

CCL-EAR COMMITTEE
SCIENCE ONLINE PREVIEW
October 2009

DATABASE OVERVIEW & CONTENTS

Science is a leading world outlet for scientific news, commentary, and cutting-edge research. The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) is *Science*'s publisher and a leading voice for the interests of scientists worldwide. The print journal has the largest paid circulation of any peer-reviewed general-science journal. Its articles consistently rank among world's most cited research. *Science Online* is the electronic version of the print journal, and includes the following products in a searchable format:

- [Science Magazine](#), the full text of the journal's news stories, research reports, and commentary articles in full-text HTML or PDF from January 1997 to the present.
- [Science NOW](#), an online daily news service for breaking news stories. (A four-week rolling backfile only is available for free.)
- [Science Express](#), selections of original, peer-reviewed research submitted for publication.
- [Science of Aging Knowledge Environment \(SAGE KE\)](#), information about the aging process. (Coverage includes October 2001 to June 2006.)
- [ScienceCareers.org](#), information on science jobs, funding, and career-building.

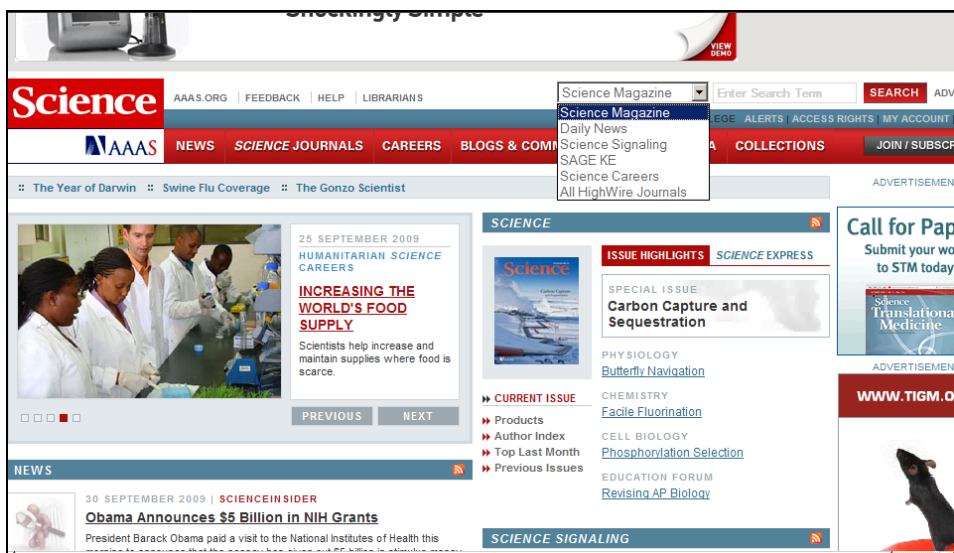
Abstracts/summaries and citations are available for the following content for which additional subscription rates apply:

- [Science Classic, July 1880 to December 1996](#) -- full-text PDF access to all issues of *Science* before from 1880 to December 1996
- [Science Signaling](#) -- original review articles, protocols, teaching resources, and other resources on cellular signal transduction.
- [Science Translational Medicine](#) -- original, peer-reviewed, science-based research on advances in clinical medicine.

SEARCH INTERFACE:

The search box on the main page allows users to search the *Science Magazine* (default selection) or to search one of the following sections: Daily News, Science Signaling, SAGE KE, Science Careers, or all HighWire Journals.

