

What Is WorldWideScience.org?

A global science gateway comprised of national and international scientific databases and portals, providing encompassing coverage of research results from around the world.

How does WorldWideScience.org work?

Using federated search and machine translation technologies, WorldWideScience.org allows the user to search multiple scientific sources with a single query. When the user enters a term in their preferred language in the search box, the query is translated and sent to every individual database or portal searched by WorldWideScience.org. Results are returned in relevance-ranked order and can be translated into the user's preferred language. The user can review this results list and travel to the host website of a particular result for more detailed information such as the bibliographic citation, abstract, and in many cases, the full text of the document. Ten languages are currently supported: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish. Native speakers of these languages now have unprecedented access to English content. Multilingual translations are powered by Microsoft® Translator.



What type of information is available?

Currently, approximately 100 databases and portals from over 70 countries are searchable through WorldWideScience.org. Users can retrieve the most current findings in fields such as energy, medicine, agriculture, environmental sciences, and engineering. Much of the information accessed via WorldWideScience.org is freely available, in support of open science.

What are the benefits of WorldWideScience.org?

WorldWideScience.org offers key advantages when compared to existing crawler-based search engines. For instance, since searches occur in real time, the results are as current as the individual databases and portals themselves. Additionally, WorldWideScience.org does not place any requirements or burdens on owners of the individual data sources, other than handling increased traffic. Much-needed access is available to both prominent as well as smaller, less well-known sources of highly valuable science information. Citizens and scientists in all nations...indeed anyone interested in science, can benefit from WorldWideScience.org.

WorldWideScience.org is maintained by the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Scientific and Technical Information (OSTI), on behalf of the International Council for Scientific and Technical Information (ICSTI).