

10. HOW TO GAIN ACCESS TO THE ASFA DATABASE?

The **Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA) Bibliographic Database** is the principal **information product** produced through the cooperative efforts of the international network of **ASFA Partners** (<http://www.fao.org/fishery/asfa/en>) and a commercial ASFA Publisher **ProQuest** (<http://www.proquest.com/contact/general-contact.html>). The database contains approximately 2 million bibliographic references (or records) to the world's aquatic science literature accessioned since 1971. (See FAQ-1, "What is ASFA?" ftp://ftp.fao.org/FI/asfa/faq/faq1_e.pdf).

- **General Public:** Access to the ASFA Bibliographic Database, by the General Public, is available through subscription from the commercial ASFA Publisher **ProQuest** or from one of the ProQuest licensed providers (contact ProQuest for a list)

- **Low Income Food Deficit Countries (LIFDC):** There is a FAO/ASFA project initiative underway to provide free access to the ASFA Bibliographic Database to selected institutes in LIFDC countries. See section-1, below, for a brief description of this initiative (for a detailed description including instructions on "how to apply" for access to the ASFA Bibliographic database under this initiative see **FAQ-9** (ftp://ftp.fao.org/FI/asfa/faq/faq9_e.pdf).

- **ASFA Partner institutes/organizations:** By rule, access to the ASFA Bibliographic Database by participating ASFA Partner institutes/organizations is free (see section-2, below, for a brief description).

1. FAO/ASFA Low Income Food Deficit Country (LIFDC) Project

The FAO/ASFA project initiative to supply the ASFA Bibliographic Database (free of charge) to institutes in Low Income Food Deficit Countries (LIFDC) is an attempt to provide access to the ASFA database to those Institutes that cannot join ASFA and/or that cannot afford the commercial subscription price to ASFA. Eligibility to benefit from this project initiative is limited to institutes in LIFDC countries (<http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/lifdc.asp?lang=en>).

The project began in 1999 and was originally limited to providing only the ASFA CD-ROM to institutes only in Africa. The project was subsequently enlarged to include all LIFDC countries and also to include access to the ASFA database via Internet (albeit many LIFDC countries institutes do not have the necessary internet connectivity)

Initial contact with institutes was made by mailing these institutions an information sheet giving details of the initiative and requesting interested institutions to complete a questionnaire (see FAQ-9 - ftp://ftp.fao.org/FI/asfa/faq/faq9_e.pdf).

For institutes in LIFDC countries in Africa, the number of institutions accessing ASFA under this initiative is currently around 24.

For the rest of the world ASFA LIFDC project, including both those receiving ASFA on CD/DVD-ROM and those receiving it via Internet, the total number of recipients (other than Africa) is currently around 21.

It should be noted that a number of Institutes (10 to date), as a result of this project, have joined the ASFA Partnership (i.e. they submit ASFA bibliographic references to the ASFA database for the aquatic science literature published in their country. In return, they receive the ASFA information products as a result of their membership in ASFA and not as a result of the LIFDC project).

For details on how to apply for access to the ASFA Bibliographic Database through the FAO/ASFA LIFDC project initiative see FAQ-9 (ftp://ftp.fao.org/FI/asfa/faq/faq9_e.pdf).

2. ASFA Partners

On joining ASFA, institutes sign a Partnership Agreement with FAO (<ftp://ftp.fao.org/FI/asfa/Agreement/an690e/an690e00.pdf>) which describes the responsibilities and entitlements of being an ASFA Partner. Free access to the ASFA Bibliographic database is an entitlement due to all the ASFA Partner institutes/organizations who are actively submitting input (bibliographic references) to the ASFA database. Free access to the database is considered as an entitlement (or recompense) for the ASFA Partner's efforts and expense in preparing and submitting references for inclusion in the ASFA database.

For information on applying to become an ASFA Partner see FAQ-2 (ftp://ftp.fao.org/FI/asfa/faq/faq2_e.pdf).

(FAQ note is by Richard Pepe (richard.pepe@fao.org), updated September 2014)