

Supplement 1 to

Evidence-based recommendations for increasing the citation frequency of original articles

Short title: How to get your article cited

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1. Web of Science Extraction of Journal Articles and Citations

In this section, the export of references from the Web of Science is described. The BMJ and the publication year 2020 are used for illustration.

Step 1

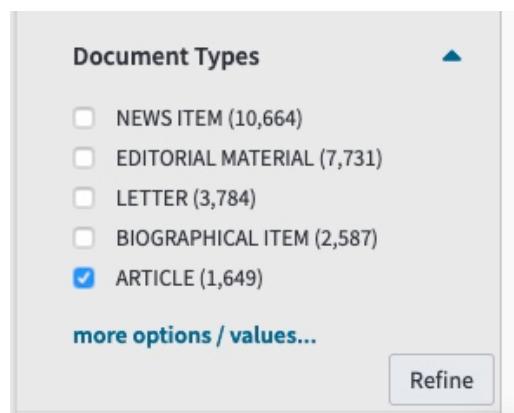
Use the publication name with a customized range of years (2011 to 2020). Do not forget to confirm the custom year range if numbers are entered manually.

The screenshot shows the Web of Science search interface. At the top, a dropdown menu 'Select a database' is set to 'Web of Science Core Collection'. Below it, there are five search tabs: 'Basic Search' (underlined), 'Author Search BETA', 'Cited Reference Search', 'Advanced Search', and 'Structure Search'. The main search area contains two input fields: 'bmj british medical journal' in the first field and 'Publication Name' in the second. A 'Search' button is to the right. Below these fields are buttons for 'Select from Index', '+ Add row', and 'Reset'. Underneath the search area, there is a 'Timespan' section with a 'Custom year range' dropdown set to '2011 to 2020'. A 'More settings' link is also present.

Supplementary Figure 1: Web of Science query with publication name and custom year range.

Step 2

Select article as document type. Do not forget to refine.



Supplementary Figure 2: Web of Science selection of article as document type.

Step 3

Only up to 500 references may be exported at once. Therefore, the export was done per publication year.

The screenshot shows a 'Publication Years' filter dialog. At the top, there are buttons for 'Refine', 'Exclude', 'Cancel', and a dropdown menu 'Sort these by: Alphabetical'. Below this, a message states: 'The first 100 Publication Years (by record count) are shown. For advanced refine options, use [Analyze results](#)'. A grid of checkboxes lists publication years and their counts: 2020 (135), 2017 (134), 2014 (168), 2012 (225); 2019 (133), 2016 (139), 2013 (217), 2011 (180); 2018 (139), 2015 (179). At the bottom are 'Refine', 'Exclude', 'Cancel', and 'Sort these by: Alphabetical' buttons.

Supplementary Figure 3: Web of Science list of publication year.

Step 4

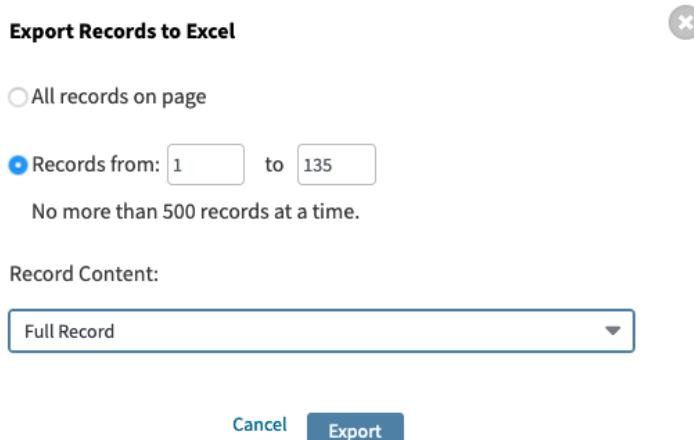
Select one specific year and export.

The screenshot shows a search results interface with a 'Sort by: Date ↓' dropdown and other sorting options: 'Times Cited', 'Usage Count', 'Relevance', and 'More ▾'. Below the search bar are buttons for 'Select Page', 'Export...', 'Add to Marked List', and a link 'Export to selected option'.

Supplementary Figure 4: Web of Science export according to selected export option.

Step 5

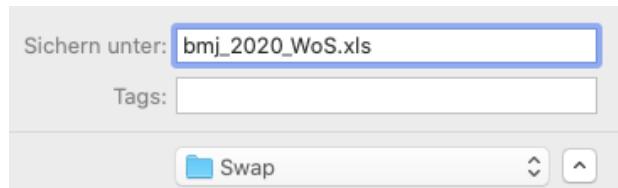
Export all references to excel as full record.



Supplementary Figure 5: Web of Science export for full records and all records of a specific year.

Step 6

Save as abbreviated journal name, publication year and database.