Science Online Default Home Page



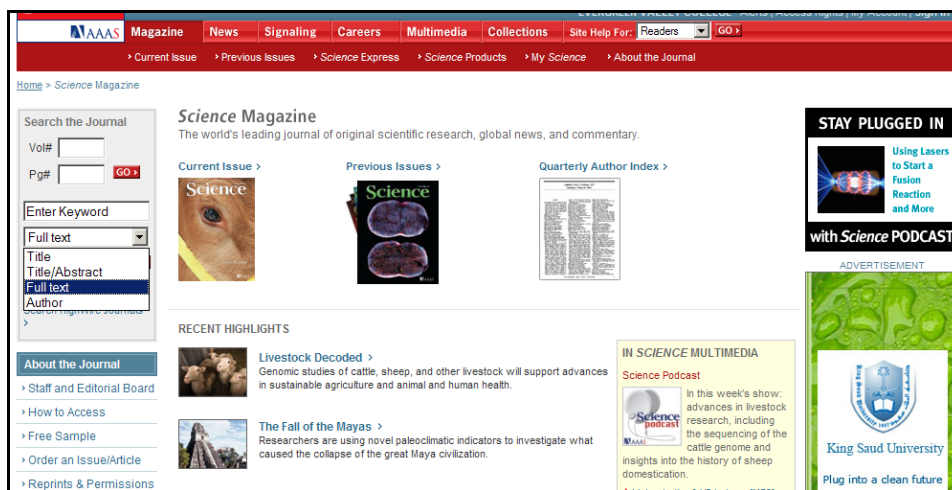
In addition to the contents noted above, the database also provides links to multimedia content such as podcasts, videos, and images.

In appearance, the search interface resembles a web site more than it does a database home page. One of the major drawbacks associated with this default homepage is the cluttered appearance caused by the presence of banner and sidebar advertisements. The search interface might also benefit from a more strategically-placed search box to make it easier for the user to locate the area in which to enter search terms.

Clicking on one of the content selections located in the red banner / navigation bar will allow the user to conduct an advanced search to launch a search in previous issues or in the quarterly author index.

Advanced searching also allows users to search by citation, and by document object identifier (DOI) number. Users can also search by keyword, in full text. Phrase searching and limited Boolean searching are also supported. (Users can search for all or any of terms entered.)

Search Options for Science



A list of results, in the form of article citations/abstracts, can be re-ordered by date or relevance. Links to the full text of the articles in full-text HTML or PDF formats are included.

Another major drawback associated with this product is that results from searches may include citations to content not included in an institution's subscription. For example, a search may return results from the *Science Classic* portion of the database (covering content from 1880 to December 1996). It is only when the user clicks on the PDF/HTML link to retrieve the full text that they receive the message that the article is not available to them without an additional institutional subscription or without paying a one-time fee to access content.

USER SUPPORT SERVICES

This database is lacking in that it does not provide an automatic citation generator for users who wish to generate the (APA/MLA or other) citation for articles retrieved in the database. When a user clicks on the supplied link to "Cite this article," the user is presented with a page to download citations to third-party citation management software tools. (Some of the citation tools supported are RefWorks, ProCite, and EndNote.)

There are some useful features available to end users of this product. One of them is "My Folders," an electronic filing cabinet used to organize articles and other information available at *Science Magazine*. Another feature is "My Alerts," a content-tracking service enabling a user to be alerted by email when new information of interest is added to the database. My Folders and My Alerts can be activated by creating a username and password.

The vendor supplies institutions with a variety of useful usage reports and statistics, including **COUNTER**, **Extended-Detail**, **Annual Usage**, and **Unsuccessful Requests** reports. Subscribing institutions can access these usage reports via username and password.

Science and all AAAS publications are Open URL compliant as both a "Source" and "Target." Librarians can add an institution's Resolver-Based URL and text-link to all references appearing on the pages of *Science* and AAAS publications.

Remote access to the database can be through proxy or referring URL. Unlimited users are supported.

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

For community college libraries, this database is priced slightly above what it would cost to acquire *Science* in print. Given that (a) with the online version there can be unlimited simultaneous users, whereas with the print version, you are limited to one user at a time; and (b) libraries can have access to a fairly extensive back-file of full-text articles, (going back to 1997), a subscription to this product can be considered a great value. This product would benefit from the addition of a citation generator, a less-cluttered interface, and a results screen that made it clear what content is not available to the subscribing institution.

In conclusion, the reviewer recommends that the committee proceed with a full review of this product.