Welcome!

In this video I will show you how to run a search in Web of Science.

We will begin on the Web of Science homepage, also known as the basic search screen. From here you can enter your search terms in the main search bar in the center of the screen.

If you are just beginning your research, you may want to run a simple search to get an overview of the topic and of the potentially related information available. To do this we will simply enter text related to one of our main concepts. Once we have entered the text, we will click on the blue Search box located to the far right of the screen. Web of Science will retrieve results related to this topic. We can see that this simple search has retrieved 30,209 results.

For the purposes of your assignments, you will want to run a more detailed search that will retrieve fewer, more relevant results. For this example we will use the search string that we developed in the Building Your Search Strategy section of the University of Ottawa Research for Technical Report Writing guide linked in the description box below. This search string contains all of our main concepts, synonyms and search operators, ultimately refining our results. Here we will copy our previously developed search string and paste it directly into the basic search box. Once we have entered the entire search string, we will click on the blue Search box located to the far right of the screen. We can see that Web of Science has retrieved 53 results. This results list now contains far fewer results than in our previous general search and contains results that are much more closely related to our exact research topic.

Continue to the next video to see how you can use filters to further refine these results.

Thanks for watching and happy searching!