



Getting started with VetSRev

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VetSRev (<https://vetsrev.nottingham.ac.uk/>) is a freely available database of veterinary systematic reviews. VetSRev is produced using Zotero (<https://zotero.org/>), an open-source software for managing scientific literature & citations.

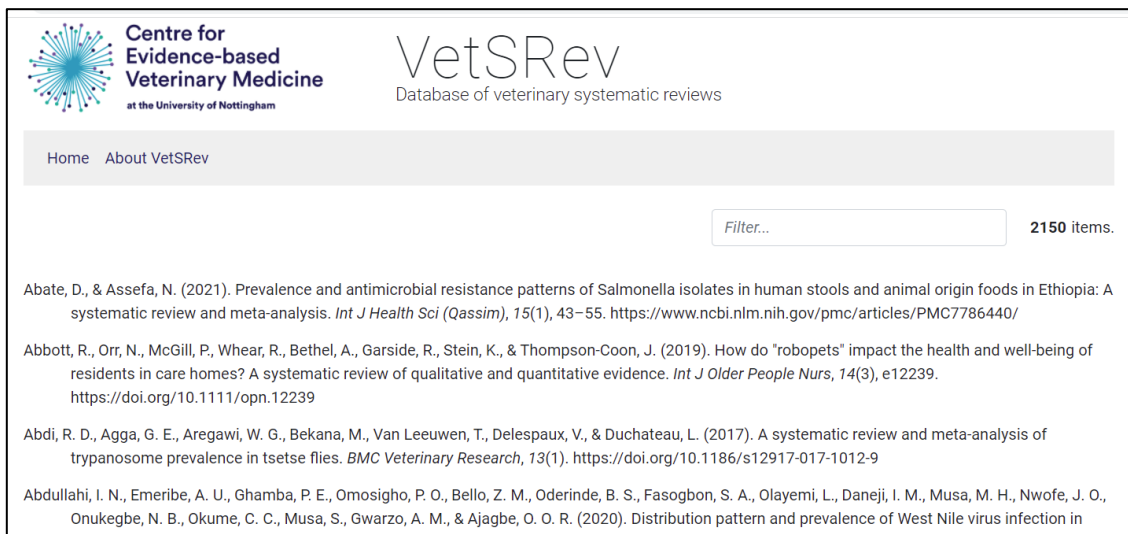
This introductory guide, Getting started with VetSRev, provides a brief overview of the functions of the database to help new users. For more information about VetSRev, please see [About VetSRev](#).

If you have any queries about using VetSRev that are not answered by this guide, please contact us at cevm@nottingham.ac.uk.

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1. The VetSRev Home Page

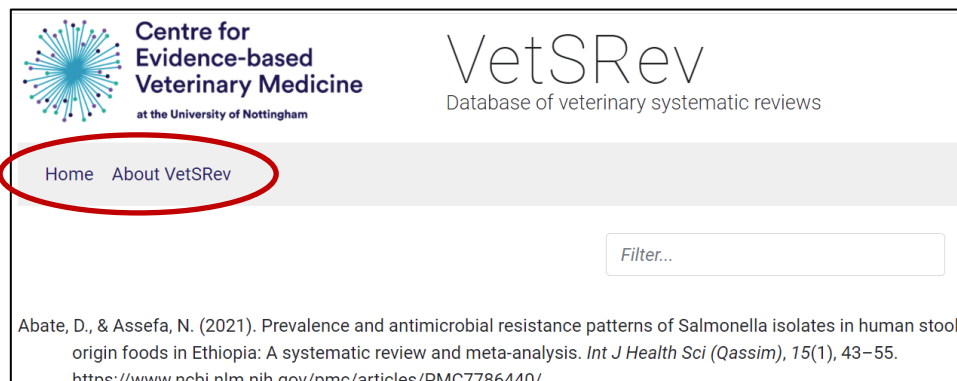
When you access the VetSRev database, you enter at the **Home Page**:



The screenshot shows the VetSRev Home Page. At the top left is the logo for the Centre for Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine at the University of Nottingham. To its right is the VetSRev logo and the text 'Database of veterinary systematic reviews'. Below the logos is a navigation bar with 'Home' and 'About VetSRev' links. To the right of the navigation bar is a search filter box labeled 'Filter...' and the text '2150 items.'. Below the navigation bar are several article listings, each with the author(s), year, title, journal name, volume/issue, and a URL.

At the top of the page is the **page header** (encompassing the CEVM logo, and the name of the database, VetSRev). The page header is always visible, whatever page you are viewing.

Underneath the page header and database name, you can see the light purple coloured toolbar (circled in red below):



This close-up screenshot highlights the navigation toolbar. The 'Home' and 'About VetSRev' links are circled in red. The rest of the page header and the first article listing are visible in the background.

This toolbar allows you to navigate across the various pages in the database.

