How to use scientific platforms

1. *Where to Search scientific publications?*

this step involves identifying *an appropriate reaearch platform.*

There is a wide variety of research platforms and publicly accessible databases. Depending on the publisher, some works are available in open access, which means you can access and download the original articles without a subscription. With others, you may only be able to access *abstracts* or portions of them, and you will need to pay a subscription or library fees to access the full text.

Below, you will find *the most commonly used research platforms and databases.*

ScienceDirect *https://www.sciencedirect.com/*

Wiley Online Library, *https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/*

Springerlink, *https://link.springer.com/*

Nature, *https://www.nature.com/*

PubMed *https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/*

Cambridge Core, *https://www.cambridge.org/core*

Oxford Academic, *https://academic.oup.com/journals*

Sage journals, *https://journals.sagepub.com/*

Google Scholar *https://scholar.google.com/*

Scopus, *https://www.elsevier.com/solutions/scopus*

Cochrane Library, *https://www.cochranelibrary.com/*

Medline *https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medline/medline_overview.html*

2. *How to Conduct a Scientific Research:*

Once you have identified and gained access to documentation platforms or databases, it is useful to adopt a *structured* and *planned* approach to research.

There are two important considerations when you start typing in words to search for:

1. **Search Keywords:** keywords are the words, terms, or concepts you put, to match similar words or terms in the literature.

   - The choice of keywords is crucial because the words you use will determine the results you obtain.
   - Keep in mind synonyms or related terms, acronyms, spelling variations, plurals, sientific and common names, as well as terminology.

   Note: Use words specific to the literature you are searching for and avoid using phrases. By focusing on these key concepts, you will reduce the time spent searching for irrelevant articles.

2. **Conduct Searches in English for Your Keywords**

3. **Boolean Operators:** such as "and," "or," and "not," are used to connect your search keywords and match the specific literature you are seeking.

   - Examples: Using "gene AND plant" will retrieve literature containing both words in its text.
   - Using "gene OR plant" will retrieve literature containing at least one of the words, and in some cases, both words in its text.
   - Using "gene NOT plant" will return results containing the word "gene" but exclude those containing "plant," even if both words appear in the same document.
   Once entered into the search engine, this search string will significantly reduce your time and improve relevance by refining your results.

4. **Truncation:** it involves using root words to find variations. Using an asterisk, you can use a root word like "gene*" to find "gene," "genes," "genetically," and so on. However, be aware that truncation can lead to finding documents that may not be directly relevant to your research.

5. **Phrase Searching:** Phrase searching is useful when there is a specific common expression in your field. Using quotation marks will combine words and retrieve literature containing the entire phrase in its text.

6. **Advanced Searches and Limits:** Advanced searches and limits can be used to include or exclude parameters such as language, publication year, country, author, literature

type, category, and more. Advanced searches are easy to set up and enable a more precise search for desired literature.

3- Conclusion:

Research documentation is one of the most critical aspects of any literature search. As an M2 student, you will conduct a literature search as part of your master's thesis. The results of your search will allow you to gather information on a specific topic related to your research. The research process can be easily undertaken by following the steps described above. The more you practice basic research techniques, the easier it will become, and you will be better equipped to find the information you seek.