

Cambridge Scientific Abstracts for the Natural Sciences

Cambridge Scientific Abstracts (CSA) provide access to a collection of 11 databases in the natural sciences. These may be searched individually or simultaneously. Subject areas covered include biology, bioengineering, biotechnology, medicine and toxicology. The databases provide bibliographic records, abstracts and in many cases links to full text documents. They are updated on a weekly, monthly or bimonthly basis.

Getting started

You will need an **Athens** username and password. You may obtain one of these from any Cardiff University library.

Enter the URL **www.csa.com** into your browser. Click on the **Athens Login** link on the left-hand side of the screen. Enter your Athens username and password and click on **Login**.

The databases

ASFA: Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts. Coverage of journals, books, reports, proceedings in the field of aquatic resources. Coverage: 1971-.

Biological Sciences. Indexes over 6000 journals in subject areas including biomedicine, biotechnology, zoology and ecology. Also indexes conference proceedings, reports and selected books. Coverage: 1982-.

Biology Digest. A collection of abstracts to international literature in the life sciences aimed at undergraduate level. Coverage: 1989-.

BioOne Abstracts and Indexes. A fully-searchable collection of abstracts that link to the full text articles available from the BioOne organization. BioOne provides a collection of over 65 high-impact bioscience research journals produced by societies and non-commercial publishers. Coverage: 1998-.

Biotechnology and Bioengineering Abstracts.

Provides bibliographic coverage of research, applications, regulatory developments and new patents in biotechnology and bioengineering. Coverage: 1982-.

Conference Papers Index. Index to papers presented at major international scientific meetings in the life sciences, environmental sciences and the aquatic sciences. Coverage: 1982-.

Environmental Sciences and Pollution Mgmt.

A multidisciplinary database providing comprehensive coverage of the environmental sciences. Coverage: 1967-.

MEDLINE. Produced by the U.S. National Library of Medicine, Medline provides international coverage of biomedical literature with citations from around 4,600 journals. Coverage: 1994-.

For more comprehensive coverage use the *PubMed* version at www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/PubMed/

Oceanic Abstracts. Comprehensive coverage of worldwide technical literature relating to the marine and brackish-water environment. Coverage: 1981-.

TOXLINE. Produced by the U.S. National Library of Medicine. Covers all aspects of toxicology including pharmaceuticals. Coverage: 5 year "rolling database" currently 1999-.

Water Resources Abstracts. Indexes journals, books, conference proceedings, and technical reports on a vast range of water-related topics. Coverage: 1967-.

Selecting databases

In the **Subject Area** box select **Natural Sciences**. Select the database(s) you need before searching by clicking on **Specific Databases** and checking the tick boxes for those you require. For information on each database, click on ? to the left of the database name. You may select several databases simultaneously if you wish.



Select the Database(s) you would like to search.

[Continue to Search](#)

- ? + ASFA: Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts
Aquatic science, aquatic organisms, fisheries, oceanography
- ? + Biological Sciences
Biomedicine, biotechnology, zoology and ecology
- ? Biology Digest
Life sciences, evolution, genetics, behavioral science
- ? BioOne Abstracts and Indexes
Biological, ecological and environmental sciences
- ? + Biotechnology and Bioengineering Abstracts
Biochemical applications, genetic engineering, gene therapy, and cybernetics
- ? Conference Papers Index
Life sciences, environmental sciences, aquatic sciences

For the *Biological Sciences* database you can search specific parts of the database (subfiles). To do this, click on **+** to the left of the title to display the options. Select as many of these as you wish. When you have made your selection click on **Continue to Search**.

Searching CSA

- Use **Quick search** for simple searches only
- Use **Advanced Search** for more complex enquiries using multiple terms
- Use **Search tools** for high precision searching

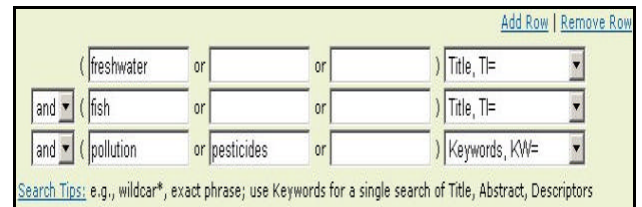
Quick Search

Enter your search term(s) in the box in the centre of the screen. You may limit your search by selecting an option from the **Date Range** pull-down list. Then click on **Search**.

