

# Cambridge Scientific Abstracts (CSA) databases

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## CSA databases

Databases that can be accessed from the Cambridge Scientific Abstracts (CSA) interface include:

- |                                       |                                     |                                       |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ART Bibliographies Modern             | Design and Applied Arts Index       | Philosophers Index                    |
| ASFA (Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries) | EconLit                             | Plant Science                         |
| Avery                                 | ERIC via CSA                        | PsycINFO                              |
| Biological Sciences                   | GeoRef                              | RILM (Music Literature)               |
| Biology Digest                        | MEDLINE via CSA                     | Social Services Abstracts             |
| Civil Engineering Abstracts (TRD)     | MLA (Modern Language Assoc.)        | Sociological Abstracts                |
| Conference Papers Index               | National Criminal Justice Abstracts | TOXLINE                               |
|                                       | Oceanic Abstracts                   | Worldwide Political Science Abstracts |

## Accessing CSA

Access databases from the Library's Homepage: <http://www.utas.edu.au/library>. From here select the **Databases** list or specific **Subject Guide**.

## Once in the CSA "Advanced Search" interface:

The screenshot shows the 'Advanced Search Form' in a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser. The page title is 'Advanced Search Form - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by Univ. of Tasmania'. The address bar shows the URL: [http://mdl1.csa.com/ids70/advanced\\_search.php?SID=1af089adca71c866fb4f9f5142473eaa](http://mdl1.csa.com/ids70/advanced_search.php?SID=1af089adca71c866fb4f9f5142473eaa). The page content includes the CSA logo, navigation tabs for 'Quick Search', 'Advanced Search', and 'Search Tools', and a search form with the following fields:

- Search terms: (work or career or ) Anywhere
- Search terms: (family or children or ) Anywhere
- Search terms: (women or ) Anywhere

Below the search form, there are options to 'Change' the search by 'Subject Area' or 'Specific Databases', a 'Date Range' from 'Earliest' to '2005', and checkboxes for 'Latest Update', 'Journal Articles Only', and 'English Only'. The 'Show' option is set to 'Short format' and 'Results per page' is set to '10'. A callout box points to the 'Anywhere' dropdown menus, and another callout box points to the 'Date Range' and 'Show' options.

Select the fields that you want to search from the drop-down menus. Select "Anywhere" for the broadest possible search.

- Select options to
- Limit by date of publication
  - Show Citation or Full record in results.

## Searching for references

- "Quick Search" is not recommended. Choose either of the other 2 search options:
    - "Advanced Search" for a guided search
    - "Command Search" (you will need to scroll down find the link)
- (See "Search Strategies", pages 2-3, for approaches to searching CSA databases)
- Enter your search statement
  - Click on the Search button below the search window
  - You will then see a list of search results options and the list of citations.

**ASK US FOR HELP at any U Tas Library**

Phone Service Desk: 6226 1818 or email: [servicedesk@utas.edu.au](mailto:servicedesk@utas.edu.au)

## Saving, printing and e-mailing records

- Click in the box on the left of the record to mark the records that you want to “Save/Print/Email”
- You must click on the “Update Marked List” link before opening a new page
- Click on the "Marked Records" link at the top of the screen
- Click on the "Save/Print/Email Records" link
- From the drop-down menu, select, “Short format” or “Full format”
- Select a “Bibliographic style”
- Choose the appropriate Save/Print/Email option

## Editing searches

Use the Edit window at the bottom of the page to edit and modify searches. Make your changes and then click on Search.

The screenshot shows the CSA ILLUMINA search results page. The search criteria are: (work or career) and (family or children) and women in Sociological Abstracts. There are 9996 results found. The page lists three results, each with a checkbox for marking. Callout boxes provide instructions: 'The number of search results retrieved in each category is shown here. Click on each result to view the lists' (pointing to the category counts), 'Follow links, “Links to Holdings” or “Full-Text” to see if the Library holds the journal.' (pointing to the 'Links to Holdings' link), and 'Mark the records and click on “Save/Print/Email Records” button. Save marked records from each page before viewing next ...' (pointing to the 'Save, Print, Email' button).

