

Search Characteristics of Selected Databases

	Boolean Operators	Truncation & Wild Cards	Field Searching	Limiting	Expanding/ Word Lists	Proximity (# = any no.)	Phrase Searching
EBSCO Host Full-text Elite	explicit and , or , not	? (internal), * (right truncation)	2-letter field codes or separate lines in advanced	yes: full-text, date range, etc.	No	n#, w#	implied
UMI ProQuest	explicit and ; implied and if 3 or more words	? (right truncation) * (one character)	pull-down menus in advanced search	full-text search wizard; excludes related terms; periodicals vs. newspapers; date	subject list	w# (either order) pre/3 (specified order)	implied with two-word phrases
FirstSearch (Web)	basic: explicit and or or (limit of 2 "or"s) adv: separate lines	+ for simple plurals ("s" or "es")	pull-down menus; browse "Author, Exact"	varies; often language, time period, publ. type	yes	n#, w#	[word] w [word]
SciSearch	explicit and , or (or separate lines)	auto stemming (verb forms and plurals) or explicit *	pull-down menus; authors as paine r t	language, time period	cited author browse	<near/#>	"in quotes"
Inspec	explicit and , or (or separate lines)	auto stemming (verb forms and plurals) or explicit *	pull-down menus; authors as paine r t (or) paine r.t.	language, time period	none	<near/#>	"in quotes"
SciFinder Scholar	no	thesaurus covers truncation and variant forms	no; author search results in "browse menu"	year, document type, language	automatic thesaurus	no	implied with typed phrase
Cambridge Scientific Abstracts	explicit and , or , and not (or separate lines)	* (right truncation); ? (single character)	by pull-down menus	year	thesauri	no?	yes, implied
Biosis (Silver Platter)	explicit and , or , not	* (right truncation)	"in [field code]"; authors as paine-r-t	same as field search	index, F5	near (same sentence); with (same field); near #	yes, implied

Selected Electronic Tools for the Chemical Sciences

Name	Subject Coverage	Dates of Coverage	Types of Material Included	Best Features	Drawbacks
EBSCo Host and UMI ProQuest	Social sciences, arts, humanities, general sciences, education, business	Varies; mostly 1990s	3200-3600 popular and scholarly journals	Full text of 1000+ journals	Light on science coverage; backfiles must be searched separately on ProQuest
FirstSearch	60 databases covering many subject areas. For chemical sciences, especially: General Science Index, Applied Science and Technology Abstracts, Article First	Books, A.D. 1000+ Journals, varies	Books, maps, theses, journal articles, encyclopedias, etc.	Breadth of coverage; unusual databases, such as addresses; all databases searched in same way	Only truncation is simple plurals; many documents not available at UNM
Medline (FirstSearch)	All areas of medicine	1965 - present	3500 journals	Abstracts, MESH headings, CAS registry numbers, molecular sequence data searching, gene symbol searching	Only truncation is simple plurals; many documents not available at CSEL
SciSearch	Astronomy, biology, chemistry, computer science, environment, engineering, earth sciences, mathematics, physics	1977 - present	4000 journals	Ease of use; indicates if CSEL, HSCL, or NMT owns; cited reference searching	No conference papers; not all records have abstracts; not comprehensive
Inspec	Physics, electronics, computing (chemistry)	1969 - present	4200 journals; 1000 conf. proceedings	Comprehensive for core areas; extensive time period coverage	Many sources not available at CSEL
SciFinder Scholar	All areas of chemistry, including biochemistry, chemical engineering, etc.	1967 - present	19,000 journals; worldwide patents	Comprehensive coverage of anything chemistry related; structure searching; simplified "natural language" interface	No true Boolean searching; limited hours of availability; many sources not at CSEL
Cambridge Scientific Abstracts	Environmental, water resources, toxicology, and materials science	Varies: environmental 1981 - present	5064 journals/ environmental	Covers water and environmental topics most comprehensively; multi-file searching	British spellings; many items not available at CSEL.
Biological Abstracts (Silver Platter)	Biology: ecology, cell and molecular, biochemistry, agriculture, biotechnology, botany, environment, microbiology, zoology	1985 - present	5500 journals	90% include abstracts; supertaxa searching; most comprehensive biological index	Can only be used at CSEL; many sources not available at UNM