Advanced Search

This is useful when your search involves several search terms or if you need to combine them

using different search fields. Enter your terms in the boxes provided. Enter alternative, related or synonymous terms in the adjacent additional boxes e.g. *pollution* or *pesticides*. See below. Use the drop-down lists to the right of the last box on each line to specify the fields in which your words or phrases should appear.



Search Tips: e.g., wildcard*, exact phrase; use Keywords for a single search of Title, Abstract, Descriptors

Which search fields?

Useful *Advanced Search* field options include:

- **Keyword.** Use this for subject searching. This option will find your search terms anywhere within a record, for example in the title, abstract, journal title or descriptors (i.e. subject index terms)
- **Title.** This can help make your search more relevant by retrieving only items in which your required terms appear within the title as opposed to other parts of the record
- **Journal name.** Use this to retrieve articles from a specific journal. You will need to enter the journal title in the adjacent search box

Choose a date range if required then set limits e.g. *Journal Articles Only*. You may specify a display format and the number of records to be displayed per page. Click on **Search**.

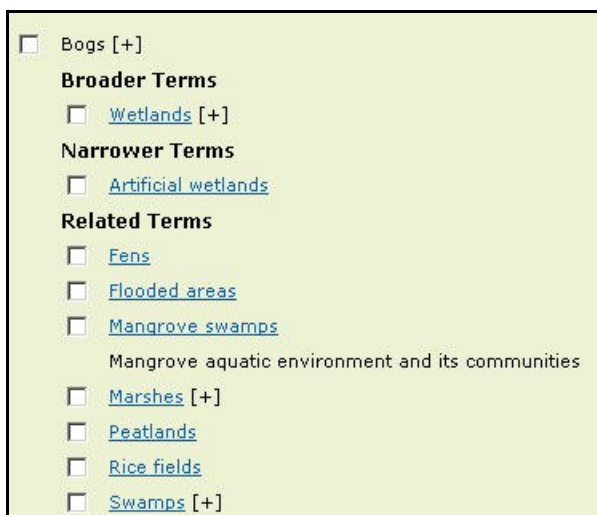
Search Tools:

The most useful options include:

- **Combine Searches.** This allows you to combine two or more of searches. Identify the appropriate search numbers from the Search History displayed in the lower part of the screen. Enter the set numbers in the query box prefixed by # and linked by the appropriate operator (AND, OR). E.g. #2 AND #3, #2 OR #3.
- **Command Search.** This option for the advanced searcher allows you to enter a

complete search strategy by typing in field codes or inserting them from the pull down menu below the search box. E.g.
 TI=(freshwater AND fish) AND KW=(pollution OR pesticides). Limits are available below the search query box.

- **Thesaurus.** The thesaurus search helps to accurately define your search by finding broader, narrower and related terms from the index. Firstly, select an appropriate thesaurus from the pull down menu at the top of the screen e.g. *Life Sciences Thesaurus (English)*. Enter your term in the query box and click on the **Go** button. Next choose a display option: *Alphabetical Index, Hierarchy* or *Rotated Index*. The most useful option is probably *Hierarchy*. This gives you a list of broader, narrower and related terms. E.g. a search on *bogs* displays as follows:



To search on any of these new terms, check the box to the left and click the **Search** button. If more than one term is selected, check **AND** or **OR** in the left-hand panel to combine them in the most appropriate way, or check *Explode* to include all narrower terms.

Search hints

Use the truncation symbol * to find all permutations of a search term. For example, *pathogen** will retrieve *pathogen, pathogens, pathogenic, pathogenesis* or *pathogenetic*. Use the wildcard symbol ? to replace a single

character within a term. For example, *wom?n* will retrieve references to *women* and *woman*.