## Search strategies

Effective searches are essential for finding relevant references on your topic. The search operators below will help in combining terms that reflect your topic.

### Boolean Operators:

Boolean operators define the relationships between words or groups of words.

Use	To
<b>AND</b>	<b>Narrow</b> search and retrieve records containing <i>all</i> of the words it separates.
<b>OR</b>	<b>Broaden</b> search and retrieve records containing <i>any</i> of the words it separates. The   can be used in lieu of 'or', eg: <b>mouse   mice   rat</b> is equivalent to <b>mouse or mice or rat</b>
<b>NOT</b>	<b>Narrow</b> search and retrieve records that do <i>not</i> contain the term following it.
<b>()</b>	<b>Group words or phrases</b> when combining Boolean phrases and to show the order in which relationships should be considered, eg: <b>(mouse or mice) and (gene or pseudogene)</b>

## Proximity Searching:

Proximity searches limit the number of words between your search terms.

Use	To
<b>NEAR</b>	<b>Find words within 10 words of each other</b> , eg: <b>women near violence</b> retrieves records that contain women and violence in any order with up to 9 words in between.

## Wildcard Symbols:

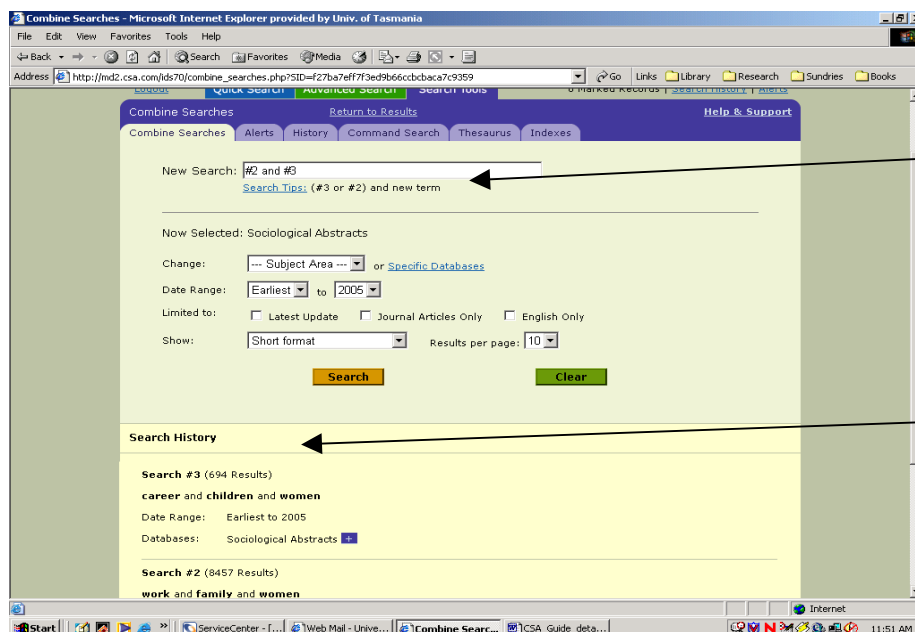
Wildcard symbols can expand the scope of your search.

Use	For
*	<b>Truncation.</b> This expands a search term to include all forms of a root word, eg: <b>patent*</b> retrieves <b>patent, patents, patentable, patented</b> , etc.
*	<b>Multi-character wildcard for finding alternative spellings.</b> Use to indicate an unlimited number of characters within a word, eg: <b>h*ophilia</b> retrieves <b>haemophilia</b> as well as <b>hemophilia</b> , and <b>behavi*r</b> retrieves <b>behaviour</b> or <b>behavior</b> .

## Combining search results:

Break down your searches and combine the results from the “Search History”.

- Run some basic searches on aspects of your search topic
- Click on “Combine Searches” link at the bottom of the page of search results
- A list of your current searches will appear.
- Note the number of the results that you want to combine
- In the top box type the numbers with Boolean operator that you want to use
- Click on "Search" button.



