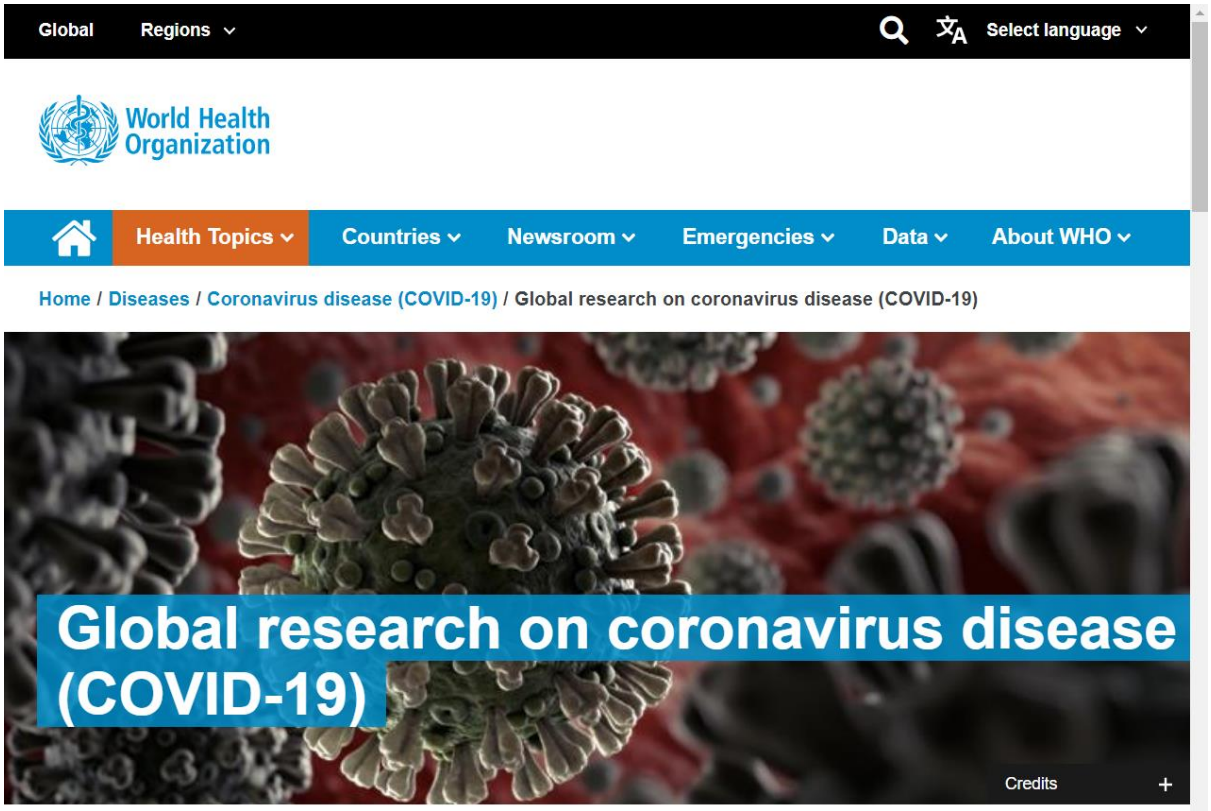
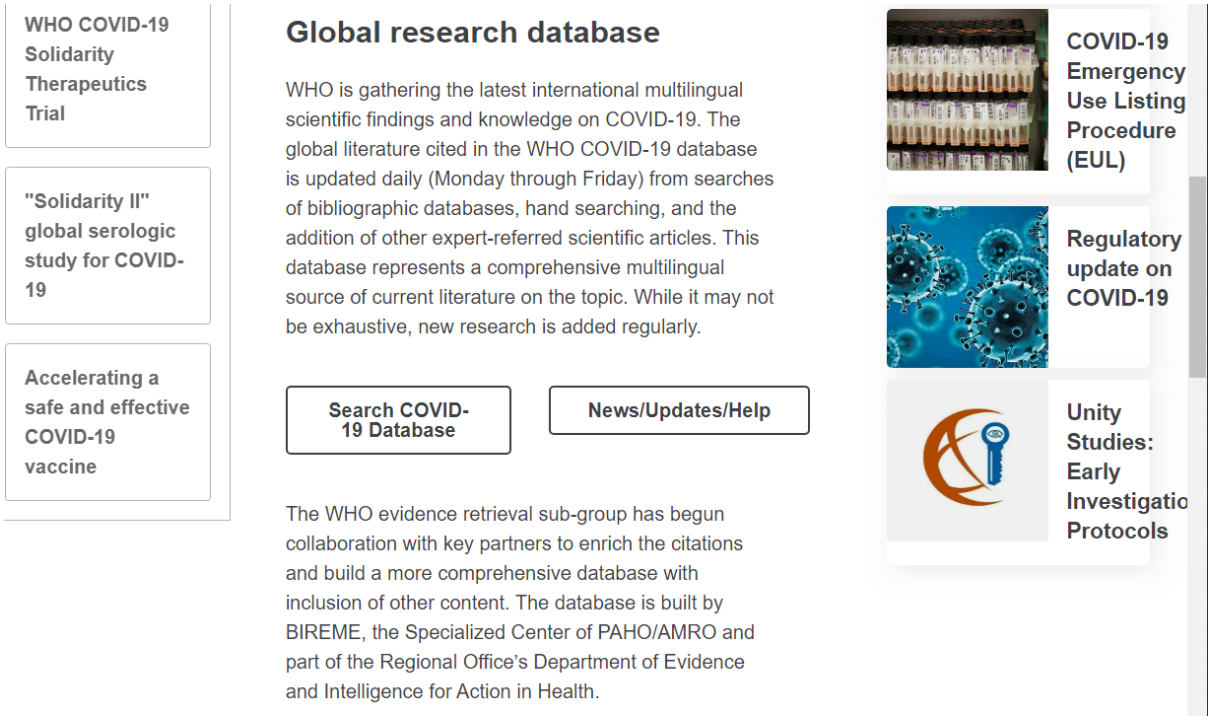
Instructions to Access to the WHO COVID-19 Scholarly Articles Database

