

CAB Direct

Improving database searching

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what is CABI?

CABI is a not-for-profit science-based development and information organization

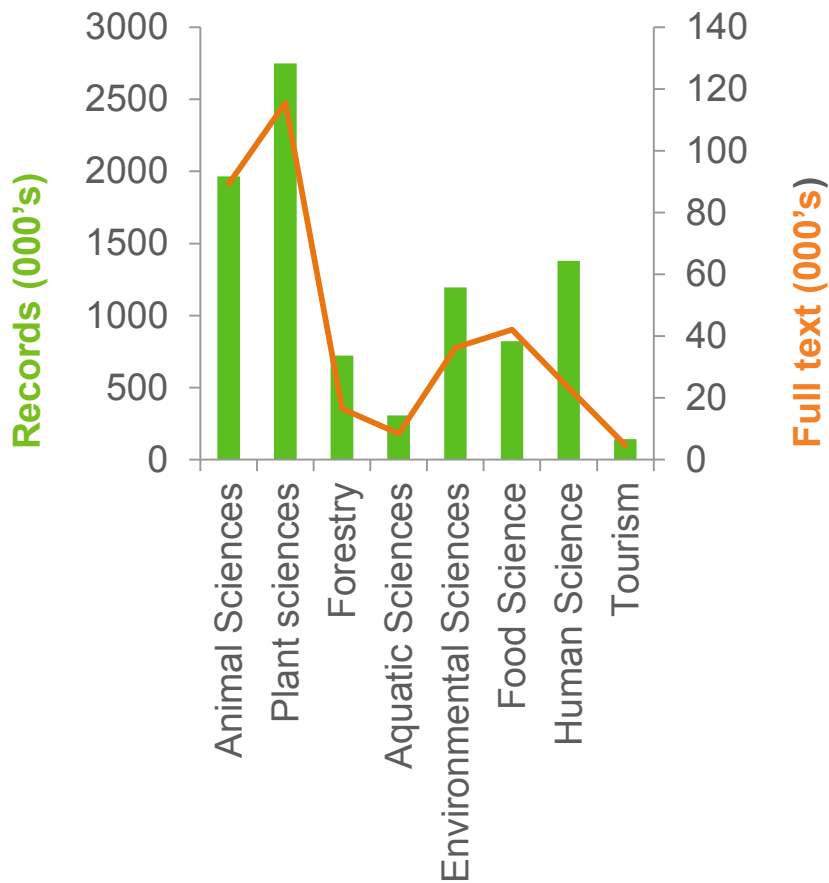
CABI's mission:

Improve people's lives worldwide by providing information and applying scientific expertise to solve problems in agriculture and the environment



