Biology: Zoology

Zoological Record Archive

The Zoological Record Archive is accessed through the OVID database platform. It covers literature in Zoology from the mid-19th to early 21st century. It can be a useful way to search for historical Zoological literature which is not included in databases like SCOPUS and Web of Science.

1. Begin by searching for Zoological Record on SOLO. You should find several records, follow the ‘View Online’ link on the record for Zoological Record (1864-2009)

2. OVID will display the database Basic Search interface. Type Thylacine into the search box and then untick the box which says Include Related Terms.

3. From the Limits section of the search page, change the publication years to run from 1861 to 1900 and click the blue Search button. After a few seconds you will see a list of results containing your search word.

4. Now try repeating the search but with the Include Related Terms option selected. You should find that you get many more results as OVID automatically tries to add related or similar terms to your search. This feature can be useful if you are getting no results from a particular search term. However, it can also make your search less focused and generate irrelevant results.

Zoological Record Current

This is accessed through the Web of Science platform. Literature from 1993 to the present is included. Zoological Record uses a controlled vocabulary of terms to add additional search terms to records in a standardised way. This includes things like taxonomic information, geological time periods and hundreds of standardised subject headings such as ‘Digestion’ or ‘Reproduction’. You can use these controlled vocabularies to help improve your searching.

1. Start by searching SOLO for ‘Zoological Record’ but this time, follow the link for the Zoological Record (WoK, 1993-)

2. This will take you to the Web of Science search page. Make sure that ‘Zoological Record’ is selected in the ‘Select a database’ drop down menu at the top of the screen.

3. Next to the first search box, drop down the menu to change the field which is going to be searched to Subject Descriptors. Next click the ‘Select from Thesaurus’ link.

4. You can now choose one or more terms from the controlled vocabulary to use in your search. You can browse the available terms or search for a term. Try finding Viperidae. Click the ‘Add’ button next to the correct term.
5. Next, at the bottom of the screen click OK to add the selected term to your search.
6. Repeat the steps above to select a Subject word. You can try searching for a word or browse all the available subjects.
7. Once back to the search screen, click Search.
8. You should get a list of results back where the records include the terms you selected.