

Find Top Journals for a Topic using Web of Science

This step-by-step guide shows you how to find top journals using the Web of Science database based on journal rankings and total articles published on a topic.

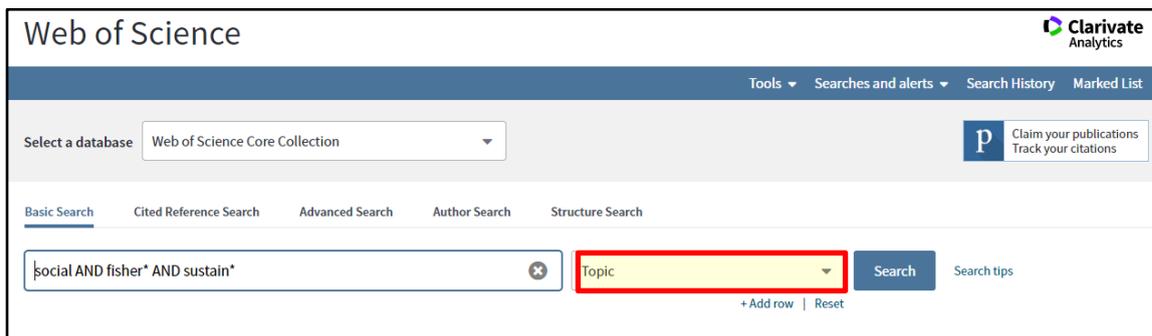
When to use this guide

- Making decisions about where or where *not* to publish
- Finding journals on a narrow or specific topic
- Finding journals where your topic crosses multiple disciplines

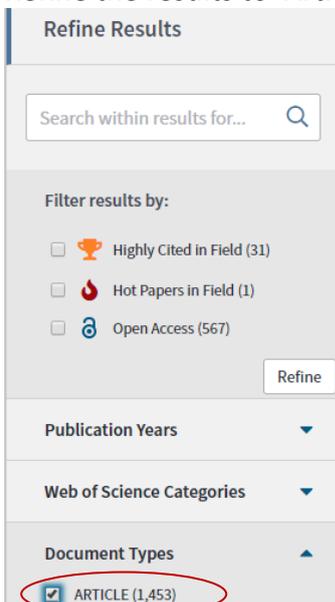
When choosing where to publish, we recommend checking in first with your supervisor and faculty research office as there may be specific policies or advice that applies to you.

Searching the Web of Science database

1. Do a topic search
(Tip: use a range of keywords that are likely to be used by other academics)



2. Refine the results to 'Article'



3. Select 'Analyze Results'

The screenshot shows a search results interface. At the top right, there are two buttons: 'Analyze Results' (circled in red) and 'Create Citation Report'. Below the buttons, there are two search results listed. Each result includes a checkbox, a title, author information, journal information, and a 'Usage Count' dropdown menu.

4. Click on "Source Title" to see journals that the most published on a topic.

The screenshot shows the 'Results Analysis' page. On the left, there is a sidebar with various filters, and 'Source Titles' is circled in red. The main area displays a treemap visualization titled 'Showing 1,453 records for TOPIC: (social AND fisher* AND sustain*)'. The treemap shows the following data:

Source Title	Count
MARINE POLICY	196
OCEAN COASTAL MANAGEMENT	83
ICES JOURNAL OF MARINE SCIENCE	34
ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS	29
FISHERIES RESEARCH	45
SUSTAINABILITY	28
MARITIME STUDIES	22
ECOLOGY AND SOCIETY	89
FISH AND FISHERIES	41
COASTAL MANAGEMENT	24

5. To check the Journal Impact Factor (JIF) & ranking:

- Select a journal and click on "View Records" to see articles in that journal

The screenshot shows search results for the journal 'MARINE POLICY'. Two results are listed, both with 'Usage Count' dropdown menus.

- Click on the journal title to see Impact Factor, Rank in Category and Quartile in Category

MARINE POLICY

✕

Impact Factor
2.865 3.149
2018 5 year

<i>JCR® Category</i>	<i>Rank in Category</i>	<i>Quartile in Category</i>
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES	40 of 116	Q2
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	9 of 91	Q1

Data from the 2018 edition of Journal Citation Reports

Publisher
 ELSEVIER SCI LTD, THE BOULEVARD, LANGFORD LANE, KIDLINGTON, OXFORD OX5 1GB,
 OXON, ENGLAND

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Research Domain
 Environmental Sciences & Ecology
 International Relations

Close Window

Glossary

Journal Impact Factor or JIF is a metric that measures a journal’s citation impact. It is calculated on an annual basis and uses citation data from the Web of Science Core Collection database. **JIF** shows the average citations for a full calendar year.

Journal Impact Factor Calculation

2018 Journal Impact Factor = $\frac{1,862}{650} = 2.865$

How is Journal Impact Factor Calculated?

$$\text{JIF} = \frac{\text{Citations in 2018 to items published in 2016 (1,013) + 2017 (849)}}{\text{Number of citable items in 2016 (313) + 2017 (337)}} = \frac{1,862}{650}$$