

WorldWideScience.org: An International Partnership Supporting Open Science

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Abstract

WorldWideScience.org is a strategic partnership, comprised of national and international libraries and information centers, whose goal is to eliminate barriers to finding and sharing scientific and technical information across national boundaries. As a federated search portal, WorldWideScience.org offers users the ability to simultaneously search, in real time, over 100 scientific and technical databases from more than 70 countries. Search results from the various databases, which include text, multimedia, software, and research data, are relevance-ranked and a consolidated results list is presented to the user. Multilingual machine translations capabilities are available for ten languages, allowing users to translate results into their preferred language. The ability to search data and software collections within WorldWideScience.org addresses many of the challenges associated with discoverability of research datasets and scientific software. Upon selecting a specific result, users will typically be directed to a landing page at the originating site or organization, where the data or software is accessible for viewing or downloading. The inclusion of data and software collections in WorldWideScience.org supports interlinking between publications, datasets, and software. As part of the broader public access movement among government research funders in many countries, WorldWideScience.org further expands access to R&D results across the full research lifecycle, and ultimately contributes to increased scientific collaboration and progress.