**Scopus: Search Tips Part 2 (wildcards)**

**Step 1.**

This tutorial shows you how to use ‘wildcards’ within Scopus, which can help you to search for variants of a word.

A search for ‘criminally insane’ will bring up a number of results, as shown below.

![Scopus search results for 'criminally insane']()

However, this concept is also expressed within the literature as ‘criminal insanity’, as shown below so we need to account for both within our search to make sure that we retrieve both sets of results.

![Scopus search results for 'criminal insanity']()}
Step 2.

One way to account for variants of criminal, criminality etc. and insane, insanity etc. would be to use a wildcard.

To do this we choose the stem of a set of words with different endings, and add an asterix afterwards. So in this case we can add one after criminal* and insan* to get both “criminal insanity” and “criminally insane”. This brings up a greater number of relevant results.

Step 3.

Additionally you could use wildcards to account for different beginnings and endings of a chemical compound, if you needed to bring up any variants with the same middle. You can also use it in combination with AND/OR searches.

However, if you use it within an exact phrase search you will get no results, as shown below.