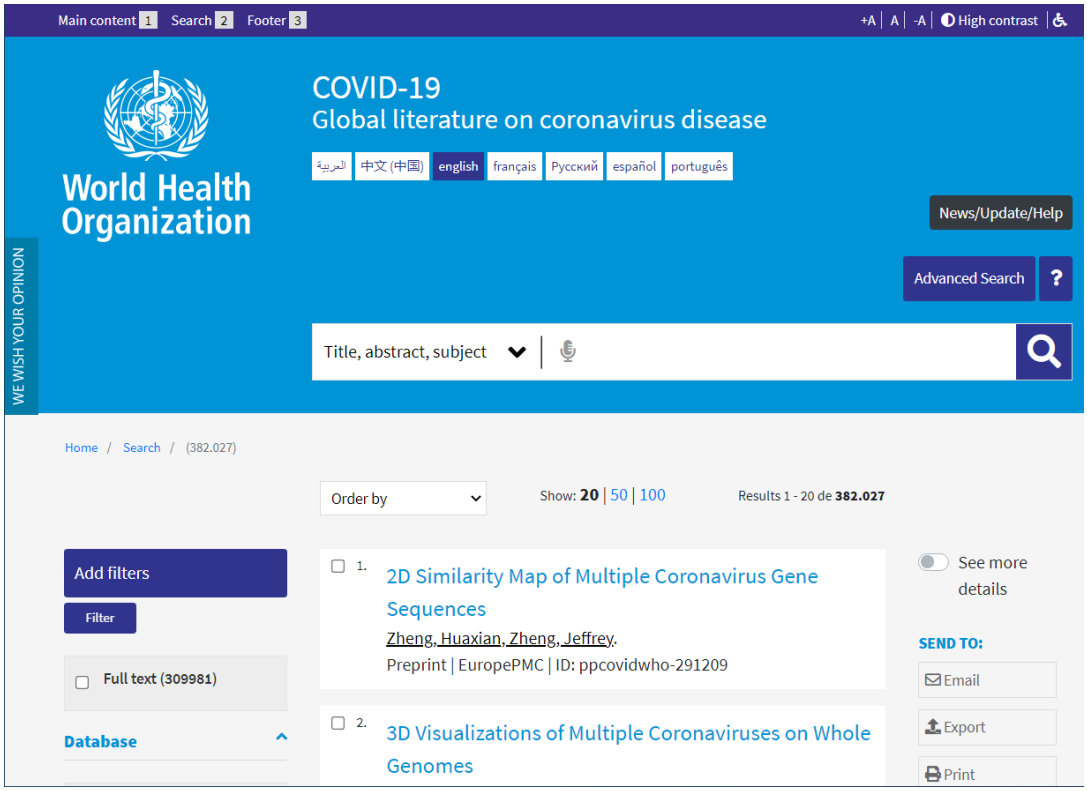
Step 1: Visit the following link: https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/global-research-on-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov



