Useful Databases for Geography
There is more than Web of Science and Scopus

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Coffee & Bit(e)s fall 2020
Web of Science & Scopus

😊 Broad range of disciplines (interdisciplinarity)
😊 Content curated by experts (high quality scholarly content)
😊 Citation analysis
😊 ...

😊 Limited coverage in the areas of Social Sciences and Humanities, non-English documents and scholarly documents other than journal articles

Google Scholar

😊 Inclusive and unsupervised approach maximizes coverage
😊 Higher coverage of non-English documents
😊 ...

😊 Limited search and filtering options
😊 Incomplete/incorrect bibliographic information
😊 Inclusion of non-scholarly materials
😊 …
Geography (General)

A selection of useful databases

ONLINE
CONTENTS
Geowissenschaften OLC

Leibniz-Institut für Länderkunde

GEODOK Geographische Literaturdatenbank
Finding articles and journals that are not indexed in Web of Science and Scopus (e.g., articles written in German or from Swiss/German journals)

Examples of indexed journals:

Geographica Helvetica \textit{(also in Scopus)}
Cartographica Helvetica
Geographische Rundschau \textit{(also in Scopus)}
Geomatik Schweiz
Informationen zur Raumentwicklung \textit{(also in Scopus)}
Finding articles that are not easy to find somewhere else (e.g., articles written in German)

Contents correspond with holdings of the library → coverage is limited

Other documents (e.g., maps or digitized images)
Human Geography
A selection of useful databases

- SocINDEX
- EconLit
- IBZ Online
- PsycINFO
- ibss
- CAIRN.INFO
Offer added value in Sociology, Political Sciences and Economics compared to Web of Science and Scopus

Many source types like scholarly articles, working papers, reports, conference proceedings, dissertations, reviews and newspaper articles

Subject-specific thesaurus and subject terms for more precise searching
It might be useful in some fields of geography in which psychological aspects play a role (e.g., cartography)
High degree of interdisciplinarity needs to be emphasized

Publications from many different countries

Publications in many different languages
French-language web portal containing scholarly publications in the humanities and social sciences

Most of the content is in French, but there is an Englisch-language interface
Integrative Geography / Physical Geography
A selection of useful databases

GreenFILE

CAB Abstracts

AGRIS

AGRICOLA
Focusing on the relationship between human beings and the environment

Many source types like scholarly articles, working papers, reports, conference proceedings, dissertations, reviews and newspaper articles

Subject-specific thesaurus and subject terms for more precise searching
Research and worldwide technical information on agriculture

Focusing on agriculture and related fields (e.g., food science or environment)

Including publications other than scholarly articles (e.g., unpublished science and technical reports, theses, dissertations and conference papers)
Physical Geography / Geology
A selection of useful databases
GeoRef: Database indexing scientific literature in the geosciences

Including disciplines such as geochemistry, hydrology, oceanography, geomorphology, soil science or geochronology

GeoRef (Ovid): Thesaurus and subject terms for more precise searching

GeoScienceWorld: search in 5 geoscientific journals & GeoRef

GeoScienceWorld: map-based search in GeoRef possible
> 2 million maps, figures, and tables sourced from esteemed scientific publications (integration in GIS)

A read-only PDF of every source article is included for added context

Subjects such as geology, hydrology, paleogeography, oceanography

Map-based search
GIS and Remote Sensing
A selection of useful databases

- ACM DL Digital Library
- dblp: computer science bibliography
- IEEE Xplore Digital Library
Do you need books?

Library catalogues and other platforms

More library catalogues: see here
Finding dissertations
Different Databases

Or look for other repositories: OpenDOAR and ROAR
Finding preprints and postprints

Human geography

Or look for other repositories: [OpenDOAR](https://opendoar.net) and [ROAR](https://roar.org)
Finding preprints and postprints

Physical geography
And there are many more…

… academic search engines

Microsoft Academic
World Wide Science
OpenGrey
BASE
ScienceResearch
Core
FreeFullPdf
OpenAIRE
Paperity
Q-Sensei Docs
OAIster
Q-Sensei Docs
Databases in Geography

Conclusion

- Most of the literature searches in Geography include WoS, Scopus and Google Scholar
- However, there are useful additions for finding...
  - scholarly articles
  - publications other than scholarly articles
  - books
  - dissertations
  - preprints and postprints
  - documents through map-based search
How to access the databases

Via our database list

or use Google if it’s a free database

See here for more subject-specific databases
Thank you
for your attention

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@ www.unibe.ch/ub/sciencelibrary ➔ see «Coffee & Bit(e)» for lecture notes