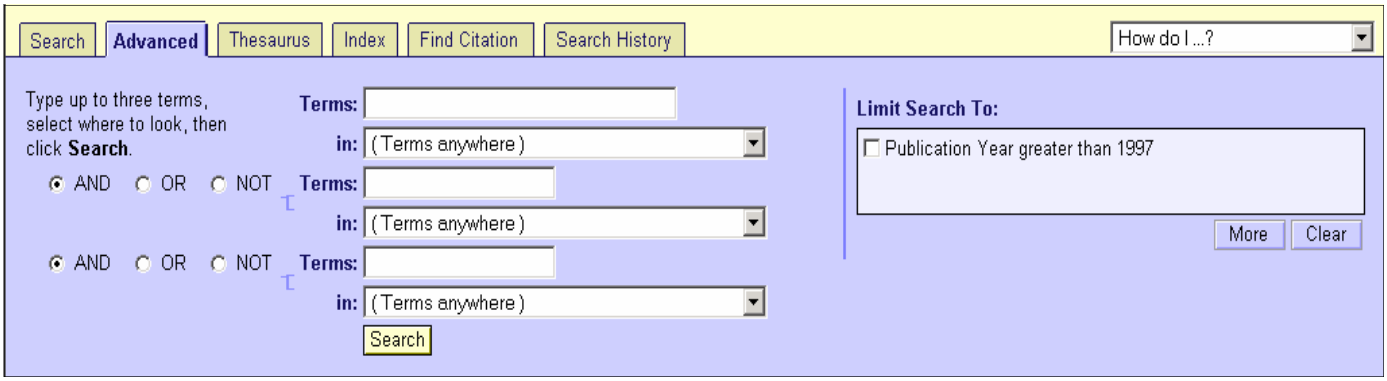
BIOSIS PREVIEWS:
A Guide to Searching the Database

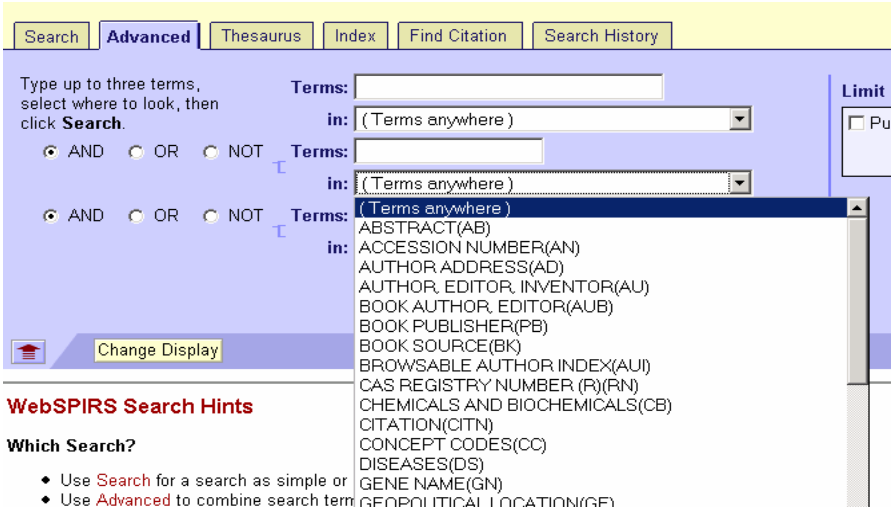
BIOSIS Previews is the world's most comprehensive reference database for life science research. It covers original research reports and reviews in biological and biomedical areas. Biosis Previews spans the life sciences covering core biological fields such as botany, zoology, ecology, and microbiology, as well as emerging fields like biodiversity and proteomics. Nearly 5,500 serials are monitored for inclusion.

Accessing BIOSIS
Access BIOSIS from the Owen Library home page, http://www.upj.pitt.edu, by clicking "Databases A-Z."

SEARCHING
There are two search modes available in SilverPlatter: basic and advanced. You can navigate through the system using the search bar near the top of the screen. The system defaults to the **advanced search**.