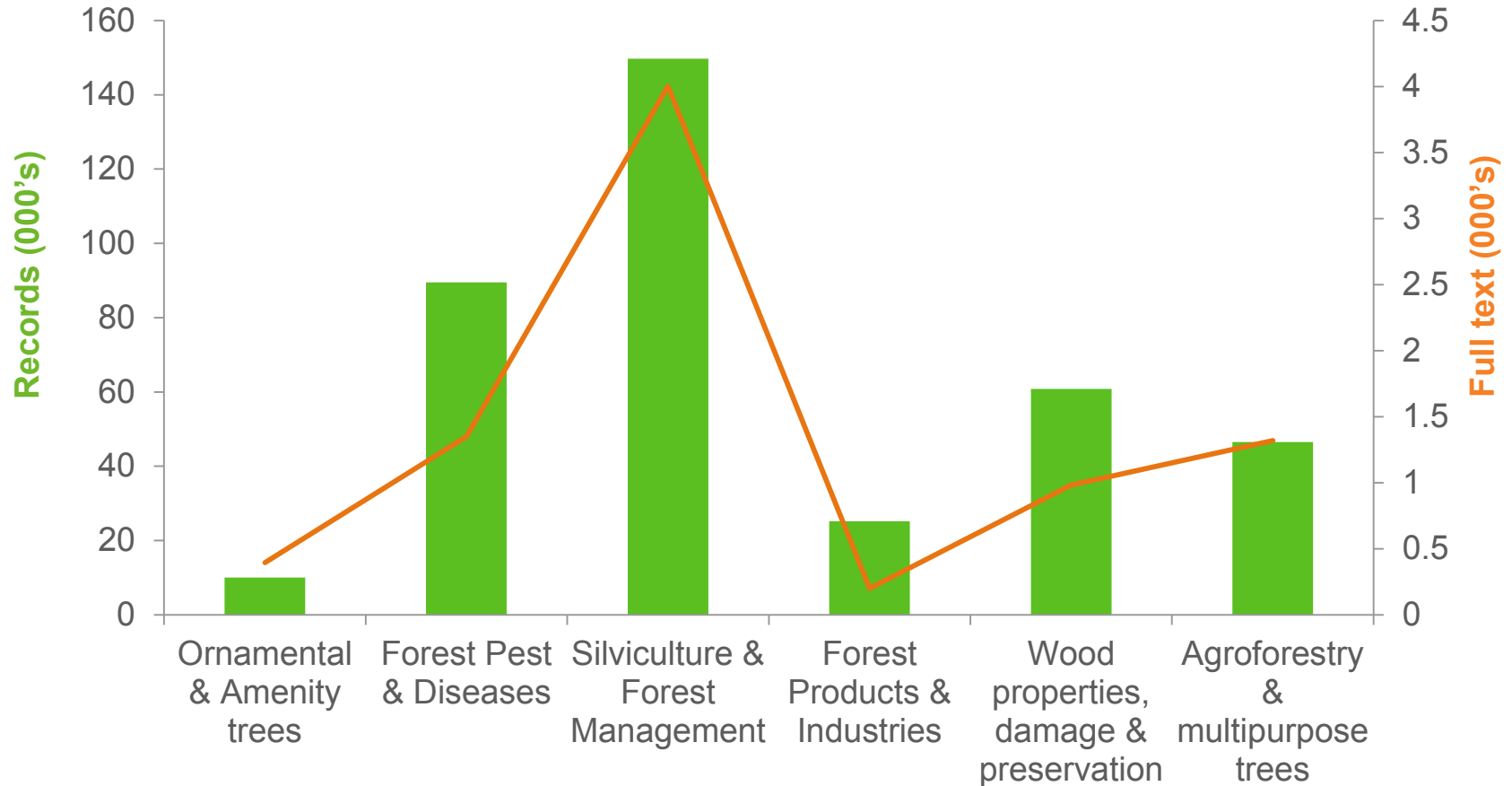
CAB Abstracts

Subject coverage and content

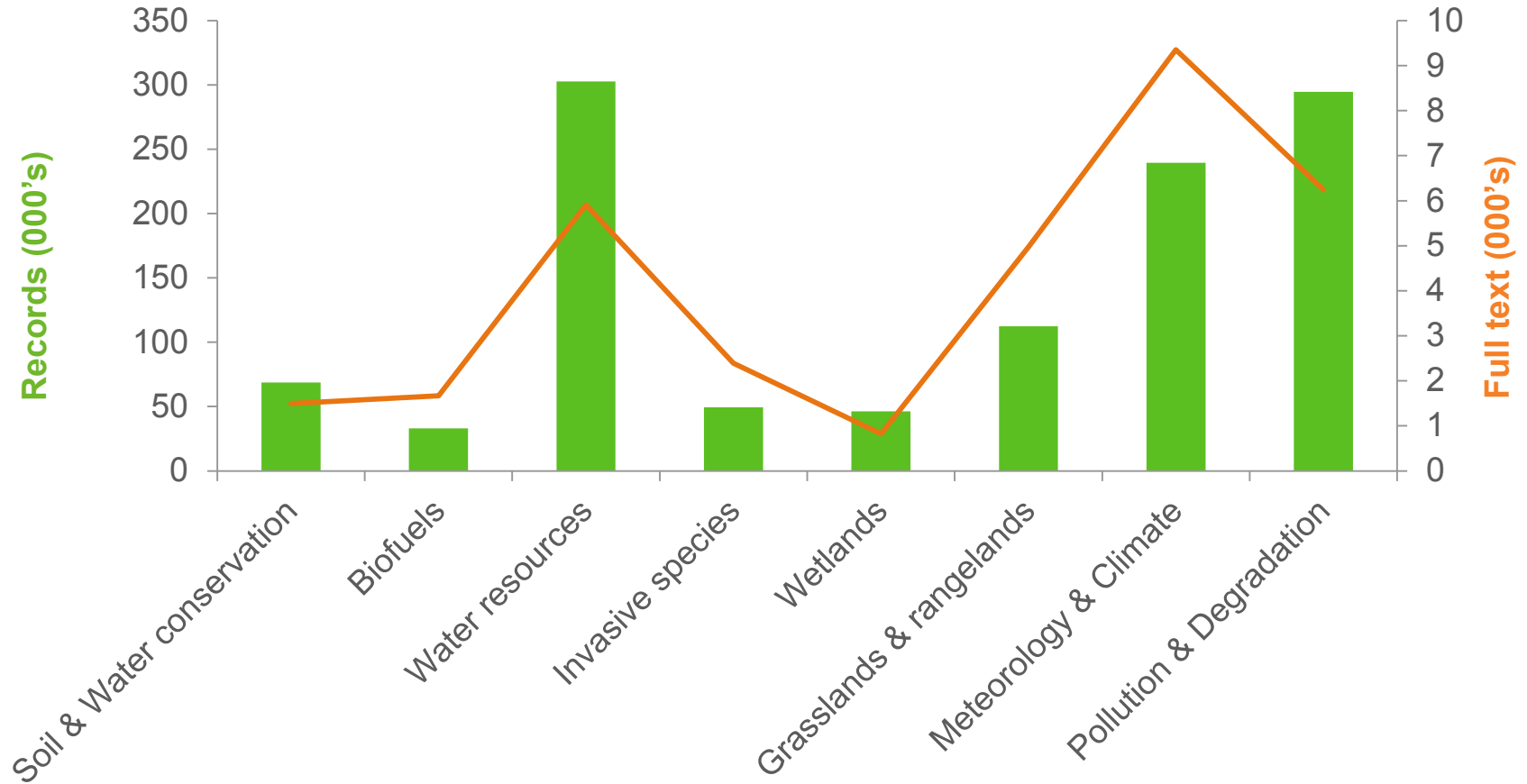


- Dedicated to applied life science
 - over 7.8 million records
 - includes key grey literature
 - regular weekly updates
- Content selections by subject experts
 - open journals list
 - increased discoverability
- Full text selection
 - Over 266,000 full text records

