Web of Science: Search Tips

Operators

- **OR**
  Searching for: swine OR pigs will retrieve references containing either the word swine or the word pigs (or both words).

- **AND**
  Searching for: salmonella and cattle will retrieve references containing both the word salmonella and the word cattle

- **NOT**
  Searching for: pig NOT guinea pig will retrieve references only with pig but the word guinea pig is excluded from the results.

- **NEAR/n**
  (Replace the n with a number to specify the maximum number of words that separate the search terms) Searching for: salmonella NEAR/2 cattle will retrieve references containing salmonella within 2 words of Cattle (in any order). Searching for: salmonella NEAR/3 cattle will retrieve references containing salmonella within 3 words of cattle (in any order).

If you use NEAR without /n, the system will find records where the search terms joined by NEAR are within 15 words of each other. For example cattle NEAR salmonella is equilavent with cattle NEAR/15 salmonella

Parentheses ( )

(The expression inside the parentheses is executed first). Searching for: salmonella AND (swine OR pigs) will retrieve references containing the word salmonella and either the word swine or the word Pigs (or both words).

Phrases “ ”

Searching for: “food safety” will retrieve references containing the words food and safety next to each other (i.e. as a phrase).
Truncation/Wildcards

- $ = 0-1 character, searching for: flavo$r will retrieve references containing the word flavor or the word flavour. Searching for: pig$ will retrieve references containing the word pig or the word pigs.

- * = 0-many characters, searching for pig* will retrieve references containing the word pig, pigs, piggery, piggeries, piglet, piglets, pigeon, pigeons etc. Searching for “functional food*” will retrieve functional food, functional foods, functional foodstuff, functional foodstuffs.

- ? = any single character, searching for en?oblast will retrieve references containing the word endoblast or the word entoblast. Searching for pig? will retrieve references containing the word pigs, but not the word pig.