QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE: UPDATING SEARCHES

**Index Date**

The search field Index Date* allows you to search records that have been added to FSTA within a specified date range.

Adding Index Date to your search lets you see the new literature added to FSTA since the last time you ran it. Use it to update a systematic review or any other comprehensive search.

Why use Index Date rather than Publication Date?

- Index Date searches when the record was added to FSTA. **Publication Date** searches by the publication date on the article. These dates do not always align.

  - It is a peculiarity of publishing that articles are frequently released months before their stated publication date. When this happens, the articles are indexed (added to the database) **earlier** than their publication date.

  - Sometimes articles are added to the database **later** than their stated publication date. This can happen when a new journal title is added to FSTA** and its back issues are indexed along with the most current articles. It also happens when a publisher releases material after the publication date.

* Index Date is available on the new, but not the old, Web of Science platform

** Or any other database