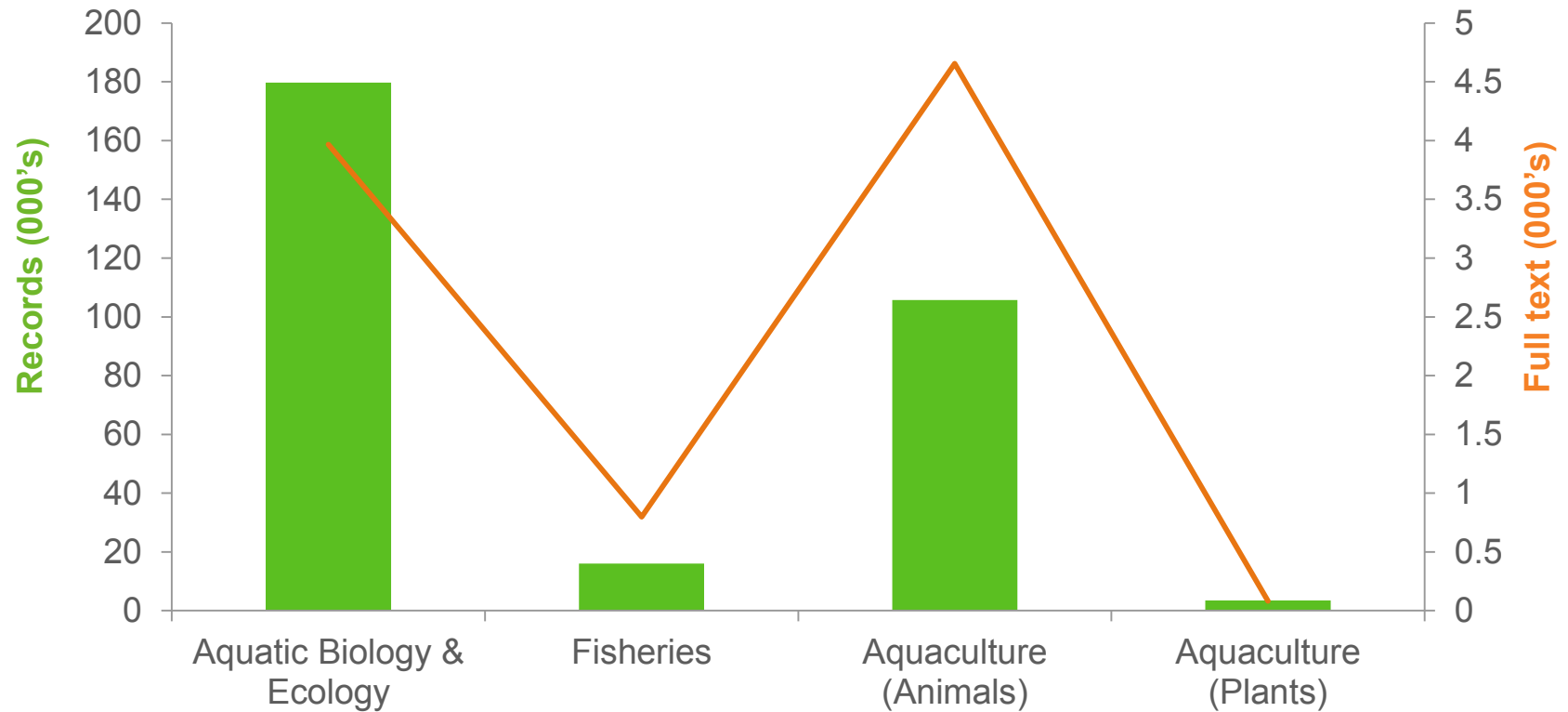
Subject Coverage (Forestry)



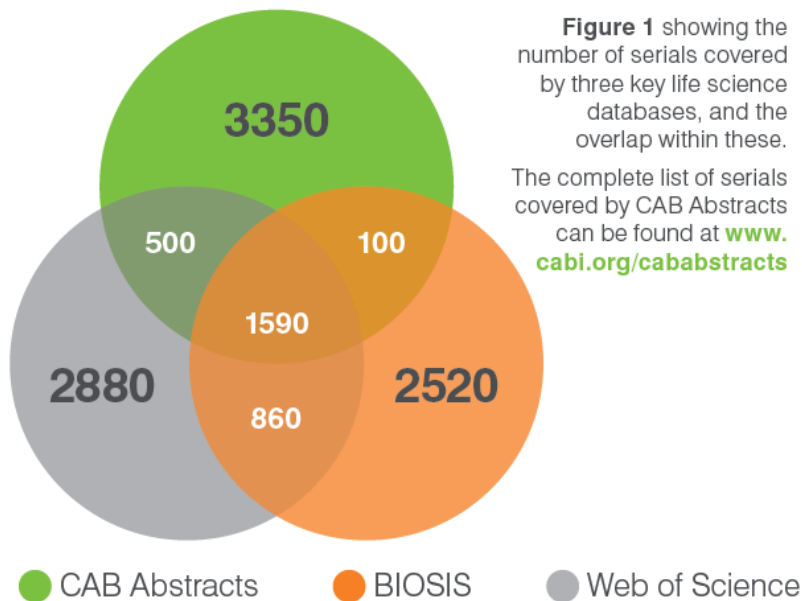
Subject Coverage (Environmental Sciences)



Subject Coverage (Aquatic Sciences)