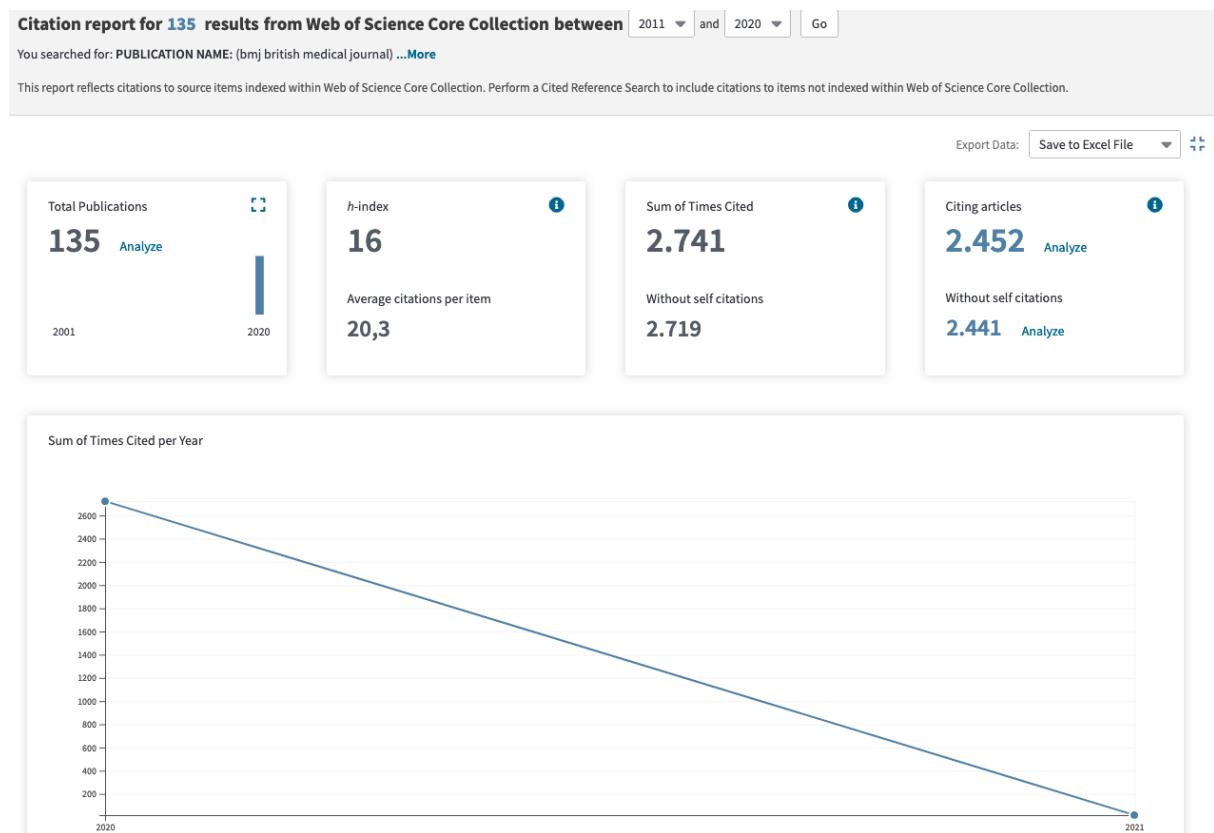
Supplementary Figure 6: Web of Science export file name.

Step 7

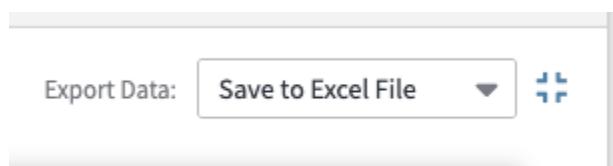
Create citation report



Supplementary Figure 7: Web of Science select create citation report for the second required export.



Supplementary Figure 8: Web of Science summary display for citation report. The export option is displayed in the top right of the window or at the end of the web page (not shown).



Supplementary Figure 9: Web of Science summary export option from the top right of the web page.

Step 8

Save citation report to Excel.

Export Records to File

All records on page

Records from: to

No more than 500 records at a time.

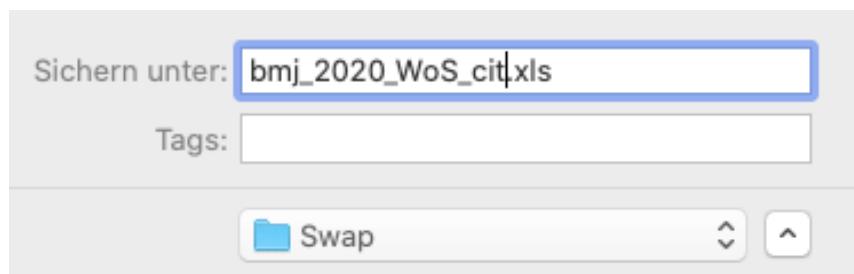
[Cancel](#)

[Export](#)

Supplementary Figure 10: Web of Science export for the citation report of all articles from a specific year.

Step 9

Save citations as journal, publication year, database and “_cit”



Supplementary Figure 11: Web of Science naming convention for export for the citation report of all articles from a specific year.

