



ELECTRONIC GUIDE

BIOSIS Previews

How to Search BIOSIS Previews

Time Period:	1969 to present
Types of Literature:	International journal literature (research articles, reviews, etc), meetings, conferences and symposia, and U.S. patents in the life sciences
Scope:	General biology, botany, molecular biology, zoology, microbiology, ecology and evolution. Multidisciplinary overlap includes experimental, clinical and veterinary medicine, biotechnology and genetics, agriculture and nutrition, biochemistry, pharmacology and public health.

To Begin

<http://www.lib.uconn.edu> → UConn Libraries homepage → All Databases → BIOSIS Previews

To Combine Search Terms

- Use Boolean operators **and**, **or**, **not**, **near** and **with**

Examples: bacteria **or** microorganisms
microscopy **and** bioassay
turtles **not** migratory
Storrs **near** CT
prey **with** predator

includes **either** term
includes **both** terms
includes first term **but not** second term
includes terms in **same sentence, any order**
includes terms in **same fields, any order**

- Use **truncation** to include multiple word endings:

* adds any number of letters onto root word **hypothe*** retrieves **hypothesis, hypotheses, hypothetical**, etc.

? adds up to 1 letter onto a root word **genetic?** Retrieves **genetic** or **genetics**

Previous searches appear in the **Search History** box and can be linked to each other or to a current search by including the set number: **#2 and cell lines**

To Limit a Search

To limit by **document type**, **language** or **publication year**, click **Index**.
Select field to limit from the **Index**: drop-down menu.

Note: For **publication year**,
Type year or range of years in **Term**: box.
Click **Go to Term**.

Check terms from the displayed list. Click **Search Checked Terms**.

To combine search results with initial search, click **Back to Search**.

At the search screen check numbered boxes. Example: #2

Click **Combine Checked**.

To view search results, click **Display**.

To Mark Records

Check box to left of each desired citation.
Click **Show Marked Records** on the right side of the screen.

To Print Records

Click **Print** at the top of the screen. (**DO NOT** use the WWW browser print icon.)
Select which records to print and which fields to include.
Click **Print Records**.

To Download Records

Click **Save** at the top of the screen. Select which records to save and which fields to include.
In the **File Name** box type: **a:filename.txt** (Filename is the name of your file.) Click **Save**.

Advanced Searching

BIOSIS Previews offers a complex array of advanced searching capabilities. Some are common to most SilverPlatter databases and some are unique to *BIOSIS Previews*.

Author Search

Click **Index**: Choose **General Index** from the **Field** drop-down menu.

Type author's name in **Term**: entry box.

Click **Go To Term**.

An alphabetical listing of author names is displayed, starting with the name entered.

The number in parentheses after the name is number of records where author name appears.

To select click desired name.

To see records, at next screen click **Next**.

NOTE: First and middle names can be initials or spelled out. Use **truncation** [*] to get greater results.

Example: Robbins Robert G or Robbins RG or Robbins R*

Be sure to look under all possible variations of a name.

Many authors publish under more than one variation.

Searching by Specific Fields

Any field of a record can be searched using its two letter code.

[To locate a list of codes, click **Database Information**. Fields in *BIOSIS Previews* displays.]

BIOSIS Previews has many specialized fields that can target a search and make it more relevant.

Type the word or phrase to be searched, linked by "in" to the code for the intended field.

Examples: **invasive species** in **TI** searches for the phrase "**invasive species**" in **Title** Field
Hepatitis C in **DS** searches for the phrase "**Hepatitis C**" in **Disease** Field

General Subject Searching

- **Title field (TI)** Used to include terms in titles. Consistent through whole time period.
- Major change in 1993, many field names and relationships change at that date.
- Prior to 1993:
 - For any subject terms, use **Descriptor field (DE)**. Includes all subject areas except formal broad taxonomic names. Use Biosystematic Codes for those (see below). Use **DE** field for specific organism names.
 - For general topics, a list of formal controlled subject terms, called **Concept Codes (CC)**, can be searched by five digit number or by word. Searchable in thesaurus. Example: **vitamins in CC**
- After 1993:
 - For any subject terms, use **Subject Terms (TS)**. Includes all subject areas including the descriptor field, specialized field searching AND all taxonomic names.
 - Broad subject areas can be searched using the **Major Concepts (MC)** field, a list of formal controlled subject terms searchable in the thesaurus.