Content updates

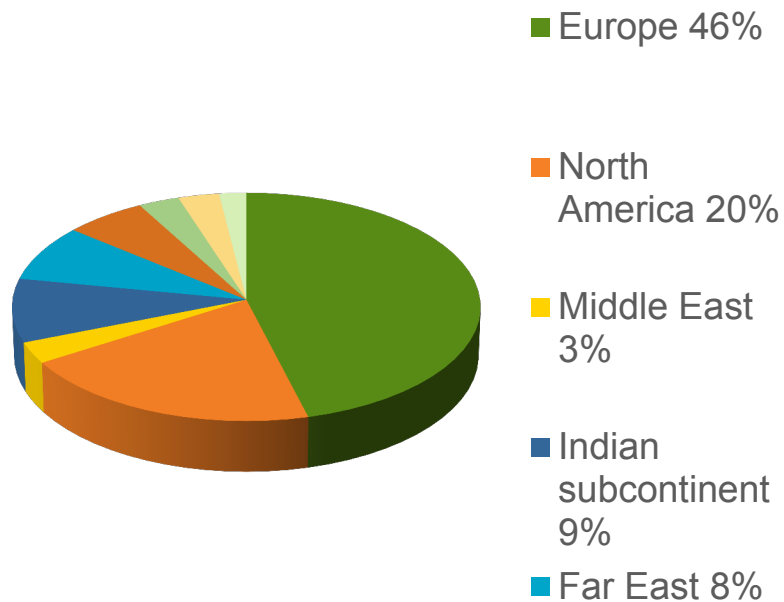


Database Content types

- Journals: 83%
- Conferences: 9%
- Grey literature (incl. reports): 4%
- Books and book chapters: 2%
- Other (theses/bulletins/editorials) 2%

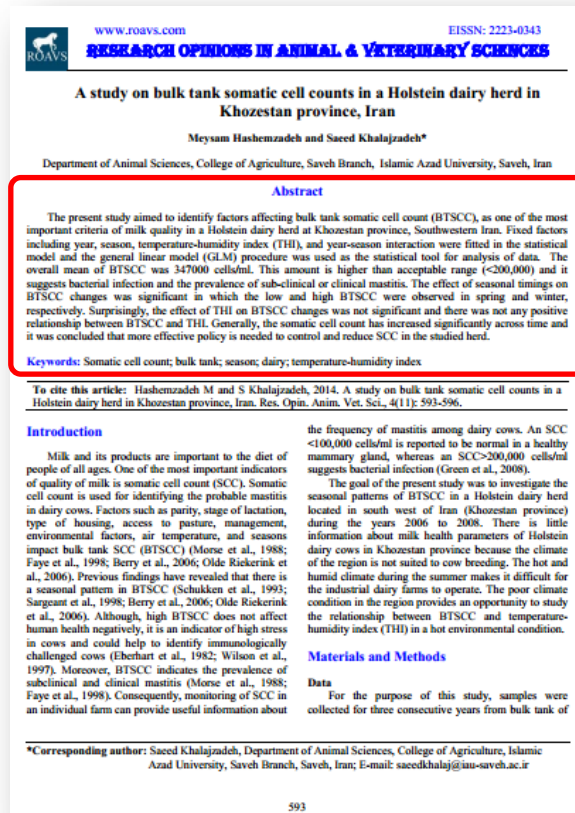
CAB Abstracts

Geographical coverage



- 8,700 international serials
- from over 119 countries
- covering 50 languages
- Translation for foreign abstracts

What is a bibliographic database?



