

SilverPlatter Databases

AGRICOLA

Subject Comprehensive source of bibliographic citations covering U.S. agricultural and life sciences information, including journal articles, monographs, theses, patents, software, audio-visual materials and technical reports. Compiled by the U.S. National Agricultural Library

Coverage: 1970—

AGRIS

Subject AGRIS, the International System for the Agricultural Sciences and Technology, is an international bibliographic database. The database contains the collections from the participating national, intergovernmental or international centers which they submit on a regular basis for publishing to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Rome, Italy.

Coverage 1975—

BIOSIS (Biological Abstracts)

Subject Worldwide journal citations with abstracts for the life sciences, including agriculture, biochemistry, biotechnology, ecology, immunology, microbiology, neuroscience, pharmacology, public health, and toxicology.

Coverage 1969—

CAB Abstracts (Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau)

Subject Covers the subject of agriculture in the broadest sense. It includes: agronomy, biotechnology, crop protection, dairy science, economics, environmental degradation and remediation, forestry, genetics, herbicides, irrigation, leisure, recreation and tourism, microbiology, nutrition, parasitology, rural development, veterinary medicine, and much more.

Coverage: 1910—

FIAF International FilmArchive Database

Subject: Contains several databases: the International Index to Film Periodicals, the International Index to Television Periodicals, the List of Periodicals Indexed, the Treasures from the Film Archives, the Bibliography of FIAF Members Publications and the International Directory of Film and TV Documentation Collections. (Note FilmArchive is ONE word.)

Coverage 1972—

Bibliography of FIAF Members Publications

Subject Overview of all the publications of the members of the International Federation of Film Archives (FIAF); updated annually.

Coverage 1966—

International Directory of Film and TV Documentation Collections

Subject Contains detailed entries on over 145 institutions worldwide. The entries indicate contact and access information, as well as thorough descriptions and enumerations of materials collected. Of particular note is the index to manuscript and special collections.

Index to Film Periodicals

Subject Contains more than 260,000 article references from more than 300 periodicals. The database, which cumulates citations from the annual printed volume, offers in-depth coverage of the worlds foremost academic and popular film journals. Every year more than 12,000 new records are added. Each entry consists of a full bibliographic description and comprehensive headings (biographical names, film titles and general subjects). A hierarchically ordered controlled thesaurus, containing more than 20,000 subject terms, is available to aid users.

Coverage 1972—

International Index to Television Periodicals

Subject Includes almost 50,000 article references. Full bibliographic description and headings are given for each entry and a separate thesaurus is offered. From 2000 on the database includes only television related references from film journals and no longer indexing of specific television periodicals.

Coverage 1979—

List of Periodicals Indexed

Subject Provides addresses and other information (including ISSN) on the journals indexed in the two main databases: International Index to Film and TV Periodicals.

Treasures from the Film Archives

Subject Contains unique information about silent film holdings in international film archives. It was conceived as a tool to aid the work of preservation, research and film exchange between archives, and provides filmographic and holdings information on over 35,000 works. Included are silent shorts and features, fiction and non-fiction, from over 90 of the world's major film archives. The database was updated in 2001, 2002 and 2003 through the generous financial support of Saving the Silents, a collaborative project organized by the National Film Preservation Foundation and supported through Save America's Treasures, a partnership of the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

(As of July 2007, some databases such as “Treasures from the Film Archives” and “International Index to Television Periodicals” are not indexed in ORR. To access, type in Silverplatter in ORR and select database after you entered the main interface.)

FSTA (Food Science and Technology Abstracts)

- Subject Contains over 500,000 references with annual updates adding approximately 18,000 references per year. Covers all areas of food science, food technology, and human nutrition, including basic food science, biotechnology, toxicology, packaging, and engineering. Includes journals, reviews, standards, legislation, patents, books, theses, and conference proceedings.
- Coverage 1969—

GeoRef

- Subject American Geological Institute's geoscience database containing over 1.9 million records of North America since 1785, and other areas of the world since 1933. The database is the equivalent of four major reference publications: *Bibliography of North American Geology*, *Bibliography and Index of Geology Exclusive of North America*, *Geophysical Abstracts*, and the *Bibliography and Index of Geology*. Additional items come from special bibliographies produced on request for state surveys or societies, and annual subject and author indexes.
- Coverage 1693—

International Political Science Abstracts

- Subject Bibliographic database that indexes and abstracts articles from periodicals published throughout the world. The abstracts summarize the source articles. Articles in English are abstracted in English; those in other languages are abstracted in French, with all titles translated into English.
- Coverage 1989—

