

Biology Databases of Interest to EEB - Quick Overview - UC access only

These databases let you search for articles within hundreds of journals. Some articles may be full text; others will be in print.

Use [UC-eLinks](#) to see if we own the article online or in print, or to request the article from another UC.

Go to <http://library.ucsc.edu/science/> and then to the **Science Article Databases** link to access these databases.

DATABASE	WHY USE IT? (scope)	SEARCH LIKE GOOGLE? *	SEARCH TIPS	STRENGTHS & WEAKNESSES
<i>BIOSIS Previews</i> 1926 - current	The primary biology database.	✓ But truncation is not automatic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Truncation is * • Use scientific & common names. • Can search simultaneously with Web of Sci. & Zoo Rec. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interdisciplinary within biology. • Good for topic exploration. • Includes conference papers. • Easy to use with EndNote Web.
<i>Zoological Record</i> 1864 - current	Focus: zoology. Oldest database of animal biology, good for tracking taxonomy changes.	✓ But truncation is not automatic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Truncation is * • Can search simultaneously with BIOSIS and Web of Sci. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fewer lab studies than BIOSIS. • Covers some journals not in BIOSIS. • Includes conference papers. • Easy to use with EndNote Web.
<i>Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA)</i> 1971 - current	Focus: aquatic sciences. All things aquatic: living and non-living.	X Multiple words = exact phrase. For keyword use AND. Truncation not automatic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Truncation is * 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes socio-economic and legal aspects. • Covers many sources not in BIOSIS. • Save/Print/Email formats bibliographies.
<i>Web of Science</i> 1900 - current	All subjects. Citation counts. Able to see who cited an article and sort by citation count.	✓ But truncation is not automatic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Truncation is * • Can search simultaneously with BIOSIS & Zoo Record. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No conference papers. • Different mix of sources than BIOSIS or Google Scholar. • Easy to use with EndNote Web.
<i>Google Scholar</i> <i>(beta release)</i> Dates unknown	All subjects. Citation counts. Able to see who cited an article. Default relevance rank considers citation count.	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can limit to Biological Sciences in advanced search. • Recent Articles limit is helpful (but still sorted by relevance, not date). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different mix of sources than Web of Science, including open web resources. • BE AWARE that some unrestricted web info is incomplete, unreliable, and not permanent.

*Google search syntax assumes an "AND" between words (all your words will be included, in any order). If you want a phrase to be searched intact (word order preserved) you must enclose it in quotes. Google also automatically stems or truncates search terms, when appropriate.