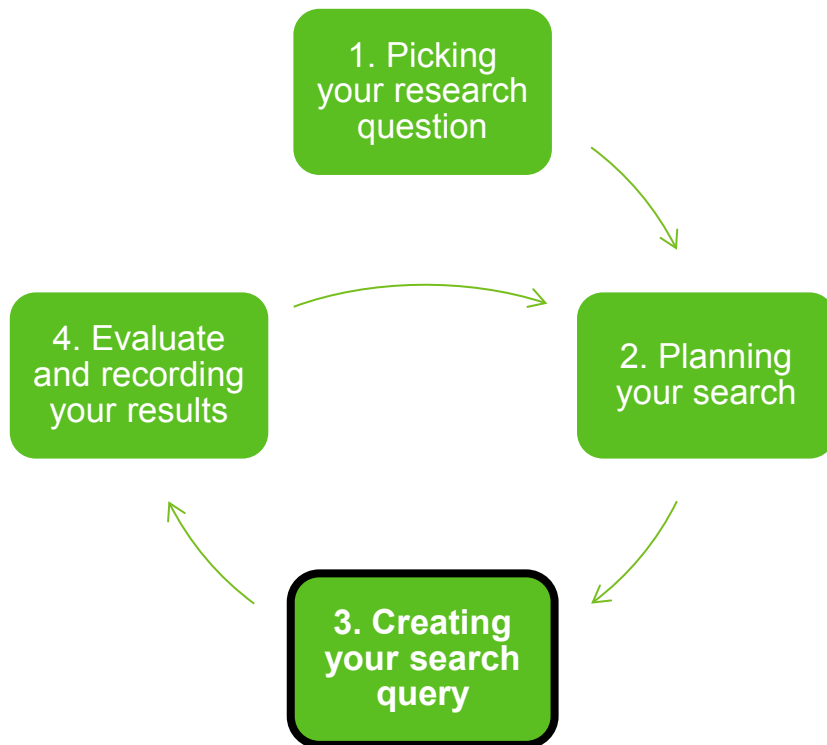
- Bibliographic records
- Metadata indexes to aid retrieval

The value of A&I

- Time saving tool
- Reliable peer-reviewed sources
- Links to full-text for extensive reference

Literature review process

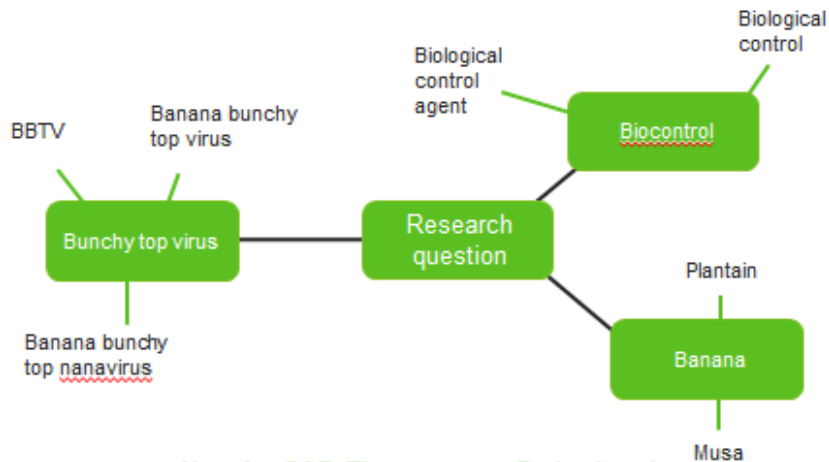
Deciding on an approach



1. Identify relevant sources and document types
2. Choose your search strategy
 - Systematic
 - Retrospective
 - Citation based
 - Targeted
3. **Plan/create search statements**
4. Evaluate record and searches conducted

Plan/create search statements

Two useful methods



1. Mind maps

- Use [CAB Thesaurus](#) to map related words

2. Citation pearl growing

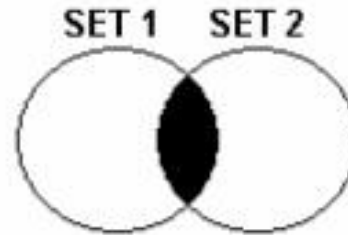
- Use keywords from [highly relevant paper](#)

Database searching

Multi-term searching operators

AND

e.g. Soil **AND** climate change



Retrieves only records that contain **all** the terms chosen

OR

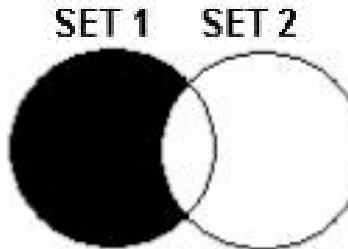
e.g. Climate change **OR** global warming



Retrieves only records that contain **any** of the terms chosen

NOT

e.g. Ash **NOT** fire



Retrieves only records that include keyword terms and **exclude** certain terms

Database searching


Useful search symbols

Symbol	Function	Example
“ ”	Phrase search	“Climate change”
()	Orders the search	Climate AND (floods OR rainfall)
?	Individual character replacement	Anly?e search analyze and analyse
*	Automatic truncation	Hous* searches house, houses, housing etc.

