How to Search CAB Abstracts – Aug 29 2017

**Question:** What disease control methods are most effective in controlling prion diseases in cattle?

**Key concepts:**
- **Population** = cattle
- **Problem** = prion diseases
- **Intervention** = disease control methods

Connect to CAB Abstracts from the University Library list of veterinary medicine databases at: http://libguides.ucalgary.ca/az.php?s=52661

1.0 CAB Abstracts Advanced: Textword Search

When you login to CAB Abstracts, the Advanced is the default search mode as indicated by the black font below.

In Advanced mode, the database simply looks for a match of your search terms anywhere in the database record – there is no artificial intelligence interpreting your query, or searching for sub-concepts of broad search terms such as *prion diseases*, or *disease control*. This means that many search results will not actually be on your topic.

**Step 1**

In the search box type: beef cattle

Click on Search

On the search results page, click on Clear to remove terms from the search box.

In the search box type: prion diseases

Click on Search

On the search results page, click on Clear to remove terms from the search box.
In the search box type: disease control

Click on Search

On the search results page, click on Clear to remove terms from the search box.

Step 2 __________________________________________________________________________________________

Click on the Search History link.

On the Search History page below, click in the boxes beside your 3 key concepts – sets S5, S6 and S7.

Click Search with AND. Click on the View Results link to view search results.

2.0 CAB Abstracts: Thesaurus: Subject Headings Search

In the Thesaurus Subject Headings search mode, only the subject headings (index terms) assigned to each record by indexers are searched. This means that most search results will be on your topic.

Step 1 __________________________________________________________________________________________

On the top blue banner, click on Thesaurus.

Select: Relevancy Ranked

In the Browsing CAB Subject Thesaurus box, type: beef cattle Click Browse
Click on the *beef cattle* link

Select term, then add to search using: OR  Add

(Click term to display details.)

- beef cattle

In the list of Narrower Terms and Related Terms below, click in the boxes beside the terms you want.

Click Add.

Select term, then add to search using: OR  Add

- beef cattle
  - Broader Terms: cattle, meat animals
  - Narrower Terms: beef bulls, beef cows
  - Related Terms: beef, beef breeds, beef herds, beef production

Your selected terms will appear in the search box at the top of the screen. Click on Search.

Searching: CAB Abstracts  |  Choose Databases

DE "beef cattle" OR DE "beef bulls" OR DE  Select a Field (option...  Search  Create Alert  Clear

On the search results page, click on Clear to remove terms from the search box.

**Step 2**

On the search results page, on the top blue banner, click on Thesaurus again.

In the Browsing CAB Subject Thesaurus box, type: prion diseases

Click Browse.
Click on the *prion diseases* link.

In the list of Broader Terms and Narrower Terms below, click in the Explode box to the far right of *prion diseases*.

Explode retrieves all database records indexed with the subject heading *prion diseases*, and also retrieves all of the Narrower Terms listed below it, without you having to click in every Narrower Terms box.

NOTE that Explode does *not* retrieve the Related Terms listed.

Click on Add.

Your selected terms will appear in the search box at the top of the screen (see below). Click on Search.
On the search results page (see below), click on Clear to remove terms from the search box.

Searching: **CAB Abstracts**  |  Choose Databases

DE "prion diseases" OR DE "bovine spongiform" Select a Field (optional)  |  Search  |  Create Alert  |  Clear

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**Step 3**

On the top blue banner, click on Thesaurus again.

In the Browsing CAB Subject Thesaurus box, type: disease control  |  Click Browse.

Click on the *disease control* link.

In the list of Narrower Terms and Related Terms below, click in the boxes beside the subject headings you want.

Click Add, then click on Search.

Select term, then add to search using:  OR  |  Add

- **disease control**
- Narrower Terms
  - plant disease control
  - vector control
- Related Terms
  - biological control
  - campaigns
  - contact tracing
  - control programmes
On the search results page below, click on Clear to remove terms from the search box.

**Step 4** __________________________________________________________________________________________

Click on the **Search History** link.

On the Search History page below, click in the boxes beside your 3 key concepts – sets S1, S2 and S3.

Click Search with AND. Click on the View Results link to view search results.