Select the Boolean operator to combine selected search results ie.#1 AND #2

Results of searches are shown here. Select the search numbers that you wish to combine

## Thesaurus

You can search the thesaurus for descriptors (subject heading and taxonomic terms) to focus your search more accurately. Subject specialists add descriptors to indicate major concepts covered in the source.

- Click on “Thesaurus” link at the bottom of the page
- Select which Thesaurus and type the term
- Select either “Alphabetical Index”, “Hierarchy” or “Rotated Index”
- Click on GO

A page appears that includes links to the official term used in the thesaurus.

- Select one or more terms
- Select to combine with AND or OR, for a new search.

## Saving alerts

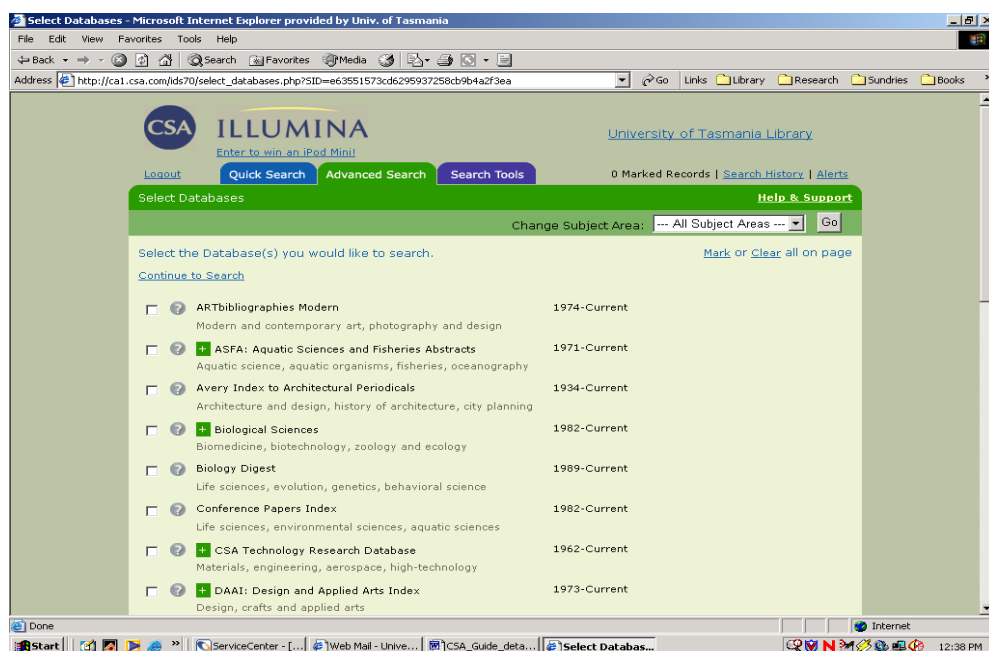
A saved Alert will be used to automatically search your selected databases for new content every week.

- Click on " Alerts" link at the bottom of any page
- Enter your email address and password (Need to set up first time used)
- The last search history window will appear
- Select the "Format" – Full, Short, etc.
- Select the limits if required
- Add any comments if required
- Click on "Save as Alert" button

## Searching more than one database

More than one database can be searched at one time.

- Click on "Selected Databases" link below the search area on the search screen
- Select your preference from the list displayed:



- Click on Continue to Search button
- The CSA Advanced Search interface appears

Note: Duplicate records are noted but automatically hidden from the results of multiple database searches

## Saving to EndNote

- Mark the citations that you want to save
- Click on the **Save/Print/Email Records** button
- Select "full record" from the "Show" drop-down menu
- Select the appropriate format (PC or Mac) and click on the **Save** button
- Follow your browser's prompts and save the file with a .txt extension to your computer or disk.

From your EndNote Library...

- From the **File** menu, select **Import**
- An **Import** dialogue window is opened
- Click on the **Choose File** button to select the text file of saved records
- From the **Import Option** drop-down menu, select the appropriate filter.
- If the filter is not listed, click on **Other Filters**
- Select the filter you want (it should have 'CSA' in the name, eg Sociological Abs (CSA))
- Click on **Choose**, then Click on the **Import** button

## Use CSA Help!

CSA provide very useful Help screens that relate to the screen or function that you are currently using.