Philosophers Index

- Subject Provides indexing and abstracts from books and journals of philosophy and related fields. It covers the areas of ethics, aesthetics, social philosophy, political philosophy, epistemology, and metaphysic logic as well as material on the philosophy of law, religion, science, history, education, and language.
- Coverage 1940—

Social Work Abstracts

- Subject Produced by the National Association of Social Workers, Inc., this database contains more than 45,000 records from social work and other related journals on topics such as homelessness, AIDS, child and family welfare, aging, substance abuse, legislation, community organization, and more.
- Coverage 1977—

Zoological Record

- Subject Record cover every aspect of zoology, including biochemistry, behavior, ecology evolution, genetics, etc. Over 5000 international serials plus approximately 1,500 non-serial publications are covered, including professional journals, magazines, newsletters, monographs, books, dissertations, and conference proceedings.
- Coverage 1978—

Search Tips

Search Tips

Truncation and Wildcard

Truncation or wildcards can be used anywhere in the search term, except as the first character.

- The truncation symbol (*) substitutes for a string of zero or more characters. For example, **cat*** retrieves *catatonic*, *catatonia*, *category*, etc.
- The wildcard symbol (?) substitutes for one character or none. For example, the search **m?cdonald** retrieves both *mcdonald* and *macdonald*.

Parentheses

Use parentheses to avoid ambiguity in complex search requests. For example, suppose you want to retrieve records that discuss rabies in dogs or rabies in cats:

- If you search for **rabies and (dogs or cats)**, you will retrieve records that discuss *rabies* and either *dogs* or *cats*, which is what you intended.
- If you search for **rabies and dogs or cats**, you will retrieve records that discuss *rabies and dogs*, and records that discuss *cats*, but not necessarily records that discuss *rabies and cats*.

Boolean Operators

ADJ

- **adj** retrieves records with search terms next to each other in a specified order. For example, **dyslexia adj treatments** retrieves records in which the term *dyslexia* immediately precedes the term *treatments*.

AND

- **and** retrieves records with both search terms. For example, **dyslexia and child** retrieves records with both *dyslexia* and *child*.

NEAR

- **near** retrieves records with both search terms in the same sentence; add a number to **near** to specify exactly how close the terms must be. For example, **dyslexia near treatment** retrieves records where *dyslexia* and *treatment* appear in the same sentence (in any order). **Language near2 computer** retrieves records with *language* within two words of *computer* (in any order).

NOT

- **not** retrieves records with first of two search terms, but not the second. For example, **truman not capote** retrieves records with *Truman*, excluding *Capote*.

OR

- **or** retrieves records with either or both search terms. For example, **dyslexia or learning disabilities** retrieves records with either *dyslexia*, *learning disabilities*, or both.

WITH

- **with** retrieves records with both search terms in the same field. For example, **dyslexia with research** retrieves records with both *dyslexia* and *research* in a single field.

Practice Questions

GeoRef 1997—2001

1. Find articles about earthquakes in the Midwest.

2. I'm interested in the effects of glaciers on the Connecticut landscape.

CAB Abstracts and/or Agricola

1. I'm interested in the effect of frost or freezing on fruit.

2. My dad has been using Roundup Ready soybeans for the past five years. Can you help me find more information about them?

3. I am interested in finding out more about where birds breed.

Biological Abstracts (BIOSIS)

1. Can you help me find articles by Lawrence Gould?

Index to Film Periodicals

1. Try finding information about women characters in film.

Solutions to Practice Questions

GeoRef 1997—2006/07

(Note: 3 databases selected out of 7 ranging from 1785-present)

1. Find articles about earthquakes in the Midwest.

First, try to answer this question by typing in (midwest and earthquake*). Look at the full record to examine descriptors (DE). If the descriptors are not displayed, use “Change Display” to select fields to show.

Possible descriptors include:

prediction earthquakes	active-faults	Mississippi-River
tectonics-	Midwest-	Mississippi-River-Basin
seismic	Missouri	fault-zones
seismicity-	New-Madrid-region	faults-
ground-motion		

Narrow or broaden this search by combing “earthquake” with descriptors: (earthquake* or fault*) and (Missouri or New-Madrid* or Mississippi* or Illinois* or Wabash-Valley*) There are many possible ways to approach this question.

2. I’m interested in the effects of glaciers on the Connecticut landscape.

Searching for (glacier* and Connecticut) retrieves 13 records. Notice that some records pick up terms from the “author affiliation” and “degree granting institution” fields, so this will narrow the number of relevant results further..