The pages listed in the toolbar have the following functions:

- **Home** — returns you to the Home page
- **About VetSRev** — to find out more about how reviews are added to VetSRev and the criteria we use for inclusion or exclusion.
 - Within this section, there is a link to a '**Getting started with VetSRev**' document, which contains instructions on how to navigate the VetSRev database

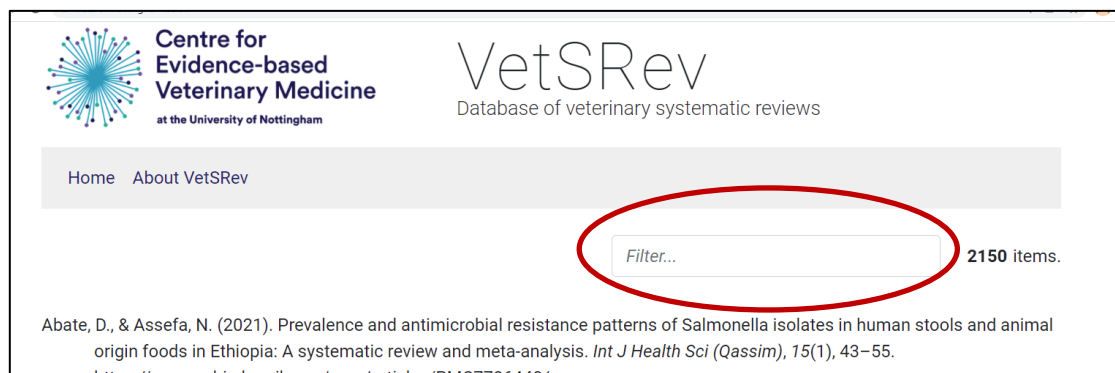
On the Home page you will see the **first 50 records** (publications or citations) that are listed in the database in alphabetical order.

2. How do I view all the records in the database?

All records within VetSRev are shown by default across the pages of the database (there are no default filters).

3. How do I do a quick search?

At the right of the page header is the **Filter box** (circled in red below). Directly to the right of the filter box is the number of current citations that appear in VetSRev.



Use the **Filter box** to search for citations in the database. Simply type your search term into the Filter box and a list of relevant citations will appear.

The **Filter box** defaults to searching the main fields of the citation (Author, Title, Publication, Keywords, Abstract).

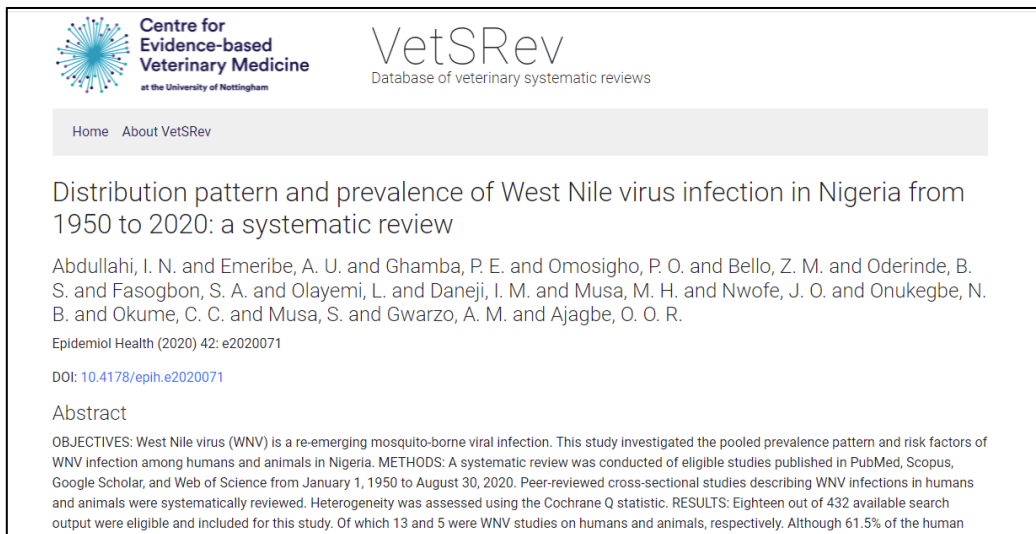
For more specific information on searching, including how to combine search terms, please see Sections 6-9.

4. How do I view an individual record for a citation?

Hover your mouse over a citation that you are interested in. A hyperlink should appear for that citation.



Click on the hyperlink to be shown **all the fields for an individual record**, including title, authors, publication title, year, volume, issue, pages, digital object identifier (DOI) number (if available; there is more information about what this is in step 5), abstract, citation, keywords. The record will open up in a separate tab:



Having viewed an individual record, return to the original tab you were on to get back to the search results display:



5. How do I view the original publication for a citation?

Follow the instructions in step 4 and click on the hyperlink for a citation. You should have access to the main fields for that citation, including a digital object identifier (DOI) number (if one is available). A DOI number is the unique web address for an article, document, or other information source (e.g. official government publications, data sets, etc.).

In the main fields page of your citation, if there is a DOI number available, a hyperlink will be provided that you can click on (see red circle below) where you will be taken directly to the publishers website and to the reference:

Distribution pattern and prevalence of West Nile virus infection in Nigeria from 1950 to 2020: a systematic review

Abdullahi, I. N. and Emeribe, A. U. and Ghamba, P. E. and Omosigho, P. O. and Bello, Z. M. and Oderinde, B. S. and Fasogbon, S. A. and Olayemi, L. and Daneji, I. M. and Musa, M. H. and Nwofe, J. O. and Onukegbe, N. B. and Okume, C. C. and Musa, S. and Gwarzo, A. M. and Ajagbe, O. O. R.

