

Encyclopedia of Life Sciences - ELS

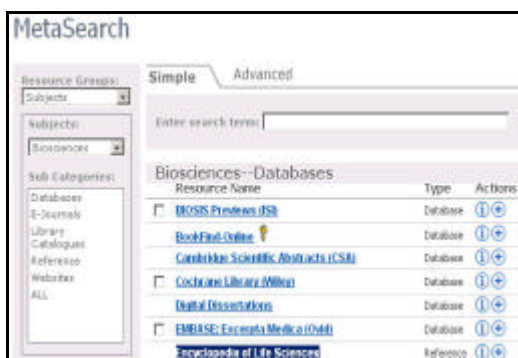
ELS is a major reference work for the biological and life sciences. It includes around 4000 peer-reviewed articles by leading scientists. Core subjects include Biochemistry, Cell Biology, Clinical Medicine, Developmental Biology, Diversity of Life, Ecology, Evolution, Genetics, Immunology, Microbiology, Molecular Biology, Neuroscience and Plant Science. ELS also incorporates the text of the prestigious Encyclopedia of the Human Genome.

Getting Started

To access the service on campus, type <http://metalib.cf.ac.uk/> in your web browser and enter your Cardiff University (CU) Login (username and password).

With the **MetaSearch** tab selected, choose **Biosciences** from the Subjects menu and **Databases** from the Sub Categories.

Click on **Encyclopedia of Life Sciences** under Resource Name.



ELS is an encyclopedia and provides overviews of topics. It will not give access to detailed research material. You must use a bibliographic database such as BIOSIS for this.

Searching

The most basic way to search is to enter your term(s) into the **Search this Title** box in the right-hand panel of the screen then click on **Go**. This is available on every page of *ELS*. However, more flexibility is offered by **Advanced Product Search**. (You will find the link below the **Search this Title** box). Scroll down the Advanced Search screen and enter your term(s) into the **Search for**

box. *ELS* automatically combines terms so there is no need to use **and** to separate them; for example a search for articles on echolocation in bats would be entered as :



If using multiple search terms, you may link them with **OR** to perform a broad search e.g. **bats OR owls** or use **NOT** to exclude unwanted terms: **bats NOT owls**. Click on the **Search** button and you will then be taken to the **Search Results** page.

Limiting a search

Advanced Search provides various limit categories which can help focus a search. You will find these below the search box.

Search within: these options enable you to search particular fields. The most useful are:

- **Full Text:** this is the default and searches the entire text of *ELS* for every mention of your chosen term/s.
- **Article Title:** this is the most specific search and finds articles which include your search term/s within the article title. You may also enter names as *ELS* includes a number of good biographical entries, e.g. *McCullum, Elmer Verner*
- **Author:** this enables you to find articles by particular authors. Enter the surname only in the box e.g. *BeMiller*
- **Keywords** these are the subject terms used to index the articles. If you find a particularly useful article, it is worth

checking out the keywords (listed below the abstract) and using these to perform a similar search.

- **Figures:** this allows you to locate illustrations from articles within the database. Enter a keyword, e.g. *lung* and *ELS* will retrieve articles containing appropriate diagrams, photographs or illustrations.

Article Type: articles in the ELS are divided into **Standard** and **Keynote** categories. **Standard** articles make up the main content and are classified by special icons:

- ◆ Introductory articles aimed at undergraduates and general readers
- ◆◆ Designated as intermediate level articles
- ◆◆◆ Aimed at postgraduates and researchers

Keynote articles are written from a personal viewpoint and cover special or controversial topics. You may check the option in order to limit a search to these or exclude them by checking the **Standard** article category.

Alternatively, leave the default **All article types** selected.

Topic: this limit can be useful to help focus your results in a particular area of study. For example if you are interested in *osmosis* but only in relation to plants, check the **Plant Science** option in order to retrieve a set of results drawn from this category only. Alternatively, you may leave the default **All topics** option checked.

Wildcards

Search terms may be truncated at the 'stem' using the asterisk symbol (*), e.g. **cell*** would find *cell*, *cells*, *cellular*

Browse options

To browse the encyclopedia, click on one of the **Browse this Title** options in the right-hand panel. To browse by **Article Title A-Z**, click a letter to move to the relevant section of the alphabet or click on **Topics** which allows you to browse within the 15 core subject areas or hierarchies. Click on the folder to the left of the subject term to narrow

your focus by moving down the subject hierarchy. You may do this until you reach the end of a hierarchy or find an appropriate article.

Viewing articles

The titles of retrieved articles will be displayed on the **Search results** page. You can sort these by date or article title by clicking on the appropriate option in the *article information* bar at the top of the screen. For each article in the listing, you will find links to the Abstract and the HTML and PDF versions of the full text. The HTML version provides a useful clickable contents listing enabling you to go directly to the section of the article you require. However, it will be more convenient to opt for the PDF format if you wish to print the article (see below).

Printing

PDF format allows you to print in the layout in which you would find the article in published form, rather than as a direct print of the web page. When the article has finished downloading, click on the print button within the PDF browser.

Leaving ELS

Click on **X** in the top right hand corner of the screen.

*For further information or assistance contact the Science Library
Tel: 029 2087 4085
Email: SciLiby@Cardiff.ac.uk*

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