Find a Collaborator: Making Research Connections at Boston University

Office of Research Webinar

11/1/2022

Boston University Office of Research

Webinar Notes

- Please ensure you are muted. Camera's may be on or off based on personal preference
- Please submit any questions via the chat function. I will address as many as possible in real time, and will catch up during breaks in the presentation
- If you have questions after the webinar or I cannot answer your question live, please contact me at jpfarmer@bu.edu for further support
- A copy of the slides used and a recording of the presentation will be emailed out after the webinar (typically within about 1 week)
- Should major technical issues arise, please monitor the email you used to register for the webinar. We will reach out via email with relevant details
- This webinar assumes some basic knowledge of the SciVal and Dimensions databases. Links to recordings of webinars covering the basics of both platforms are provide at the end of this PowerPoint

Webinar Format

- Webinar Items:
  - SciVal
    - Identifying BU authors in a Topic, Topic Cluster, or Custom Search
  - BU Experts
    - Explanation and Use
  - Dimensions
    - Search Techniques, Utilizing Citation Network Searches
  - BU Profiles
    - Overview and Implementation, Searching in Profiles
  - Centers and Institutes
    - Searchable Research Support Site

Webinar Purpose/Pre-Webinar Questions

- The primary objective of this webinar is to illustrate methods for faculty to find other internal faculty collaborators
- Many of these tools can be used to find external collaborators as well
- Postdocs and Graduate Students will also be able to use these tools to identify faculty expertise

- The tools covered today will not help you located other students (of any level) that share your interests
- The webinar will also not cover how to reach out to potential research mentors/how to get involved in research as a student
- Doctoral students with mentorship questions can reach out to gradpd@bu.edu and Postdocs with mentorship questions can reach out to postdocs@bu.edu
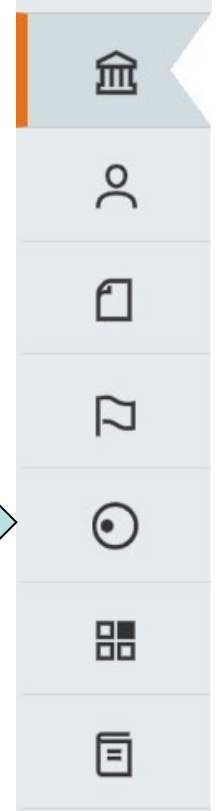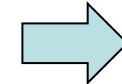
SciVal

- SciVal has 2 ways to identify potential collaborators by the area of their publications
  - Topics/Topic Clusters: Premade publications clusters based on citation network analysis, algorithmically named
  - Custom Searches: User generated publication sets based on keyword searches with a variety of limit to/exclude filter options

SciVal: Topics and Topic Clusters

- Search on the appropriate tab
- Enter one or two key words and any results will automatically populate the list
- Pros: Convenient, fast, pre-generated
- Cons: Inflexible, not customized
- The Summary tab will provide high level BU data for the selected item
- The Authors tab will provide a list of authors for the selected item (the default is "worldwide", the dropdown has an option for "at Boston University")

Topics and clusters

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SciVal: Custom Searches

- Custom Searches allows you to find potential collaborators using your own sets of keywords and/or filters
- Searches have a variety of keyword options (All, Any, and None), the ability to limit options by source (i.e. from a specific journal), or by starting from existing SciVal topics
- Limit to or exclude filters on a variety of options and applied as a second step in creating the results
- For internal collaborators "Boston University" should be set as a "Limit to" filter
- Searches must be filtered down to a maximum of 100,000 results, any searches with more than 5,000 results will require additional computing time

SciVal Custom Searches

Various search options to construct the query

Broad item types for filtering

Refine your definition by applying one or more filters

Top 100 Subject areas by Scholarly Output

	Name	Publications ↓	
Subject areas			
Scopus sources	☐ Medicine	1,301	▬
Institutions	☐ Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology	350	▬
Countries/Regions	☐ Pharmacology, Toxicology and Pharmaceutics	47	▬
Organization types	☐ Immunology and Microbiology	42	▬
	☐ Physics and Astronomy	28	▬
	☐ Neuroscience	19	▬
	☐ Health Professions	14	▬
	☐ Environmental Science	12	▬
	☐ Multidisciplinary	11	▬
	☐ Chemical Engineering	10	▬
	☐ Nursing	10	▬
	☐ Computer Science	8	▬
	☐ Engineering	7	▬
	☐ Materials Science	7	▬

Limit to >   Exclude >

☐ Limit to publications in the past 5 years

< Previous step

Next step >

Definition of your Research Area:
(pediatric AND lung AND cancer)

Applied filters:
Limit to publications in the past 5 years ✕

Total matching publications   1,399
(2016-present)

Use search terms   Use entities   Use Topics

Define a new Research Area based on publications that match...

all of these words:
Pediatric Lung Cancer

any of these words:

none of these words:

Want to create a query yourself?
Use advanced search

Limit to/Exclude filter options

BU Experts

- Searchable database of BU faculty with self-selected area of expertise keywords
- Managed by BU Public Relations, the database is accessible to the media to reach out to BU experts in various subjects
- Faculty that want to be added can fill out a form at https://forms.office.com/r/Nnb4ScZenF
  - Please keep in mind this is a public facing tool and may lead to people from outside BU contacting you

BU Experts

Q&A

- We will take a break of ~5 minutes
- Please feel free to ask any question via chat now

- Practice Exercise:
- Who are the top three authors at BU in the SciVal Topic Cluster named "Pervasive Child Development Disorders; Autistic Disorder; Child"?

