



# ELECTRONIC GUIDE

## BIOSIS Previews

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### How to Search BIOSIS Previews

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- 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) → *under* Articles and Databases → Biology → BIOSIS Previews.

Select the date ranges desired.

#### To Combine Search Terms

- Use Boolean operators **and**, **or** and **not**  
Examples: bacteria **or** microorganisms includes **either** term  
microscopy **and** bioassay includes **both** terms  
turtles **not** migratory includes first term **but not** second term
- 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**  
**colo?rful** Retrieves **colorful** or **colourful**
- Use **adjacency searching** to find words within specified distance of each other
  - Words next to each other will be searched as a phrase **electron microscopy**
  - Words within a specified range **electron adj3 microscopy** terms will be within three words of each other

Previous searches appear in the **Search History** area 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 **Limits**.

For additional limits by taxon, developmental stage, organ or disease systems or geographical location or other factors, click **Additional Limits**. Select limits. Click on **Limit Search** at the bottom of the screen.

## To Limit to Review Articles

Conduct search. Click **Additional Limits** at the bottom of the search screen. Click on "Literature Review" under the Literature Types category. Click **Limit Search** at the bottom of the screen.

## To See Previous Searches

Click **Search History** at the top of the screen.

To combine search results, click  numbered box next to each search and select **AND** or **OR**

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

## To Mark, Print, Email or Download Records

Check box  to left of each desired citation OR select range of citations in Results section at bottom left of screen. Select fields to display.

Click **Display, Print, Email or Save** at the bottom of the screen.

For Downloading then select options on following page and click **Continue**.

Click **Save File** in popup window OR click **Open with Notepad** and then save the file from Notepad

Selections from previous pages of a search will carry over. Selections from one search do not carry over to the next search.

## Searching Options

*BIOSIS Previews* offers a complex array of searching capabilities.

**Basic Search** offers natural language searching – simply type in a question

**Find Citation** is useful for locating a known citation; simply enter known information

**Search Tools** is for searching via controlled vocabulary.

**Search Fields** allows searching by one specific field

**Advanced Search** provides Boolean searching of four commonly searched fields

**Multi Field Search** offers multiple term Boolean searching of any fields and is the most recommended search option.

### Best Author Search

Select **Advanced Ovid Search Page**

Click on **Author**

Type author's last name, a space and first name in entry box

Click **Search**

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

Click the name(s) appropriate.

To see records, click **Search for Selected Items**

**NOTE:** First and middle names can be initials or spelled out

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

**Many authors publish under more than one variation.**

## Searching by Specific Fields

Select **Multi Field Search**

Choose field(s) to search in from drop down menus on right

Enter search terms into entry box(es)

Click **Search**

## General Subject Searching

- Search using **Multi Field Search**.
- Major change in 1993, many field names and relationships change at that date.
- Prior to 1993:
  - For any subject terms including organism names use **All Fields** search to include all subject areas except formal broad taxonomic names. Use **Biosystematic Codes** for those (see below).
  - For broad 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 broad all-encompassing searches of specific topics use the **Any Field** search. Includes all subject areas including specialized field searching AND all taxonomic names.
  - For broad subject areas search using the **Major Concepts (MC)** field, a list of formal controlled subject terms searchable in the thesaurus.
  - For specific field searching see below.

## 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.
  - **Organisms (OR)** information on specific organisms (genus, species and higher), both taxonomic and common names. **Use synonyms whenever possible**. Introduced 1993.  
Example: **Trachemys scripta or slider-turtle**
  - Search for **new taxa** in **Organism** field. Link taxonomic name to “new genus” phrase [or whatever taxonomic level is desired]. Introduced 1993.  
Example: **diptera adj6 new genus** in **Organism** field
  - Search for **fossil species** in **Organism** field. Link taxonomic name to “paleobotany” or “paleozoology.” Introduced 1993.  
Example: **coniferopsida adj6 paleobotany** in **Organism** field

## Specific field searching

Target searches by using specific subject fields. Either highlight specific field in **multi-field drop down menu** or use **command language searching** of .xx. where "xx" is the two letter code for the subject field.

Example: **immune system.ps.**

- **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**
- **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). This includes CAS Registry numbers. Introduced 1993.  
Example: **antiviral drugs or ribavirin**  
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). No entry on drop-down form. Only available using command language search. Introduced 1993.  
Example: **AF241241.sq.** or **GenBank.sq.** or **amino-acid.sq.**
- **Time (TM )** Information on archaeological, climatic, historic or geologic time periods. Only available using command language search: Introduced 1993.  
Example: **18<sup>th</sup> century.tm.** or **Ordovician.tm.**

## Help

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

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

For much more detailed help specific to *BIOSIS Previews*, try

<http://www.ovid.com/site/products/ovidguide/biopdb.htm#SQ>