

Wilson Select Plus basic searching

Wilson Select Plus Episode 1: basic searching and identification of key components. This episode is a quick start-up for basic WSP searching and serves as a guide to WSP record and information retrieval. My name is Beth Duttlinger and I'm a library consultant at the Alliance Library System.

Let's get started:

Wilson Select Plus is a subscription database that provides an online index, abstracts, and the full text of more than 1.5 million articles from over 2,300 quality periodicals. It is updated weekly and has coverage from 1994 to the present. What I really love about WSP is that every article is full-text so that you will be able to view not just the citation but the full article in its entirety from beginning to end. If your library subscribes to Wilson Select Plus, it will be available at the library or from any computer with Internet access. Please contact your library to see if the resource is available to you!

When you open WSP, the **first screen** you see has a search box. Like Google, all you need to do is type in a keyword or several words to find what you need. Here's a tip for beginning searchers: You don't have to type in a sentence (an actually I would advise against that) since it will look for all the words you type in. Also, capitalization is not recognized so I usually type all in lower case. You can type in your search and leave the second box on keyword. Click on "Search" or press the "enter" key on your keyboard.

When you initiate your search it looks for all the terms that you've typed in your search box. Since we are looking for a keyword, in this case "PODCAST", WSP is looking in the fields that are indexed. Keywords are found in titles, notes, abstracts, summaries, descriptions, and subjects. Keywords are also names of people and places that are the subjects of a library resource or a listing in a directory.

Let's look at what was retrieved.

Search terms are included at top—75 records (manageable size)

First 10 records are displayed by **citation**. So you have the information you need to cite this source the author, title, publication, volume, and pagination. The citation is what you need to include in your works cited sheet or bibliography.

You can see that most of these articles are available in both **pdf** and **html**. The html version displays quicker and usually contains just the text—standard stuff. The pdf version usually looks exactly how the article displayed in the print version of the magazine or journal. The colors, graphics, and layout often make it much easier to read. However, it takes longer to load a pdf file than one in html. I usually look at the article first in html and then if it something that interests me, open it as a pdf

Tip: Title is a clickable link and it is helpful to view articles that are especially right on topic. Why? More clickable links—subjects and keyword!

Printing and e-mailing full text

Once you find what you like, it's very easy to email, save or print your document. To email, open the article through either as a pdf or html. At the top of the screen, it says "email" click on it and fill out the information. The only way I know to save the article in html is to copy and paste it into a word processing program. To print, use your browser's **print preview** function. You'll notice that the article is displaying "as laid out on screen". If it's more that a page you'll notice that it cuts off the end. To remedy this, change the view to "ONLY THE SELECTED FRAMES". You can then see how long the article is—save our resources and print only what is needed. When accessing full text as a pdf, use the Adobe Acrobat print function for the viewer instead of your browser's print function. Again, I would recommend viewing the document before printing to save on resources. You'll notice that this article starts with a graphic that I really don't need and ends with an abbreviated citation (which I also don't want) SO by looking at it in print preview; I was saved from printing 2 extra pages. You can also save very easily from the Acrobat save function.

One last tip: if you're not finding what you want, try revising your search. For example, podcast brings up 75 articles; podcasting brings up 229. Even small changes will retrieve different sets of articles.

I'm a big fan of WSP—it full of great articles and has an easy search interface. If you are interested in WSP advance search techniques, please view the second video podcast in this series.