Dimensions: Search Techniques

- Searches can be structured in Dimensions to effectively identify potential internal collaborators working on specific topics
  - Include Boston University as the "Research Organization"
  - Combine with a keyword search or a discipline/topic filter
    - Keywords: Click the search bar and type in the word(s), search logic can be employed
    - Discipline/Topic: Filters found under the "Research Categories" button, wide variety of categorizing methods. Typical discipline filters can be found under "Fields of Research"

Dimensions: Search Techniques

Dimensions: Citation Networks

- Dimensions also allows the analysis of the network of papers that have cited a given publication. This can be used to identify potential collaborators in similar/related disciplines to the initial work
    - Select any individual publication (more effective/likely to have an existing internal collaborator if you start with a highly cited work)
    - Find "Publication Citations" and hit "show all"
    - Boston University can be added as a filter to only show those works citing the original work that have at least one BU author

Publication citations - 7 Show all

Sorted by: Date

Neural Circuits and Symbolic Processing
Quan Do, Michael E Hasselmo
2021, Neurobiology of Learning and Memory - Article

Altmetric   6   Add to Library

Dimensions: Citation Networks

Search term indicating the
item that is the starting point
for the citation network

⬇

🔍 **Boston University** ✕ **Publication: A neural circuit mo...** ✕
Research Organization Publication citations

∨ RESEARCHER

○ Michael Erik Hasselmo   5

○ Salva Ardid   2

○ Nancy J Kopell   2

○ Earl K Miller   2

○ Jason S Sherfey   2

○ Chantal E Stern   1

○ Andrew S Alexander   1

○ Thomas M Morin   1

○ Allen E Chang   1

○ Holger Dannenberg   1

○ Joseph T Mcguire   1

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BU Profiles

- BU Profiles is a database of BU researchers searchable by keyword
- Currently profiles contains Medical Campus faculty and a small selection of Charles River Campus faculty
- Database is structured/searchable using the MeSH keyword system
- Heavily slanted toward PubMED and NIH aligned research
- The addition of CRC faculty is in very early stages
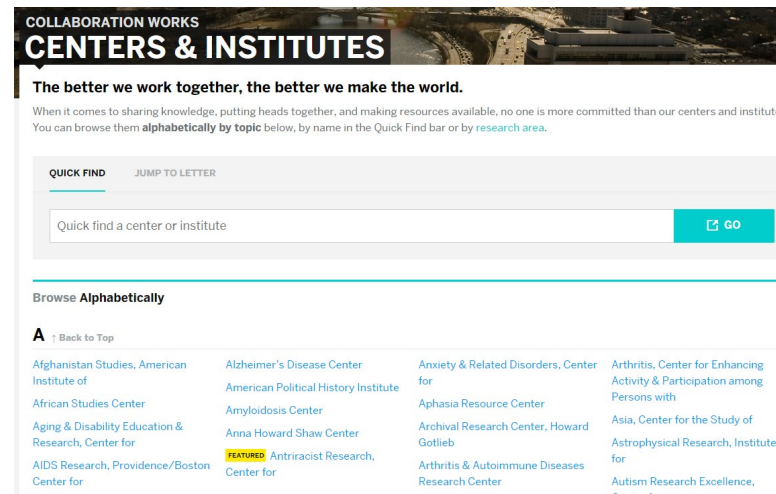- Currently the strongest use of BU Profiles would be to find MED campus collaborators

BU Profiles

Centers and Institutes

- BU has a vast array of Center and Institutes that are committed to fostering collaboration in addition to their explicit research goals
- The Office of Research maintains a searchable webpage listing these Centers and Institutes

Q&A Time

- Thank you for attending
- Please feel free to ask any questions via the chat

- Practice Exercise:
- Who is the BU author with the most works in the citation network originating from Marcus Winters' most cited paper in the Dimensions database?

Appendix 1: Online Resources

- SciVal: https://www.scival.com/
- Dimensions: https://app.dimensions.ai/
- BU Profiles: https://profiles.bu.edu/search/
- BU Experts: https://www.bu.edu/prsocial/for-the-press/bu-experts/
- Centers and Institutes: https://www.bu.edu/research/our-research/institutes-centers/

Appendix 2: Prior Webinar Links

- Introduction to SciVal: https://www.bu.edu/research/featured-events/past-events/data-tools/bibliometrics-database/

- SciVal Data and Metrics: https://www.bu.edu/research/featured-events/past-events/data-tools/data-and-metrics/

- Learn to Use the Dimensions Database: https://www.bu.edu/research/featured-events/past-events/data-tools/dimensions/

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