

UNITED KINGDOM INTERSESSIONAL REPORT

ASFA ADVISORY BOARD
Rome, 4-8 October 2005**1. Institute**

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2b. Collaborating Centres

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3. Input Statistics

2005 figures are up to 12 September and have all been exported to CSA.

Year	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Records input	1247	1609	1211	1289	1473	1222

All records submitted since 2003 have been prepared using the www-ISIS-ASFA software

4. Distribution List

ASFA CD-ROM: NMBL
Internet Database Service*: NMBL
CEH
CEFAS

*networked access

5. Monitoring List

The UK's serials monitoring list currently consists of 92 journals (63 core titles, 29 non-core). In addition several report series (treated as monographs for ASFA) are monitored on a regular basis.

New to Monitoring List

Journal of Cetacean Research & Management Special Issue
Marine Foresight Series
Microscopy, Journal of the Quekett Microscopical Club* (continued as Quekett Journal of Microscopy)
Quekett Journal of Microscopy
SAHFOS Technical Report
World Fishing**

* added to monitoring list for retrospective indexing

** only title received on the recently circulated list of non-aquatic sciences publications

Ceased Publication

Annual Report. Salmon Research Agency of Ireland
Household Fish Consumption in Great Britain
UK Trade Bulletin

6. Usefulness of ASFA Products

Usage of ASFA is increasing though ISI Web of Science is still the most regularly used database.

7. Problems

There is continuing concern about the inclusion of terms from different vocabularies in Illumina's Descriptor Field. Records that contain non-ASFA indexing terms do not always include the equivalent ASFA descriptors. Therefore, important information could be missed when the ASFA Thesaurus is used to guide searching. Also, selecting terms from the Descriptors Field in a retrieved record in order to re-run a search could give poor results if the user unwittingly selects a non-ASFA term and does not notice/select the appropriate ASFA term, assuming there is one. This could easily happen with heavily indexed records. Results of some searches for terms in the Descriptor Field are provided to illustrate inconsistencies:

ASFA TERM (#1)	NON-ASFA TERM (#2)	#1 (ASFA)	#2 (NON-ASFA)	#1 OR #2	#2 NOT #1
Rivers	Streams	18672	6126	21868	3172
Toxicity tests	Toxicity testing	10638	4823	12061	1423
PCB	Polychlorinated biphenyls	4578	1831	4873	295
Harbours	Harbors	2183	1101	2957	774
Plant control	Weed control	1594	399	1715	121
GIS	Geographic Information Systems	938	455	1254	316

8. Development and Improvements to ASFA

- 1) Timeliness of UK input has improved considerably in recent years. This has enabled input staff to start focussing more effort on filling gaps and improving coverage of the literature beyond the journals and report series already regularly monitored for ASFA:
 - 33 additional monographs, mainly grey literature, were processed in 2004 and 21, to date, in 2005
 - Two book series, *Iconographia Diatomologica* and *Susswasserflora von Mitteleuropa*, are being indexed retrospectively
 - *Microscopy, Journal of the Quekett Microscopical Club* (continued as *Quekett Journal of Microscopy* 37-, 1993-) is being indexed retrospectively.
- 2) The UK input network has evaluated the usefulness of the Getty Thesaurus of Geographic Names OnLine as an alternative to the present geographic pick-list. It was noted that although most terrestrial places are listed, marine areas are not well represented which is a big disadvantage. Major oceans and seas are included but features such as ocean troughs, ridges, fields, fishing areas, currents, straits and hydrothermal vents are not. Bearing in mind that many papers indexed for ASFA are marine or coastal, our main concerns both as indexers and ASFA end-users are that:
 - a) Ocean areas can only be indexed at a very broad level, whereas with the GAL it is possible to be more specific.
 - b) There is no facility to combine coastal place names/estuaries with sea area codes.
 - c) In the Getty Thesaurus the relational aspect is lost, i.e. the link between a sea and the ocean it is located in. For example, the North Sea is listed in the hierarchy as World, Europe, North Sea with no mention of the Atlantic Ocean whereas when it is indexed according to the Guidelines for Indexing, the relationship between the North Sea and the Atlantic is clearly shown, ANE, North Sea.
- 3) Comments on CSA's new Illumina interface were sent to Vicki Soto, CSA in September 2005.
- 4) A list of ten suggested additional terms for the ASFA Thesaurus was sent to Richard Pepe, FAO in June 2005.