Include prepositions and articles to connect the concepts.
- Place acronyms or synonyms in parentheses after the synonymous concept.
- Use “not” or “except” to exclude a particular term.
- Use limits to reduce the number of results in your answer set.
Limit by… | When you want to eliminate all references except those from…
---|---
Publication year | A particular time period.
Document type | Certain type(s) of documents.
Language | Particular languages.
Author name | A specific author.
Company Name | A specific company or organization.

Note: SciFinder automatically searches related terms and considers alternate spellings and word endings when retrieving results.

2. Select candidate references of interest based on the relationship of the terms and concepts within records.

   Click **Get References**.

Tips:

| SciFinder considers terms to be… | When the terms are found… |
---|---|
"As entered" | Exactly as you have entered them. |
"Closely associated with one another" | Within the same sentence or title. |
"Present anywhere within a reference" | Anywhere (perhaps widely separated) within a record's title, abstract, or indexing. |
"Containing the concept" | In the record. The entered term(s), synonymous term(s), or similar term(s) are found within the record. |

3. Review your answers.
4. Working with references... SciFinder allows you to work with answer sets in a variety of ways. For hints and tips, see the How To Guides for:

- Working with Reference Answer Sets: Overview
- Analyze Reference Answer Sets
- Refine Reference Answer Sets
- Categorize Reference Answer Sets
- Access Full Text
- Identify Related Citations
- Print, Save, and Export Results