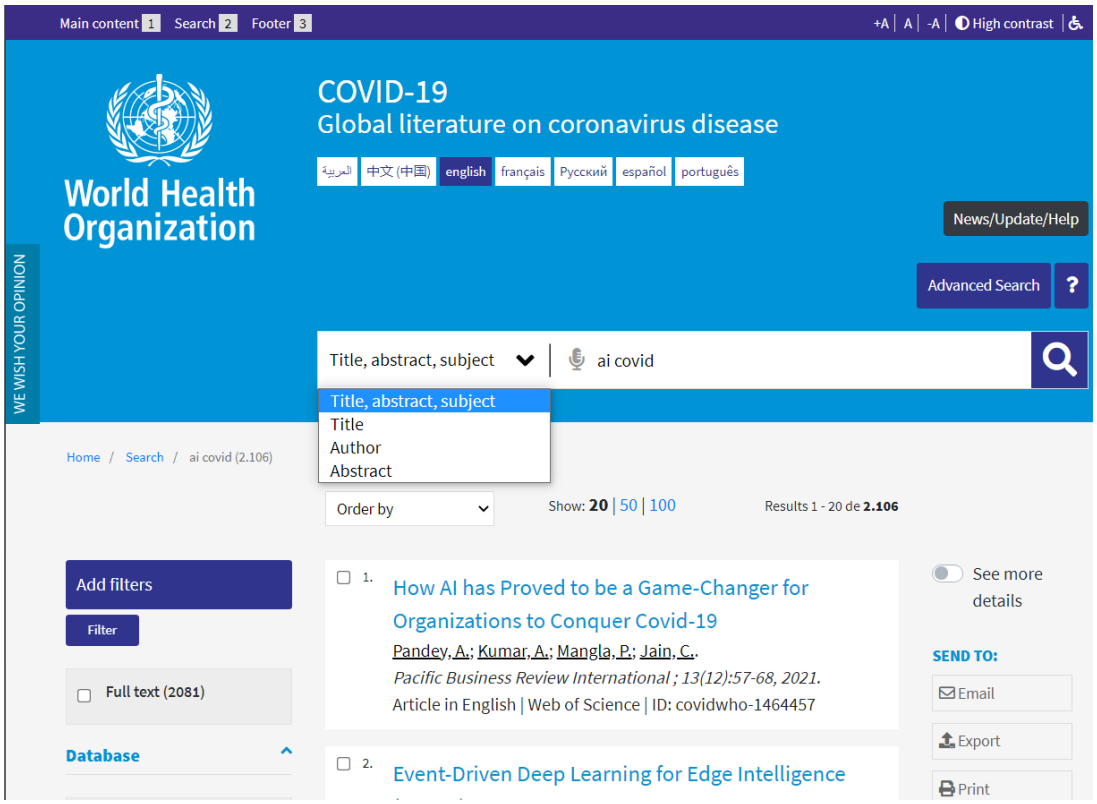
Step 2: Scroll down and hit on the “Search COVID-19 Database” button to enter the database:



Step 3: On the database screen, you have the option to select the language such as English, Chinese, French, Spanish, Russian, Portuguese, etc. It's worth noting that the language selection is just applied to the interface of the database, and it does not mean the searched articles are in such language.

