

# Databases for Zoology

We have specialist Zoology databases available which extend the journal, book and conference literature covered by databases such as Web of Science Core Collection and SCOPUS. For example, The Zoological Record Archive allows searching of historical zoological literature back to the mid-

19th century using the OVID database platform. The BIOSIS Citation Index covers the biological sciences literature and allows searching by taxonomic, chemical and biochemical criteria. It is accessed through the Web of Science (WoS) platform.

- ✂ Begin on the Radcliffe Science Library website – [www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/science](http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/science). This site provides useful information about the library including opening hours, staff contacts and subject guides.
- ✂ Click on the **Subject Support** menu and then select **Zoology**. You will be shown the Zoology LibGuide which lists a range of useful resources for researching topics in Zoology.
- ✂ Click on the **Databases** tab and click the link for **Zoological Record (archive)**.

## Zoological Record Archive

The Zoological Record Archive allows you to identify scientific publications in Zoology from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century thus providing coverage of the historical Zoology literature sometimes absent from databases such as SCOPUS. The Zoological Record Archive is accessed through OVID.

1. OVID will display a list of databases accessible through the platform. Scroll down the list and tick the check-box next to the entry which says **Zoological Record Archive 1864 to 1977** and then click the blue **OK** button at the bottom of the screen.
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.

## BIOSIS Citation Index

The BIOSIS Citation Index provides coverage of the life sciences and biomedical literature from 1969 to the present. Records in the database are carefully indexed with additional terms allowing searching by fields such taxonomic information, chemical names and gene names.

1. Return to the Zoology LibGuide and find the link to the **BIOSIS Citation Index** on the **databases** tab and then follow the link through to SOLO to open the database on the Web of Science platform.
2. Select the **advanced search** and then type in the following search into the search box and press the blue **search** button `TA=("Thaumetopoea processionea" OR "oak processionary") AND GE="London"`
  - This search examines the Taxonomic (TA) and Geographical (GE) fields of the records.
3. To display the results of the search, look down the page and find the **search history**. Click on the number of results displayed in the table next to the search just conducted.
4. From the results list, open some of the records to see how additional search terms have been indexed into different fields at the bottom of each record. These give you the ability to make searches in BIOSIS extremely precise.