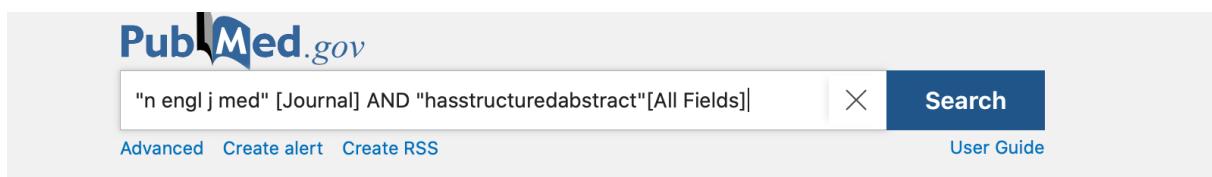
Exports were done by NH for BMJ and JAMA, by AZ for Lancet, NEJM and PLOS Med and all publications from 2011 until 2020.

2. PubMed Extraction of Journal Articles

In this section, the export of references using PubMed is described. NEJM and the time span 2011 until 2020 are used for illustration.

Step 1

Enter the search term “n engl j med” [Journal] AND “hasstructuredabstract” [All Fields] into the search window to get a list of all articles with a structured abstract published in NEJM.



Supplementary Figure 12: PubMed query with publication name and structured abstract.

Step 2

Set a customized range for publication date (start date 2011/01/01 and end date 2020/12/31) to filter for articles published between 2011 and 2020. The date filter needs to be applied.

A screenshot of the PubMed search results page. On the left, there is a sidebar with a "Systematic Review" checkbox, a "PUBLICATION DATE" section with a "Custom Range" dropdown menu showing options for "1 year", "5 years", "10 years", and "Custom Range", and a date range selector for "START DATE" (2011/01/01) and "END DATE" (2020/12/31). Below these are "Clear" and "Apply" buttons. The main area lists search results for NEJM articles. The first result is for "Magnetic" by Jensen MC, PMID: 8208, published in N Engl J Med. The second result is for "Early identifier" by van P, Bro, PMID: 1066, published in N Engl J Med. The third result is for "phenobar" by Winter MJ, PMID: 1044, published in N Engl J Med. Each result includes a "Cite" and "Share" link.

Supplementary Figure 13: PubMed filter for custom year range.

Step 3

Export all results as csv.

Sorted by: Best match [Display options](#)

Save citations to file

Selection:

Format:

[Create file](#) [Cancel](#)

Supplementary Figure 14: PubMed export for all results published in the custom year range.

Step 4

Save as abbreviated journal name and database.

Sichern unter:

Tags:

Supplementary Figure 15: PubMed export file name.

Notes

Search terms (see Step 1) are journal-specific. Systematic reviews, editorials, letters and comments had to be excluded because the search term “hasstructuredabstract” did not only reveal original research articles. The specific search terms were generated to exclude more than one hundred articles in some cases that were not original articles. For example, there seems to be an error for the BMJ in 2017. Structured abstracts could not be automatically identified so

that the search term “hasabstract” had to be used. Furthermore, specific dates had to be excluded as poster abstracts were listed by the general search term. Supplementary Table 5 shows journal-specific PubMed search terms, the time of the search on Jan 01, 2021 and the number of hits.

Query	Results	Time
Search: "bmj" [Journal] AND "hasabstract"[All Fields] NOT ("review"[pt] OR "comment"[pt] OR "editorial" [pt] OR "letter" [pt]) Filters: from 2017 - 2017	148	08:04:20
Search: "bmj" [Journal] AND "hasstructuredabstract"[All Fields] NOT ("review"[pt] OR "comment"[pt] OR "editorial" [pt] OR "letter" [pt]) Filters: from 2018 - 2020	466	06:56:47
Search: "bmj" [Journal] AND "hasstructuredabstract"[All Fields] NOT ("review"[pt] OR "comment"[pt] OR "editorial" [pt] OR "letter" [pt]) Filters: from 2011 - 2016	952	06:56:28
Search: "lancet" [Journal] AND "hasstructuredabstract"[All Fields] NOT ("review" [pt] OR "systematic review" [pt]) NOT "2015/02/26"[dp] NOT "2018/02/21" NOT "2015/04/27" [dp] Filters: from 2011/1/1 - 2020/12/31	1,649	06:55:56
Search: "jama" [Journal] AND "hasstructuredabstract"[All Fields] NOT ("review" [pt] OR "systematic review" [pt] OR "practice guideline" [pt] OR "meta-analysis" [pt] OR "comment" [pt]) Filters: from 2011/1/1 - 2020/12/31	1,676	06:55:26
Search: "plos med" [Journal] AND "hasstructuredabstract"[All Fields] NOT ("review" [pt] OR "systematic review" [pt]) Filters: from 2011/1/1 - 2020/12/31	1,348	06:55:06
Search: "n engl j med" [Journal] AND "hasstructuredabstract" [All Fields] Filters: from 2011/1/1 - 2020/12/31	2,157	06:53:29

Supplementary Figure 15: Journal-specific PubMed search terms (see Step 1).

Exports were done by NH for BMJ, JAMA, Lancet, NEJM and PLOS Med for all publications from 2011 until 2020.