To broaden a search

- Use the **OR** operator to link synonymous or related terms e.g. *cancer OR neoplasm* will retrieve records containing either of these terms. When using *Advanced Search* simply enter your additional terms in the adjacent search boxes. When using *Quick Search* you need to type in **OR** e.g. *leech OR bloodsucker*
- Use the *Thesaurus* to find a broader, less specific search term. Consider using the **Explode** option in the left-hand panel to search for the term and all its narrower terms.

To narrow a search

- Use the **AND** operator to combine search terms e.g. *global warming AND El Nino* will retrieve only records which include both terms.
- Use the **NOT** operator to exclude unwanted terms e.g. *pollution NOT atmospheric*
- You can narrow your search by using some of the available limit options and / or by specifying a date range e.g. 2000 to 2004.
- Use the *Thesaurus* to identify narrower, more specific search terms.

Viewing your search results

The number of retrieved items will be displayed towards the top of the results screen. Firstly, the number of items for *All Publication Types*, then tabs for specific types, including *Journals, Peer-Reviewed Journals, Conferences* and *Web Sites*, with a **More>** tab to other subsets. Each record shows a full reference, with the author's name in hyperlinked text and the database name to the right. To see the full record including abstract click the title or **View Record**.

Viewing the full text (if available)

There are two options:

- Click on **Full-Text Linking** below the reference on the results display screen. In some cases this will take you direct to the

provider and article you require. In other cases, you will be given a link to the provider e.g. Elsevier Science Direct. Click on this link to access the full text.

- **Links to Holdings** will open up a new frame containing details of the publication in which an article appears. Several search options appear on the left hand side of the window but it is best to leave the default field as ISSN when wishing to access articles. (It is not recommended that you use the *Links to Holdings* options to trace books.) Clicking on **Search** will carry out a Voyager search. If Cardiff University subscribes to the publication you will be taken directly to the Voyager record. If internet links are provided you can navigate to the full text in the usual way.

Saving and emailing your results

Mark selected records by clicking in the box to the left of each title. Then, click on **Update Marked List** towards the top of the display. To recall your marked records click on the **Marked Records** link to the right of the main search tabs. This displays a list of all the records you have marked. To output results, click on **Save/Print/Email Records** at the top of the list. You will be given the option of sending your records to your email account or saving to file.

To email your results, choose an output format from the drop down list e.g. Short format, Full format, and enter your email address in the **To** box. Click on the **Email** button.

To save your results, check the appropriate file format option and click on **Save**. Click on **Save** at the bottom of the File Download box. Select a drive (**A** for floppy, **H** for your network file space). Change the default file name to something meaningful and ensure that it has a *.txt* extension so that it may be opened in any word processing package. Click on **Save**.

Saving searches

You may save a search strategy in order to run it again at a future date. Click **Search History** near the top of the screen. Click on **Save** adjacent to the search strategy you wish to save. You will be

prompted to enter your email address and a password of your choice (you could use your Athens password). Using this option will not save your results, only the search strategy used.

To view saved searches on subsequent visits, click **Search History** then click **Saved Searches**. Enter your email address and personal password, then click on **Continue**. Your search strategies are displayed in reverse chronological order. Click on **Run Search** to perform a search.

Search Alerts

The **Search Alert** facility acts as a current awareness service keeping you up to date by emailing details of relevant material recently added to the database(s). To set up an alert, click on **Search History**. The search strategies used during your current session will display. Click on **Save as Alert** adjacent to the strategy of your choice. Select any limits from the available options and select the databases from which you are interested in receiving alerts. Enter your email address and password. Click on **Save as Alert**. Each week, your search strategy will be used to search the specified databases. You will be notified via email when new references matching your criteria are found.

Using CSA to search the Web

CSA automatically searches the *Natural Sciences* database when you run a search. This includes 150,000+ references to web sites selected by CSA editors. They are therefore likely to be unbiased and of high quality. The number of references retrieved will be listed at the top of the results panel. To view, click on the number to the right of *Web sources*. Each record includes a link to the website.

Leaving CSA

Click on **Logout** in the top-left of the screen.

For further information or assistance contact the Science Library

Tel: 029 2087 4085

Email: ScLiby@Cardiff.ac.uk

SCI-017-Q-Original Document-1 / July 2005 / NJM