

BIOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS on WebSPIRS



UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA

(1969-1988)

Health Science Center Library

Subject Coverage: Life sciences, including Agriculture, Biochemistry, Biology, Biomedicine, Biotechnology, Botany, Ecology, Environment, Genetics, Instrumentation, Methods, Microbiology, Nutrition, Pharmacology, Public Health, Veterinary Medicine and Zoology.

Types of Material: Citations and abstracts from national and international journals.

Printed Tool(s): *Biological Abstracts*

Years Covered: 1969-1988

Frequency of Updates: Quarterly

Database Producer: BIOSIS **Vendor:** SilverPlatter Information, Inc.

NOTE – Biological Abstracts has substantially changed its indexing policies and record structure. Some fields below may be searched only prior to 1993, others only after 1993, etc. To complete a successful search, you will need to try a variety of strategies, depending on which years of the database you are searching.

List of Fields:

1980 to the present:

TI	Title of article	AU	Author(s)	UD	Update code
DT	Document type	AB	Abstract	PY	Publication year
AN	Accession Number	LA	Language of the article	SO	Source (journal title, etc.)

Pre-1989:		DE	Descriptors	CS	Address of first author
ST	Super Taxa	CC	Concept Codes	BC	Biosystematic Codes
CO	Coden (Journal Title Code)				

To search:

Pre-1989:

By Descriptor/Title Fields: NO Thesaurus and few individual subject fields existed prior to 1993.

Search for topics in the descriptor and title fields. At the **Find** prompt, search as *gene* therap* in de, ti*. These fields are primarily noncontrolled vocabulary, so you will need to use truncation (*) as well as synonyms. Searching in only the descriptor and title fields (rather than performing a free text search, which also includes abstract, author department, etc.) may help limit your retrieval to the most relevant citations.

By Super Taxa: English language terms that represent higher-level organisms, usually no lower than class or order (*mammals in ST*). Super Taxa are usually not scientific names (use birds instead of aves; chordates instead of chordata). Use the 1999/2000 print *BIOSIS Search Guide* for a list of Super Taxa.

By Biosystematic Code: Biosystematic Codes are controlled taxonomic terms. Biosystematic Codes have two components, the numerical code (BC02232) and the taxon term (*Picornaviridae*). Either may be searched in the BC field (*BC02232 in BC* or *Picornaviridae in BC*). Use the 1999/2000 print *BIOSIS Search Guide* for a list of Biosystematic Codes.

By Concept Code: Concept Codes are controlled broad scientific categories. Concept Codes have two components, the numerical code (CC10064) and the subject term (*Biochemical-Studies-Proteins-Peptides-and-Amino-Acids*). Search as *CC10064 in CC*. Some broad codes can be truncated (*CC100* in CC*) to pick up narrower subjects. Use the 1999/2000 print *BIOSIS Search Guide* for a list of Concept Codes.

By Textword: As a last resort you might try searching for your topic anywhere in the record. Enter a word or brief phrase in the **Find** box. Some occurrences of the term(s) may not be relevant. To retrieve all relevant records, you must think of every possible way an author might have described your concepts (e.g. *phage or phages*

or bacteriophage or bacteriophages or lambda, etc.). You will need to use truncation (*), synonyms and to consider spelling variations.

By Author: To search for an **author**, type last name, first and middle initials (e.g., *greiner-e-c* or *greiner-e**), separate components with hyphens, and highlight Author button. First names of authors are NOT used pre-1993.

By Journal Title: To search for a **journal** title, use the full title of the journal – NOT MEDLINE abbreviations. For single word journal titles (*Cell, Nature, Science*, etc.) search using the Coden (*CELLB5 in CO*). Use the print *BIOSIS Serials Sources* for a list of Codens.

Truncation symbol: * This symbol after a word root will retrieve all words starting with that root (e.g., *cat** will retrieve cat, cats, catatonic, catastrophe, etc.). **Use with caution.**

To combine sets: Combine search sets by using the logical operators AND or OR. Click on the boxes to the left of the sets you want to combine. AND is assumed. Click on **[Combine Checked]**. If you want to use OR, click on the circle next to the word OR. Don't use both AND and OR in the same step. OR two statements; then AND the result with another set.

AND will **narrow** your search; terms in **all** sets **must** be present

OR will **broaden** your search; terms in **either** set **may** be present

You may also use the following operators to combine terms/sets in the search box:

NOT eliminates terms in second set from those in the previous set (**use with caution!**)

WITH retrieves records in which both terms are in the **same data field**

NEAR retrieves records in which both terms are in the **same sentence**

IN retrieves records in which the term is **in that particular data field**

To limit searches: On Search Screen, type set # to be limited in the **Find** box. **These limits will remain for all searches until you click on [Clear All Limits]**. Two ways of limiting appear below this box. **By year** - click on circle for Any Year, a range of years, or enter years in the From and To boxes.

By language - English is assumed. To search for French, Spanish, German or Italian, click on circles next to these words. For any other language, click on **[Set Other Limits]**.

Click on **[Set Other Limits]** to bring up **Limit Search** screen.

PY - Publication Year **DT** - Document Type **LA** - Language of Source

LS - Language of Summary **AI** - Abstract Indicator (“y” for only those with abstracts)

After choosing limits from one or more of the above, click on **[Set limits]**.

To view results: Citations from the most recent search appear on the screen. Click on **[Change Display]** to display the abstract, descriptors, etc. From the Search Screen, click on Display link to view records.

Mark items: Click the **box** at the upper left of each record to be printed, or click on **[Print]** to print all records.

To print: Click on **[Print]**. On the **Print Records** screen, choose **which records** (all, record number 1-10, or marked records), **which fields** (displayed fields, all fields, citation only, citation and abstract, or selected fields. For the latter, click on **[Select fields]** to see a list of choices.) You may also choose to include the search history, record numbers, and field labels (short, long, or both.) When all options have been selected, click on **[Print Records]**. Then use Browser's **File, Print** menu selections.

To download to a disk: Click on **[Save Records]**. On the **Save Records** screen, you will see same options as described under Print Records. When finished selecting options, click on **[Save Records]**. Choose the drive and directory and name the file. Click on **[Close Window]**.

To use search strategy in another group of years: Click on **[Database]** to return to the **Available Databases** screen. Remove checkmarks from current time periods by clicking on **[Clear Selected Databases]**, and click on boxes next to new group of years to search. Click on **[Open Selected Databases]**. Type the number of the set that gave the best results (e.g., #8) in the Find box and the computer will run this search in the next set of year(s).

To quit: Click on **[Logout]**.

Help screens: Click on any **[?]** for help on that aspect of searching or click on **[Help]** for a list of help topics.

Online tutorial: BIOSIS furnishes a free online tutorial at: <http://www.biosis.org/htmls/learning/home/index.html>

For further help with database searching, call the Reference Desk at 352-392-3585 or your Library Liaison.