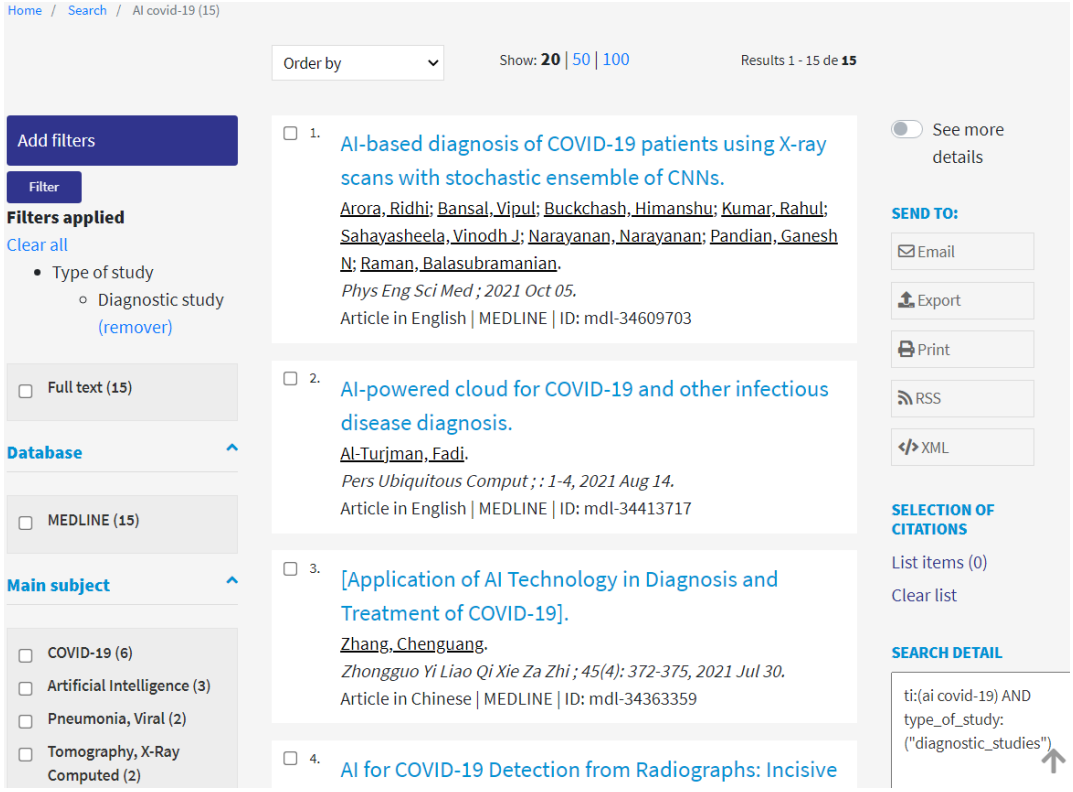


Step 4: You will also have the option to search articles based on "Title, abstract, subject", or just based on "Title", or "Author", or "Abstract" by selecting the Combo Box:



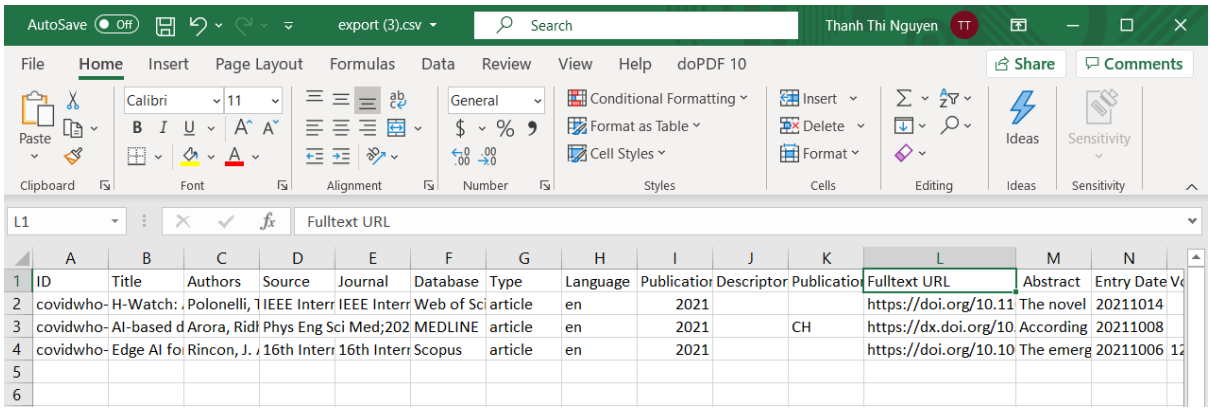
Step 5: For example, I search articles based on the “Title” only, and I am searching for articles relevant to “AI covid-19”, and the results are below. There are 247 articles relevant to the used keywords.

Step 6: If you scroll down, on the left-hand panel, you have the option to filter the articles based on Database (e.g., MEDLINE, Scopus, medRxiv, etc.), or based on Document Type (e.g., Article, Preprint, etc.), or based on Main subject (e.g., COVID-19, Artificial Intelligence, Betacoronavirus, etc.), or based on Type of study (e.g., Prognostic study, Diagnostic study, Risk factors, etc.), and so on. For example, I filter the articles based on the “Type of study” and choose “Diagnostic study”, and hit the “Filter” button. The results are below:



Step 7: You can now select multiple articles you want to investigate by selecting the checkboxes corresponding to them, and then hit the "Export" button on the right panel. For example, I selected 3 articles and now I have the option to select the export format, i.e., either RIS, CSV or Citation:

Step 8: I select the CSV option and hit the "Selected references (3)" button to download the information of the 3 selected articles in a CSV file. Open the CSV file, you can see all the metadata of the articles such as Title, Authors, Source, Publication year, Fulltext URL (i.e., DOI link), Abstract, etc.



Please note that this database does not enable you to download the fulltext of the articles directly, you can only download their metadata and fulltext URL links (i.e., the DOI links), which will allow you to download fulltext pdf files manually.

This database is very much similar to the Google Scholar database, but its advantages are that this database contains only articles related to the COVID-19 pandemic, so the search space will be smaller and thus the search is much more efficient. More significantly, it also allows you to filter the articles based on many specific COVID-19 criteria such as "Main subject" (e.g., Pharmacology, Diagnostic Imaging, Quarantine, etc.), or "Type of study" (e.g., Prognostic study, Diagnostic study, Risk factors, etc.), or "Clinical aspect" (e.g., Prognosis, Diagnosis, Etiology, Prediction, Therapy), and so on.