Epidemiol Health (2020), 42: e2020071

DOI: 10.4178/epih.e2020071

Abstract

OBJECTIVES: West Nile virus (WNV) is a re-emerging mosquito-borne viral infection. This study investigated the pooled prevalence pattern and risk factors of WNV infection among humans and animals in Nigeria. METHODS: A systematic review was conducted of eligible studies published in PubMed, Scopus, Google Scholar, and Web of Science from January 1, 1950 to August 30, 2020. Peer-reviewed cross-sectional studies describing WNV infections in humans

There are sometimes other non-DOI links available that can be used to access the version which is on the hosting website.

If a DOI number or other link is not available for your citation, we recommend copying the title of the paper and pasting it into a search engine or Google Scholar browser (<https://scholar.google.com>) or similar to locate the resource.

N.B. Please note that the full text of the publication may not be freely available (open access), and you may not be able to read it if you do not subscribe or belong to a library or an institution with access.

If you follow a link to the original publication, use your web browser's back arrow to return to the citation in the VetSRev database, or return to the original tab you were on to get back to the search results display.

6. How does the database perform a search?

When searching, the database software performs a “must include” search by default. This means that the search will return all records where at least one of the main fields contains the exact search characters, not just complete words. So, if the term appears in any of: the title, author list, publication, abstract, keywords (these are words the record is indexed within the PubMed and CAB Abstracts databases that VetSRev searches) fields, the citation will be returned in your search. For example, searching for “septic” will find citations that contain that term in any of the main fields – and will bring back citations that contain septic, septicaemia, septicemia, antiseptic, aseptic and aseptically, but NOT asepsis. Apart from a few exceptions, it would be more beneficial to search for the singular of the term you are wanting (e.g. “horse” rather than “horses”) as this will maximise your search. However, an exception to this is if you are searching for cats as a topic, be sure to search for “cats”, as “cat” will return many records with words that contain those three letters, including the word cattle.

If your search consists of several words, VetSRev will return all records where the searched field precisely contains those words in the same order. For example, if you search “canine osteoarthritis”, the search will return only records containing the exact terms you have used - “canine osteoarthritis”. This means that you do not need to enclose the words with quotation marks, use commas or brackets etc. to force an exact match. It doesn't matter what order

the search terms are in (e.g. “canine osteoarthritis” or “osteoarthritis canine” brings back the same number of citations), however spaces within expressions are important e.g. guineapigs and guinea pigs will bring back different results. As there are often alternative terms in veterinary medicine – for example degenerative joint disease instead of canine osteoarthritis – you may need to search a few terms separately, or search for a specific word, e.g. using the search term “osteoarthritis”.

N.B. If you want to perform a new search of the main fields, you will need to remove the old search term you used by typing over this with your new search term. If you want to return to the list of all citations, remove all search terms from the Filter box and it will return to the full list of citations.

☞7. How do I search for citations on a specific animal species?

Type the species you are interested in into the **Filter box** (see step 3). Almost all the records in the database are indexed with **keywords** (see step 6 for more details). The easiest way is to **use the singular form in your search** for animal species:

dog, cow, horse, pig, chicken, rabbit, fish, amphibian, etc.

As noted earlier, there are exceptions - searching for “cat” rather than “cats” will return many records with words that contain those three letters, including the word “cattle”.

☞8. How do I search for citations on a specific topic?

The **keywords** (see step 6 for a description of what keywords are) included in most of the records are either Medical Subject Heading (MeSH) terms (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/>) for records derived from PubMed, or CAB Thesaurus terms (<http://www.cabi.org/cabthesaurus/>) for records derived from CAB Abstracts.

To maximise retrieval of relevant records, particularly where the topic you are interested in has a number of synonyms, it may help to browse the MeSH and CAB Thesaurus databases (see links above) to identify their standard thesaurus term(s) for use in your search. Using thesaurus terms also allows for differences between UK and US spellings, e.g. “anaesthetics” and “anesthetics”.

For very recent publications from PubMed, keywords may not yet have been added, so you will be searching the title and abstract for specific topics.

☞9. How do I combine search terms?

It is not possible to combine terms within the search box using the Boolean operators AND or OR. By default, VetSRev will search for citations containing all terms typed into the Filter box. For example, if you type in “cats dogs”, only those containing the terms “cats” AND “dogs” within the same citation will be returned (not those that contain just cats, or just dogs).

🔗10. Where can I get further information about using Zotero?

Detailed instructions for using Zotero (not specific to VetSRev) can be found in the online Zotero documentation:

<https://www.zotero.org/support/>

🔗11. How do I cite VetSRev?

Please use the following citation when working with or referencing the VetSRev database:

Veterinary Systematic Review database (2021) VetSRev database (Version 2.0). Available at: <https://vetsrev.nottingham.ac.uk>.

If you have any queries that have not been answered by these resources, please contact us at cevm@nottingham.ac.uk.