

LibGuide: CAB Direct

Locating CAB Direct

- Via the [Veterinary Medical Library homepage](#)
- Via the [K-State Libraries' homepage](#)

CAB Thesaurus

The CAB Thesaurus is a powerful tool used to find and record **controlled vocabulary** for all articles within CAB databases (including CAB Abstracts and Global Health) since 1983. CAB Thesaurus has over 3 million terms that is updated routinely.

To access:

- Click "Advanced search" right of the search button
- Click "Thesaurus" located on the top right side of the search header
 - This will open a separate screen

To find controlled vocabulary:

- In the search thesaurus field, type in a key term (i.e. cat) and select the orange arrow OR hit enter
- In the search results, select the term you searched for (i.e. cat)

All terms A-Z

All | [A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#) |

Search results

Next >

- *cat* add ←
- *cat's-claw* add
- *cat's claw* add
- *cat's claw creeper* add
- *Cat's ear yellow spot virus* add
- *cat's head* add
- *cat's tail* add
- *cat's tail grass* add
- *cat-flea typhus* add
- *cat-head* add
- *cat biting louse* add
- *cat bladder worm* add
- *cat cheyletiellid mite* add
- *cat diseases* add
- *cat ear mite* add

- Clicking on search term will open the term's specific information including **preferred term**.
- **Preferred Term:** controlled vocabulary used for any search and/or article relating to that subject, object, or thing (i.e. *cat* preferred term is *cats*)
- Perform thesaurus search for all relevant search terms to find preferred term

The screenshot shows a thesaurus entry for the term 'cat'. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'All terms A-Z' and a list of letters from A to Z. Below this, the term 'cat' is displayed with an 'add' button. The entry is organized into several sections: 'Technical Category' (COM Common Name - Organisms, S Singular Form), 'Subject Category' (ON Organism Names), 'History Note' (From 1983. Was Descriptor 1983-1988.), 'Preferred Term' (cats), and 'Português' (gato) and 'Español' (gato). A purple arrow points to the 'Preferred Term' section, which is highlighted in orange.

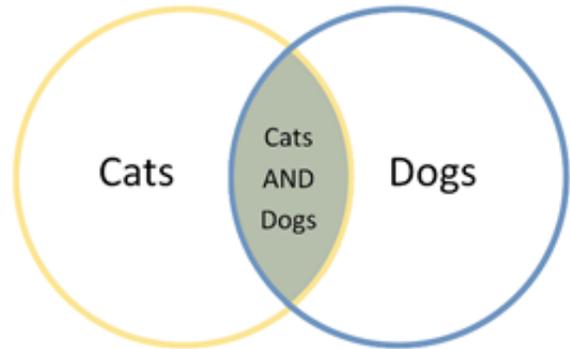
Preferred terms allow for using **one** term to search rather than having to construct a long search string for every individual term. For example, searching *cat*, *cats*, *cat AND cats*, or *cat OR cats* in CAB all yields 142,386 search results since the preferred term is used for the **descriptor term**.

- **Descriptor Terms:** controlled vocabulary that all search terms are mapped to in the CAB database. There are:
 - Organism Descriptors
 - Descriptors
 - Identifiers
 - Geographical Locations
 - Broader Terms
- Descriptors are located at the bottom of an article description when selected
- Some words will not be found in the thesaurus and descriptors must be used
 - Search for the keyword in the search field (i.e. *urethral obstruction*)
 - Click on an article that has the term in it
 - Scroll to the bottom of the article description and look for "descriptors"
 - Find the correct term (i.e. *urethral obstruction* is an **identifier** whereas *urolithiasis* is a **descriptor**. Make sure to use the correct term for the search.)

Boolean Logic

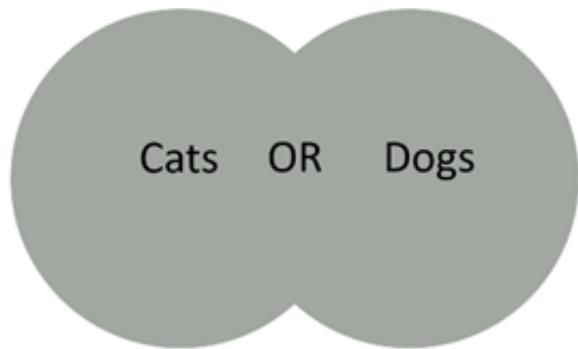
'AND' Boolean

The *and* boolean term is used to combine two or more **different** key terms, concepts, or search strings (i.e. cats *and* dogs). This indicates that both, or all, search terms **must** be included in the search results.



