CAB Direct
Improving database searching

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what is CABI?

CABI is a not-for-profit science-based development and information organization
CABI’s mission:
Improve people’s lives worldwide by providing information and applying scientific expertise to solve problems in agriculture and the environment
CAB Abstracts
Subject coverage and content

- Dedicated to applied life science
  - over 7.8 million records
  - includes key grey literature
  - regular weekly updates

- Content selections by subject experts
  - open journals list
  - increased discoverability

- Full text selection
  - Over 266,000 full text records
Subject Coverage (Forestry)

- Ornamental & Amenity trees
- Forest & Diseases
- Silviculture & Forest Management
- Forest Products & Industries
- Wood properties, damage & preservation
- Agroforestry & multipurpose trees

Records (000's) vs Full text (000's)
Subject Coverage (Environmental Sciences)
Subject Coverage (Aquatic Sciences)

- Aquatic Biology & Ecology: 180,000 records
- Fisheries: 100,000 records
- Aquaculture (Animals): 120,000 records
- Aquaculture (Plants): 10,000 records

Records (000's)

Aquaculture (Plants)
Content updates

Database Content types

- Journals: 83%
- Conferences: 9%
- Grey literature (incl. reports): 4%
- Books and book chapters: 2%
- Other (theses/bulletins/editorials) 2%

Figure 1 showing the number of serials covered by three key life science databases, and the overlap within these. The complete list of serials covered by CAB Abstracts can be found at www.cabi.org/cababstracts
CAB Abstracts
Geographical coverage

- 8,700 international serials
- from over 119 countries
- covering 50 languages
- Translation for foreign abstracts

Europe 46%
North America 20%
Middle East 3%
Indian subcontinent 9%
Far East 8%
What is a bibliographic database?

- Bibliographic records
- Metadata indexes to aid retrieval

The value of A&I

- Time saving tool
- Reliable peer-reviewed sources
- Links to full-text for extensive reference
Literature review process
Deciding on an approach

1. Identify relevant sources and document types
2. Choose your search strategy
   - Systematic
   - Retrospective
   - Citation based
   - Targeted
3. Plan/create search statements
4. Evaluate record and searches conducted
Plan/create search statements
Two useful methods

1. Mind maps
   • Use CAB Thesaurus to map related words

2. Citation pearl growing
   • Use keywords from highly relevant paper
Database searching
Multi-term searching operators

**AND**

*e.g. Soil AND climate change*

Retrieves only records that contain all the terms chosen

**OR**

*e.g. Climate change OR global warming*

Retrieves only records that contain any of the terms chosen

**NOT**

*e.g. Ash NOT fire*

Retrieves only records that include keyword terms and exclude certain terms
Database searching
Useful search symbols

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;     &quot;</td>
<td>Phrase search</td>
<td>“Climate change”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(     )</td>
<td>Orders the search</td>
<td>Climate AND (floods OR rainfall)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>?</td>
<td>Individual character replacement</td>
<td>Anly?e search analyze and analyse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*</td>
<td>Automatic truncation</td>
<td>Hous* searches house, houses, housing etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Gateway to the world's applied life sciences

CAB Direct is the most thorough and extensive source of reference in the applied life sciences, incorporating the leading bibliographic databases CAB Abstracts and Global Health. CAB Direct provides a convenient, single point of access to all of your CABI database subscriptions.

Search

enter search terms

Inform

In 2010 CABI celebrated 100 years of publishing expertise in the applied life sciences. Behind CAB Direct sits an exceptional team of experts, working hard to keep up-to-date on the latest research, and ensuring even the most hard-to-find material makes its way onto our database. Our technology partners Semanticco and our product development and IT teams are passionate about information delivery. We like to ensure that our information is as accessible as possible, on platforms that are easy and interesting to use and we are continually improving CAB Direct in response to customer feedback.

- Hand picked and carefully sorted (CABI Blog)

Featured

In addition to our database CABI produces a number of unique resources, take a look:

- Online Resources
CAB Direct
Searching operators

Soil pH ____ climate change ____ global warming

“Soil pH” ______ (“climate change” OR “global warming”)
Combining searches
Simplifying Boolean searching

Build your searches in a step process

● Perform related words/synonym searches

● Combine concepts with AND

● Reject concepts with NOT
CABICODES

- Subject codes that return all relevant records on specific topic
- Search either alphanumerical code or subject title

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Heading title</th>
<th>CABICODE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forestry, Forest Products and Agroforestry</td>
<td>KK000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forests and Forest Trees (Biology &amp; Ecology)</td>
<td>KK100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silviculture and Forest Management</td>
<td>KK110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Mensuration and Management</td>
<td>KK120</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forest Fires</td>
<td>KK130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ornamental and Amenity Trees</td>
<td>KK160</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CABI metadata fields

- Indexed using CAB Thesaurus (controlled vocabulary)
- Search all using the subject term field

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metadata field</th>
<th>Field tag</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organism descriptor</td>
<td>OD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geographic location</td>
<td>GL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Descriptors</td>
<td>DU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broader terms</td>
<td>BT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identifiers</td>
<td>ID</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Optimising searching
In summary

Basic search
- Free text index search
- General concepts
- Multiterm synonyms

Advanced search
- Narrow concepts
- Field searching
- Metadata/controlled vocab
- Limiters

Large result sets

Concise result sets

High recall

High precision
thank you

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