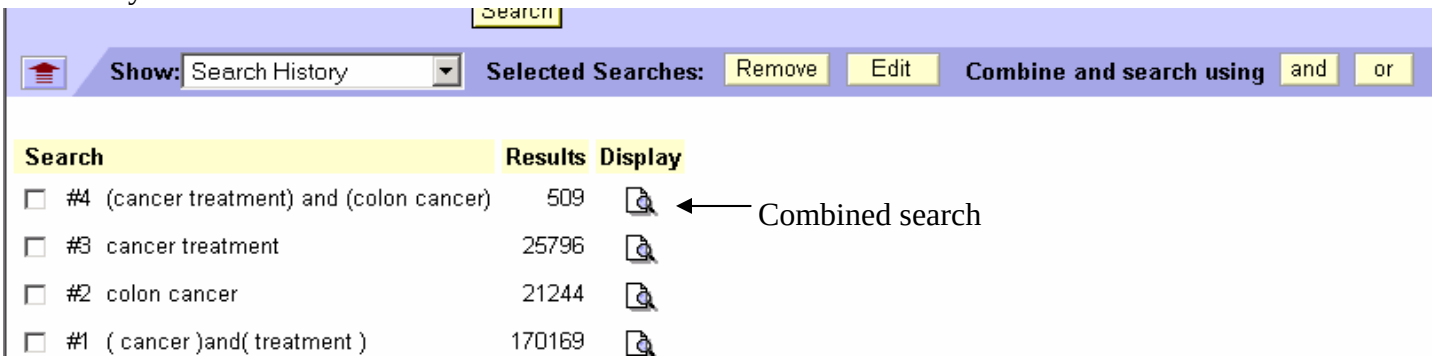
Advanced Searching
Type up to three terms and connect these terms using a Boolean operator (and, or, not). Determine which field you want the database to search for this term. The system defaults to "terms anywhere" but you may choose author, title, journal name, organisms, etc., from the dropdown menu. Click on the Search button.



Combining Search Terms
Silverplatter has several Boolean and proximity operators that allow you to combine search terms.

and	Results contain both of two terms	actin and cytoskeleton
or	Results contain either or both of two terms or more	coffee or caffeine
adj	Results contain two adjacent terms	dyslexia adj treatments
Near	Results contain both terms in the same sentence	parent offspring near conflict
Near#	Results contain both terms within a specified range of words	caffeine near5 children
not	Results contain one term but not another	acid not rain
With	Results contain both terms in a single field	dyslexia with research

To combine previously returned searches, click on the **Search History** tab. Checkmark the box beside the searches you want to combine. Click on **and** or **or** to combine the search.



Truncation, Wildcards, and Parentheses

- The truncation symbol (*) substitutes for a string of zero or more characters. For example, cat* retrieves cat, catatonic, category, etc.
- The wildcard symbol (?) substitutes for one character or none. For example, the search m?cdonald retrieves both mcdonald and macdonald.
- Use parentheses to avoid ambiguity in complex search requests. For example, the search rabies and (dogs or cats) will retrieve records that discuss *rabies* and either *dogs* or *cats*.

Using the Index

The index will allow you to browse subject headings to find the topic you're looking for or get ideas on a topic you'd like to research. Click on the Index tab from the menu bar. Type a term into the **Term** box and click **Go To Term**. To display the records that contain a single term, click on the term.
To display the records for more than one term, select the check box next to each term, then click **Search Marked**.

Displaying, Printing, Emailing, Saving and Getting Full-Text

After completing a successful search, your search results will appear at the bottom half of the screen. From here, you can

- mark records by checking the box to the right of the list number,
- print, save, or email records by clicking the appropriate icons in the toolbar
- check article availability by clicking the hyperlink toward the bottom of each record.
  - If the full-text is available electronically, you will be given a hyperlink to the article and further instructions
  - If the full-text is NOT available electronically, you will be given a link to PittCat where you can look up the journal title to determine whether or not you can get a print copy of the article.