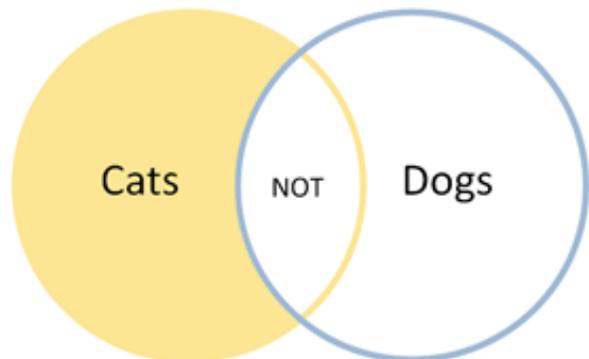
'OR' Boolean

The *or* Boolean term is used to combine two or more **similar** key terms, concepts, or search strings (i.e. cats *or* cat *or* feline *or* felines). This indicates you want all words, some of the words, one of the words, or a variation/combination of the words included in the search results.



'NOT' Boolean

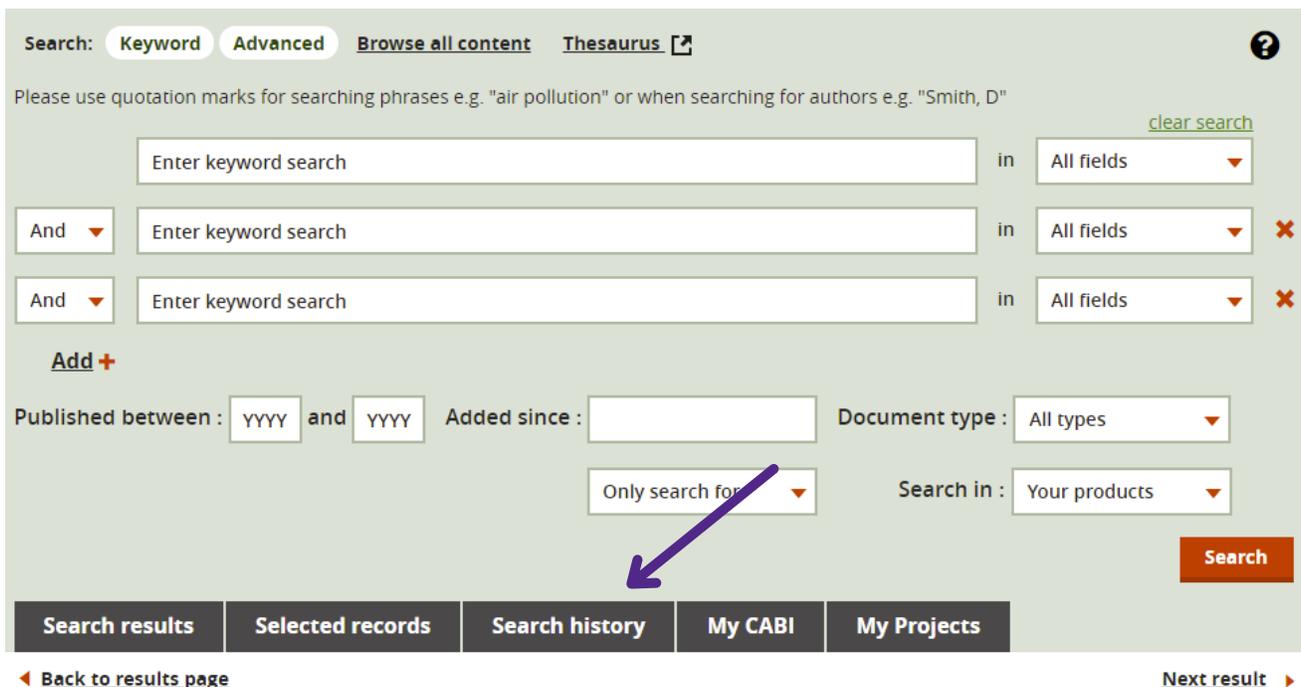
The *not* Boolean term is used to eliminate the words included in the field from your search. This can cause articles to be missed or not included that would otherwise suit your search needs. This Boolean term is not recommended for most database searches.



Building a CAB Search

It is recommended to begin a search by finding the thesaurus words and/or descriptors before searching.

- Select "Keyword"
- In the "Enter keyword search" field, type in your **first** keyword (i.e. *cats*)
- Select "Search"
- Repeat this step for all relevant terms (i.e. *urethral obstruction*)
- Once all keywords are searched individually, click "Advanced"
- Select "Search history" tab located in the middle of the Advanced searching page



The screenshot displays the CAB search interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs: "Keyword" (selected), "Advanced", "Browse all content", and "Thesaurus" with an external link icon. A help icon (?) is in the top right. Below the tabs, a note reads: "Please use quotation marks for searching phrases e.g. 'air pollution' or when searching for authors e.g. 'Smith, D'". A "clear search" link is on the right. The search form consists of three rows, each with an "Enter keyword search" input field, an "in" dropdown menu set to "All fields", and a red "X" icon. The first row is followed by an "And" dropdown. Below the form is an "Add +" button. Further down, there are filters: "Published between : YYYY and YYYY", "Added since :", "Document type : All types", "Only search for" (with a dropdown arrow), and "Search in : Your products". A red "Search" button is on the right. At the bottom, there is a navigation bar with tabs: "Search results", "Selected records", "Search history" (highlighted), "My CABI", and "My Projects". Below the navigation bar, there are links: "◀ Back to results page" and "Next result ▶". A purple arrow points from the "Only search for" dropdown to the "Search history" tab.