CAB Direct

www.cabdirect.org

The screenshot shows the CAB Direct website homepage. At the top, the 'cabdirect' logo is on the left, and the CABI logo with 'provided by www.cabi.org' is on the right. Below the logo is a navigation bar with links for 'About CAB Direct', 'Tell us what you think', and 'Contact Us'. A secondary navigation bar contains 'Home', 'Help', 'Thesaurus', and 'Roaming Passport'. The main content area features a 'Gateway to the world's applied life sciences' section with a description of the database and a search box. To the left is a 'Subscription Information' sidebar with a 'Log Out' button and 'MyCABDirect' links. To the right is an 'About CAB Direct' sidebar showing record counts and a 'Featured' sidebar with 'Online Resources'.

cabdirect provided by  www.cabi.org

[About CAB Direct](#) | [Tell us what you think](#) | [Contact Us](#)

• Home Help Thesaurus Roaming Passport

Subscription Information

CABI ACCESS (Gratis)
(logged in via IP address)
[Show Details](#)

[Log Out](#)

[Log into a different account](#)

[MyCABDirect](#)
[About MyCABDirect](#)
[Create a free account](#)

Gateway to the world's applied life sciences

CAB Direct is the most thorough and extensive source of reference in the **applied life sciences**, incorporating the leading bibliographic databases **CAB Abstracts** and **Global Health**. CAB Direct provides a convenient, single point of access to all of your CABI database subscriptions.

Search

enter search terms [search](#)

[Advanced search](#)

Inform

In 2010 [CABI](#) celebrated 100 years of publishing expertise in the applied life sciences. Behind CAB Direct sits an exceptional team of experts, working hard to keep up-to-date on the latest research, and ensuring even the most hard-to-find material makes its way onto our database. Our technology partners Semantico and our product development and IT teams are passionate about information delivery. We like to ensure that our information is as accessible as possible, on platforms that are easy and interesting to use and we are continually improving CAB Direct in response to customer feedback.

- [Hand picked and carefully sorted \(CABI Blog\)](#)

About CAB Direct

No. of records:
11,014,269
Last Update:
Mar 20 2015

Over 10 million applied life sciences abstracts carefully selected by our team of experts and continually updated every week.

Featured

In addition to our database CABI produces a number of unique resources, take a look:

- [Online Resources](#)

CAB Direct

Searching operators

Soil pH _____ climate change _____ global warming



“Soil pH” AND (“climate change” OR “global warming”)

Combining searches

Simplifying Boolean searching



The screenshot shows the CAB Direct website search interface. At the top left is the 'cabdirect' logo. Below it are navigation links: 'About CAB Direct | Tell us what you think | Contact Us'. A navigation bar contains 'Home', 'Help', 'Thesaurus', and 'Roaming Passport'. A search bar with the placeholder 'enter search terms' and a 'search' button is present. Below the search bar is a link for 'Advanced Search'. The 'Recent Searches' section lists two items: 1. 'Climate change' (140,868 results) and 2. '"soil acidity" OR "soil alkalinity" OR "soil pH"' (46,552 results). Below this is a section for 'Combine Selected Searches' with radio buttons for 'OR', 'AND', and 'NOT', and a 'Combine' button. The footer contains links for 'Technical Info | Cookies | Subject Map | Privacy Policy | Terms and Conditions' and the copyright notice '©2015 CABI'.

Build your searches in a step process

- Perform related words/synonym searches
- Combine concepts with AND
- Reject concepts with NOT

