Elsevier

GEOBASE

Help Guide

GEOBASE indexes peer-reviewed journals, trade publications, book series, and conference proceedings in the fields of geography, oceanography, geology, environmental sciences, and international development. Coverage dates from 1973 onwards. Most records contain brief abstracts and many records link to full-text articles.

Getting Started

Go to the library's homepage: www.smu.ca/library > Databases A-Z > GEOBASE. If accessing the database from off-campus, you will be prompted to log in using your SMU "S" number.

Quick Search

When you open GEOBASE from the library's website it will open in the Quick Search mode. Quick Search searches keywords by default, but also has advanced search functions that allow you to create more refined searches.

To begin searching, type your search terms in one or more of the search boxes. If entering terms in more than one search box, combine your terms using a Boolean operator (AND, OR, NOT) from the drop-down lists to the left of each search box.

If entering a phrase, enclose it in quotation marks. You can specify the field you would like to search by clicking on the drop-down list beside each search box (optional). For example, to find information about *the impact of climate change in northern Canada*, you could try the following search:
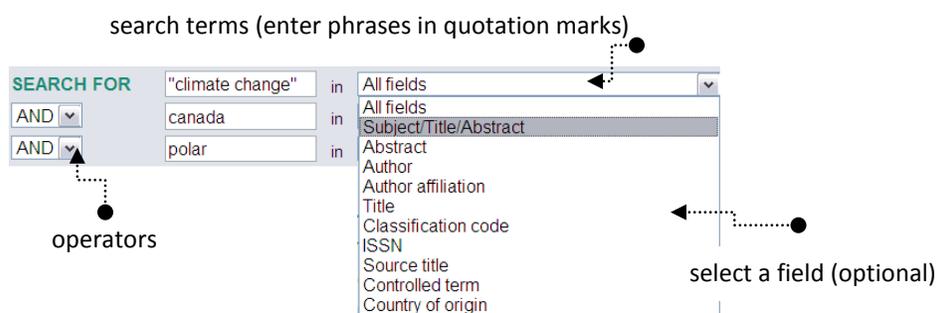
Limit your search by selecting one or more of the various limit options shown below the search boxes (e.g., limit by document type, language, year, etc.). Search results can also be sorted by relevance or date.
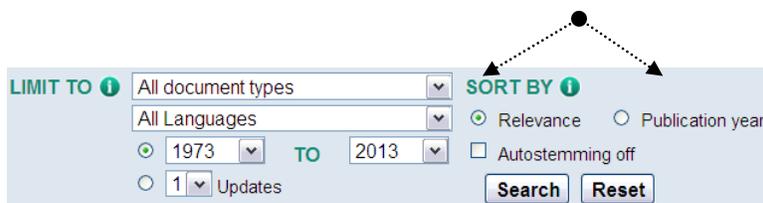
You can use Boolean operators (e.g., AND OR, and NOT) to limit or broaden your search. Consider related terms and synonyms. In this case the phrase *"global warming"* and the word *arctic* were added:

SEARCH FOR	"climate change" or "global warming"	in	All fields
AND ▾	canada	in	All fields
AND ▾	polar or arctic	in	All fields

There are two other types of searches in GEOBASE: **Expert Search** and **Thesaurus Search**

Quick Search   Expert Search   Thesaurus Search

Expert Search

The **Expert Search** is designed for searchers experienced in formulating searches using advanced Boolean operators (i.e., AND, OR, NOT, WITHIN, NEAR, etc.). Type your search directly into the search box. Apply special characters as appropriate to search for plurals and variant spellings (instructions on this are given below the search screen). For example, a search on the topic of *predicting or monitoring volcanic eruptions* might look like this:

| DATABASE | ☑ GEOBASE |
| SEARCH FOR | "volcanic eruptions" and (predict* or monitor*) |

Note: Use truncation (*) to search for variant endings of a word. In this example, the database will search for words that begin with predict or monitor, but that end differently. So for predict*, the results will also show words like prediction, predictable, predictability, etc.

By default GEOBASE will search for your terms in every field. However, you can specify a field you would like to search by entering the code from the Search Codes box (provided on the Expert Search screen). As an example, to look for articles about amusement parks in the United States, you would search for *"United States"* in the Country of origin field, like this:

| DATABASE | ☑ GEOBASE |
| SEARCH FOR | "amusement parks" wn ALL and "united States" wn CO |

Thesaurus Search

Use the Thesaurus Search to help you: identify controlled vocabulary terms; find synonyms and related terms; and improve your search strategy by suggested and narrower terms.

(1) You can look-up your term(s) by Search, Exact Term or Browse.

(2) Then add the terms to your search, by checking the boxes.

Viewing Results

Click on the **Abstract** link below a record to view a short summary or click on **Detailed** to view a complete bibliographic record.

Click **Check for full-text** to determine whether or not the full-text of the item is available to you via the library's online databases or via the Novanet catalogue.

To limit your current search results, click on **Refine Results** on the right hand side of the results page. You can limit results based on Author, Country, Document type, Language and more.

Selecting Records

To mark records for e-mailing, printing, or saving, click the box to the left of each record in your list of results. A checkmark ☑ will appear, indicating your selection has been marked (to unmark a record click the box again).

To view your list of marked records, click the **Selected Records** link (located near the top of the screen). To email, print, or download your marked records, select the format you want and then click the email, print, or download button.
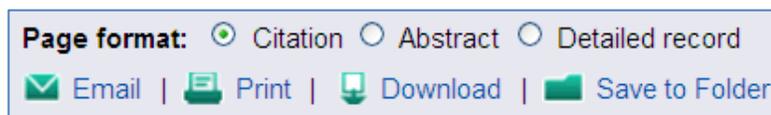
To send your records to **RefWorks**, click the Download button and choose *RefWorks direct import*.

Note: *The records that your email, print, or download will contain citation/abstract information only –* ***no full-text****. To get the full-text, click on the ASIN link first to determine if the full-text is available in electronic form. If it is available, display the full-text and email/print/download the article.*

Check for full text

For more information or for assistance in finding materials identified through GEOBASE, please see the staff at the Library's Information & Research Desk.

Saving Records to Folders

If you're going to be working with GEOBASE often you may find it useful to sign up for a personal account. Registering for an account is free and allows you to save your records and create folders to put them in. It also allows you to save your searches and create email alerts. Alerts notify you when new records are added to GEOBASE that match a saved search. It's easy to register for an account. After you run a search and select some records to save, click **Save to Folder**. You'll be prompted to log-in or register. Click **Register Now** to complete the sign up.

Help

If you want to learn more about searching in GEOBASE, consult the Search Tips provided on the Quick and Expert Search pages, or click on the Help button. Library staff are also available to assist you. Drop by the Library's Information & Research Desk or call 420-5544 or email research@smu.ca. You can also use the *Novanet Live Help* feature on our website.

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