Taxonomic Searching

- Controlled vocabulary for broad taxonomic terms. Use only for very broad groups
 - **Super Taxa (ST)** Information on Latin or Scientific taxonomic terms for organism groups. Introduced 1993.
Example: **Chordata or mammalia**
 - **Taxa Notes (TN)** Information on the common or vernacular names of broad groups of organisms. Introduced 1993. Example: **Chordates or mammals**
 - **Biosystematic Codes (BC)** Five digit codes and names for over 700 taxonomic categories used to index organisms. Use prior to 1993. Covered by Super Taxa now. Example: BC06100 or Spirochetes
- Natural language for specific organism names, taken from source documents.
 - **Organism (OR)** Information on specific organisms (genus and species), both taxonomic and common names. **Use synonyms whenever possible.** Introduced 1993.
Example: **Trachemys-scripta or slider-turtle**
 - Search for **new taxa** in **OR** field. Link taxonomic name to “new genus” phrase. Introduced 1993.
Example: **(diptera NEAR new genus) in OR**
 - Search for **fossil species** in **OR** field. Link taxonomic name to “paleobotany” or “paleozoology.” Introduced 1993.
Example: **(coniferopsida NEAR paleobotany) in OR**

Specific field searching

Target searches by using specific subject fields.

- **Parts, Structures and Systems (PS)** Information about body parts and components of an organism. Introduced 1998.
Example: **yolk or reproductive system**
- **Methods and Equipment (MQ)** Information about methods, apparatus or scientific techniques. Introduced 1998.
Example: **mechanical ventilation or magnetic resonance imaging**
- **Diseases (DS)** Information about diseases, disorders and pathologies of humans, plants and animals. Introduced 1998.
Example: **downy mildew or salmonellosis (to use MESH headings use ALT instead, for “alternative indexing”)**
- **Geopolitical Location (GE)** Information about countries, continents, and zoogeographical regions. Introduced 1993.
Example: **Costa Rica or nearctic region**
- **Chemicals and Biochemicals (CS)** Information by chemical names and drug names (trade or generic). Introduced 1993.
Example: **antiviral drugs or ribavirin**
- **CAS Registry Number (CN)** Chemical Abstracts numbers can be used to identify specific substances. Introduced 1993.
Example: **36791-04-5** Use the hyphens.
- **Sequence Data (SD)** Information on database accession numbers or other sequence information (includes amino acid, nucleotide and sugar sequences). Introduced 1993.
Example: **AF241241 or GenBank or amino-acid-sequence**
- **Time (TM)** Information on archaeological, climatic, historic or geologic time periods. Introduced 1993.
Example: **18th century or Ordovician**
- **Named Persons (NP)** Information on people discussed in source document. Introduced 1998.
Example: **Gregor Mendel or Charles Darwin**
- **Industry Name (IN)** Information on types of industry. Introduced 1993.
Example: **biotechnology industry**
- **Institutions & Organizations (NC)** Information on named companies discussed in source document. Introduced 1998.
Example: **Monsanto or Dow Chemical**

Search Strategies:

Maximum Retrieval:

(population studies and (megaptera novaeangliae or humpback whale*) and north pacific) in TS, TI (SINCE 1993)

Maximum Relevancy:

population studies in MC and (megaptera novaeangliae or humpback whale*) in OR and north pacific in GE

PRIOR TO 1993:

(population studies and north pacific and (humpback whale* or megaptera novaeangliae)) in TI, DE and 62800 in CC
[animal distribution]

Help

Click **Help** at the screen's top right.

Note: this brings up a generic help screen for all SilverPlatter Products.

For much more detailed help specific to *BIOSIS Previews*, select **Guides** at the top of the **Help** screen.

Field Availability for Subject and Organism Searching

1969-1992	1993-1997	1997-present
Title	Title	Title
Descriptor/Keywords	Subject Terms	Subject Terms
Concept Codes	Major Concepts	Major Concepts
Biosystematic Codes	Organism Names	Organism Names
	Super Taxa	Super Taxa
	Taxa Notes	Taxa Notes
	Registry Numbers	Registry Numbers
	Chemicals & Biochemicals	Chemicals & Biochemicals
	Sequence Data	Sequence Data
	Time	Time
	Industry Name	Industry Name
	Geopolitical Location	Geopolitical Location
		Methods & Equipment
		Diseases
		Parts, Structures & Systems
		Institutions & Organizations
		Named Person