

## Biology Databases of Interest to MCD Bio - 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
<b>BIOSIS Previews</b>  <i>1926-present</i>	The primary biology database.  Best for plant & nonpathogenic genetics.	✓  But truncation is not automatic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Truncation is *</li> <li>• Use scientific &amp; common names.</li> <li>• Can search simultaneously with Web of Science.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interdisciplinary within biology.</li> <li>• Good for topic exploration.</li> <li>• Includes conference papers.</li> </ul>
<b>PubMed*</b> <i>1966-present</i>  <small>*Only the UC version of PubMed has <a href="#">UC-eLinks</a></small>	Focus: medicine, pathogenic organisms, bioinformatics, genetics.	X  Multiple words = looks for phrase as official subject heading. Truncation not automatic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use natural language first.</li> <li>• AND, OR, NOT must be in UPPER CASE! – <b>use as last resort only.</b></li> <li>• Improve search with official subject headings (MeSH).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smart search box does a lot of vocabulary work for you.</li> <li>• Different sources than BIOSIS.</li> <li>• Links to other NCBI databases.</li> <li>• Extensive limits (see tab).</li> </ul>
<b>Web of Science</b>  <i>1900-present</i>	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"> <li>• Truncation is *</li> <li>• Can search simultaneously with BIOSIS.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Conference papers not directly indexed.</b></li> <li>• Different mix of sources than BIOSIS or Google Scholar.</li> <li>• More sorting options than Google Scholar.</li> </ul>
<b>Faculty of 1000 Biology</b>  <i>Mostly 2000-present</i>	<b>Literature awareness</b> – articles selected and reviewed by top researchers for impact in fields of biology.	✓  But truncation is not automatic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Login to create regular email alerts.</li> <li>• Search by title, author, journal name, subject area.</li> <li>• Browse by subject or most viewed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Highly selective.</b></li> <li>• Top 10 lists of influential papers.</li> <li>• Hidden Jewels highlights papers in less well known journals.</li> </ul>
<b>Google Scholar</b> <i>(beta release)</i>  <i>Dates unknown</i>	All subjects.  Citation counts. Able to see who cited an article.  Default relevance rank considers citation count.	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can limit to Biological Sciences in advanced search.</li> <li>• Recent Articles limit is helpful (but still sorted by relevance, not date).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Different sources than Web of Science, includes open web resources.</li> <li>• <b>BE AWARE</b> that some unrestricted web info is incomplete, unreliable, and not permanent.</li> </ul>

\*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.