CABICODES

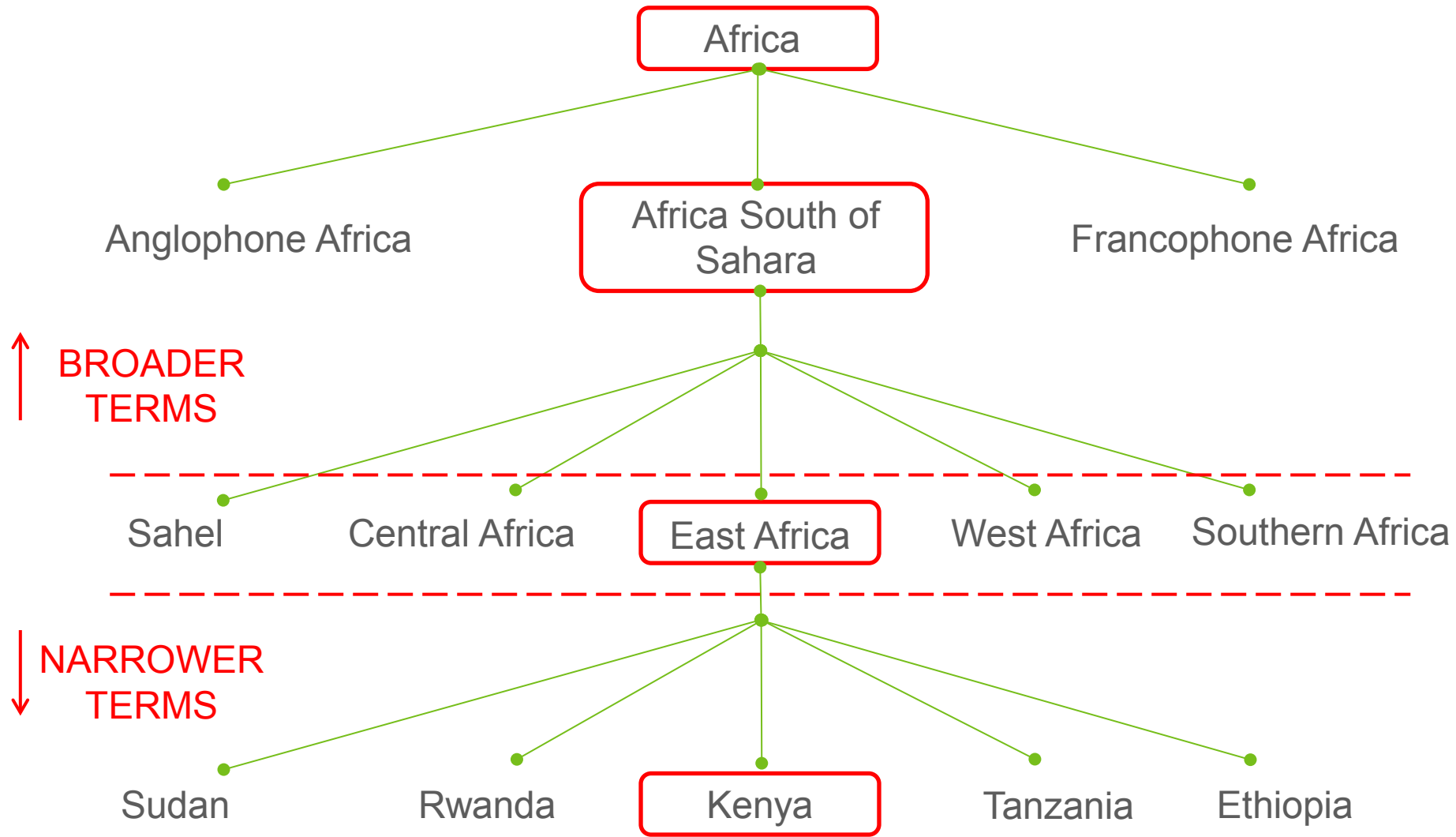
- Subject codes that return all relevant records on specific topic
- Search either alphanumerical code or subject title

Heading title	CABICODE
Forestry, Forest Products and Agroforestry	KK000
Forests and Forest Trees (Biology & Ecology)	KK100
Silviculture and Forest Management	KK110
Forest Mensuration and Management	KK120
Forest Fires	KK130
Ornamental and Amenity Trees	KK160

CABI metadata fields

- Indexed using CAB Thesaurus (controlled vocabulary)
- Search all using the subject term field

	Metadata field	Field tag
Subject term	Organism descriptor	OD
	Geographic location	GL
	Descriptors	DU
	Broader terms	BT
	Identifiers	ID



Optimising searching

In summary