Note that you could use “New-York”, “Hartford-Basin”, “Long-Island”, “New-England,” etc. to broaden the search, by taking these from the descriptor DE field of the relevant citations: (New-England or New-York or Hartford-Basin or Long-Island or Connecticut) as Descriptor and (glacier*) as Terms anywhere.

CAB Abstracts and Agricola

1. I’m interested in the effect of frost or freezing on fruit.

Agricola (all years)

First, think of terms that can be used for (or in addition to) frost or freezing.

Searching for (frost* or freez* or cold* or winter*) retrieves about 92,736 records. Searching for (fruit*) retrieves around 86,142 records. Tab over to the Search History page. You can combine these two searches by typing in “#1 and #2”; this retrieves around 3838 records.

Take a look at the record descriptors:

freezing	cold-resistance	food-storage
cold-storage	winter-hardiness	frost-protection
air-temperature	cooling	frost-injury
frost-resistance	critical-temperature	cold-injury

You'll notice that some of the descriptors involve storage (food-storage) and preservation (cold-storage). To eliminate these records, search using the Boolean operator NOT. Type in "#3 not (cold-storage)"; this retrieves about 3156 records. Type in "#4 not (food-storage); this retrieves about 3078 records.

The search can be narrowed down further if the patron wants records about a specific location or type of fruit. Narrow the search by looking for records about apples. Type in "#5 and (appl*)"; this retrieves about 485 records.

You can also search by record fields. Narrow this search by looking for records that have "Washington" in the descriptor field: type in "#6 and (Washington in DE)"; this retrieves about 3 records.

CAB Abstracts

Searching for (frost* or freez* or cold* or winter*) retrieves about 203,933 records. Searching for (fruit*) retrieves about 287,605 records. A combination of these two terms retrieves about 23,698 records. Excluding records that contain the terms cold-storage and food-processing retrieves about 20,447 records. Narrowing these records to articles about apples yields about 6484 records.

When you attempt to narrow these records by typing (Washington in DE); you'll find that CAB retrieves nothing. Try searching for (North America in DE); still, this retrieves nothing. Each of the SilverPlatter databases work a little bit differently; geographic descriptors in CAB is located in the BT (Broad Topic) field. Searching using (North America in BT) will retrieve about 769 records. When you look through the records, you'll notice that a possible substitute for Washington is "Pacific-Northwest-States-of-USA." This search retrieves around 76 records.

2. My dad has been using Roundup Ready soybeans for the past five years. Can you help me find information about them?

Agricola (all years)

Begin the search by typing in (roundup and soybean*); this retrieves about 81 records.

CAB Abstracts

This search yields about 82 records.

3. I'm interested in finding out more about where birds breed.

Agricola (all years)

Begin the search by typing in (bird* and breeding); this retrieves about 590 articles. When you browse the records, you'll notice that some of them are not about the places in which birds breed.

Tab over to the Index page and type in "breeding." Page down through the index to find the term used for breeding places; you should find "Breeding-Places." Mark the box for this terms and click on "Search Marked"; this should retrieve about 264 records.

Tab over to the Search History page. Type in "#1 and #2"; this combined search will retrieve about 31 records that concern the breeding places of birds.

CAB Abstracts

Searching for (bird*) retrieves around 151,932 records. Searching for (breeding-places) retrieves around 1,715 records. This combined search will retrieve about 139 records.

Biological Abstracts (BIOSIS)

1. Can you help me find articles by Lawrence Gould?

Tab over to the Advanced search page. Choose “Author, Editor, Inventor (AU) and type in “Gould, Lawrence”. When you click search, an error message pops-up. Leave “Gould, Lawrence” in the search box and tab over to the Index page. You will see that authors are listed with a hyphen between the first and last name. Mark “Gould -Lawrence” and click on “Search Marked”; this will retrieve about two articles for which he is the author.

Index to Film Periodicals

1. Try finding information about women characters in film.

Begin this search by typing (wom* or female* or feminine); this retrieves about 4884 records. Searching (character*) retrieves around 2990 records. A combined search yields around 190 records.

Note that the subject headings don't display in this database. Use "Change Display" to select SU for subjects.

Alternatively, you can use the Thesaurus to find indexed terms for “cinema” and “women.” When you look at the indexed terms, you will find subjects such as “Cinema of women” and “Women and the cinema” and “Fallen-Women-In-Films.”