The search history will retain any search terms used in the individual search. This will allow for search terms to be combined.

Search: **Keyword** [Advanced](#) [Browse all content](#) [Thesaurus](#)

Enter keyword search [clear search](#) **Search**

Search results **Selected records** **Search history** **My CABI** **My Projects**

Search history

Actions **Combine searches** Select a search first

<input type="checkbox"/> All	Search term	Date (GMT)	Results	Saved
<input type="checkbox"/>	urethral obstruction Refinements:	21 Apr 2021 20:31	778	
<input type="checkbox"/>	cats Refinements:	21 Apr 2021 20:29	142,386	

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- Using the toggle boxes on the left side of the search history, select the appropriate terms for the search string
- Using Boolean logic, combine searches (in this case, *urethral obstruction* and *cats* will be combined using **AND**)
- Select "Combine" to conduct search

Search: **Keyword** [Advanced](#) [Browse all content](#) [Thesaurus](#)

Enter keyword search [clear search](#) **Search**

Search results **Selected records** **Search history** **My CABI** **My Projects**

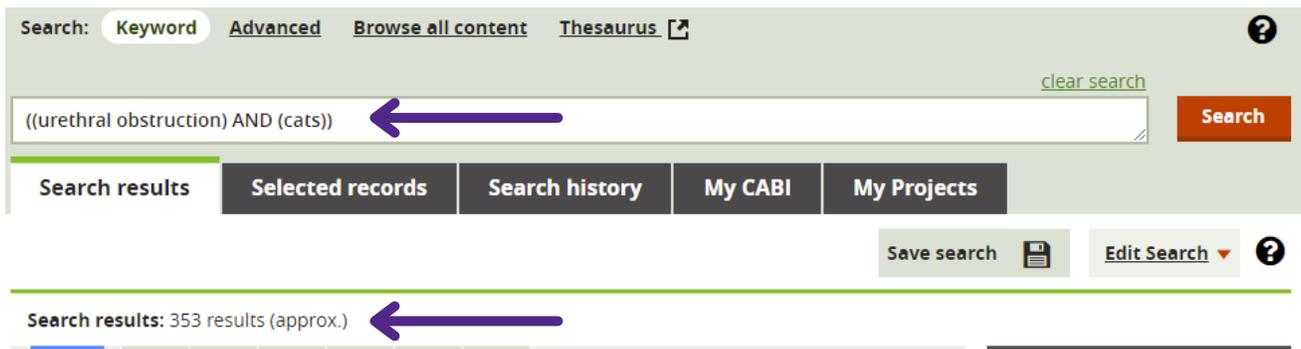
Search history

Actions **Combine searches** And Or Not **Combine**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All	Search term	Date (GMT)	Results	Saved
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	urethral obstruction Refinements:	21 Apr 2021 20:31	778	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	cats Refinements:	21 Apr 2021 20:29	142,386	

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- Combining the terms results in 353 results including both *cats* and *urethral obstruction*



The screenshot shows a search interface with a search bar containing the query "((urethral obstruction) AND (cats))". A purple arrow points to the search bar. Below the search bar are tabs for "Search results", "Selected records", "Search history", "My CABI", and "My Projects". To the right of the tabs are buttons for "Save search" and "Edit Search". Below the tabs, the text "Search results: 353 results (approx.)" is displayed, with a purple arrow pointing to it. The interface also includes a "clear search" link and a "Search" button.

Refining a Search

On the right side of the search results screen, you can refine searches further via filters.

- **Results by Year:** The slider allows for narrowing or widening searches by year published. Make sure to select "update results" to conduct new search within the year parameters
- **Refine by:** A list of various ways to refine searches including:
 - Topics
 - Organism Descriptors
 - Broader terms
 - Document type
 - Year
 - Publication title
 - Author
 - Geographic Location
 - Language
- Clicking on any of these options will open a pop-up window where refinement is made via lists of terms, locations, years, etc.

Obtaining Full-Text PDFs

Full-text PDFs are available via GetIt links provided on the library webpages (you must sign in with your K-State eID and password for full access).

- Select the article you wish to obtain on PubMed
- On the right side of the screen, under “Full text links” click the K-State “Get It” button
- You will either be directed to the full article directly or to K-State’s SearchIt page where you can click on the link for the full article

If Article is Not Available as a Free PDF

- You will be directed to K-State’s SearchIt page which will give you options in obtaining the article
- **Check holdings:** If physical copy is located at one of our library locations, the location will be listed under *Check for physical copy*
- **Request from Interlibrary Loan:** if a physical copy is not available or, if you would like the PDF sent directly to you, select *Not Available? Request from Interlibrary Loan* to place a loan request (click here to learn about placing an Interlibrary Loan request)