Building your search in Scopus: video script

Scopus is a huge multidisciplinary database. It can be a useful search tool for finding evidence based literature including original research articles.

Let’s look at building a search in Scopus using the question: *What factors in the obstetric ultrasound lead to patient satisfaction in pregnant women?*

It is important when searching to think carefully about what terms you include and revise your search if you cannot find what you want.

I am going to start by just putting in my main concepts.

Notice I am using double quotes in order to keep phrases together. I don’t want the database to search for these as separate terms.

Notice I only have 8 results. I need to further expand my search.

I can edit my search by adding in some of the synonyms and different word endings I thought of using the connector OR. By doing this I have broadened my search significantly.

I should also make sure I search for all word plurals and different wording endings. I can do this by using a database feature called truncation which allows me to find stems of words. The truncation symbol is often the * in databases.

Using truncation also helps me streamline the 3rd search line. I can drop women and just search for pregnan*.

Use truncation carefully, it may not be necessary to truncate every word.

Notice my results have broadened further.

Sort your results by Relevance to find the articles with the most hits using the keywords you entered.

It is important evaluate your results, are you finding relevant articles?

If not you will need to go back to the search screen and re-think your search. Is the search too broad or not broad enough? Do you need to re-work it completely, leave out a concept, or add another concept?