

## **DATABASE GUIDE – FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ABSTRACTS (FSTA)**

### **What is FSTA?**

Food Science and Technology Abstracts (FSTA) is a major database supplied by the International Food Information Service (IFIS) and dealing with a range of food science topics including nutrition, food safety, food technology and packaging. The database indexes articles from several hundred mainly English language periodicals, and provides abstracts, but not the full text of the articles.

### **Accessing FSTA**

FSTA is one of a number of databases in the ERL-Webspirs “cluster”. Select Food Science and Technology Abstracts from the list of Library databases on the main database page

<http://www.dit.ie/DIT/library/resources/databases/index.html>

or at a subject gateway, for example at

<http://www.dit.ie/DIT/library/resources/subjects/envscience/index.html>

On the next page, check the box next to FSTA and click on the “Start searching” button.

### **Searching FSTA**

FSTA has both “simple” and “advanced” search modes. The simple search mode is suitable for a single keyword or phrase, for instance “Cryptosporidium” or “Packaging.” The basic search screen can be used to search for terms anywhere in the database or you can specify that the term should only be in the Subject, Title or Author field. By clicking on the [Suggest](#) button when you have entered your terms, you will be given related terms. If any of these look interesting just click in the check box and click the [Search Marked](#) button.

The [Advanced Search](#) button will allow you to combine terms using ‘AND’, ‘OR’, ‘NOT’, and to specify the parts of the records to be searched for your terms. There is also a [thesaurus](#) and an [index](#) to help locate specific terms, and to see which ones are preferred on the database. To limit the results click on the [More](#) button on the right hand side and then select from the list of limit options. The [Find Citation](#) function will

locate articles cited in the database. There is also a [Search History](#) function. There are additional search tips on the search screen itself.

### **Saving and retrieving information**

The records you select can be e-mailed to yourself. You should “mark” the hits you want to keep by ticking the box on the left of the record, then go to the icons on the middle-right of the screen. Then click the email icon, and on the next page, enter your e-mail address. There is also a choice to print the results or save them to a key or disk.

The records from this database do not include the full text of the article, but a brown marker at the bottom of the record will indicate if there is a copy of the article available in DIT library.

### **Further help**

There is a useful help function at the top right of the search screen. Also, feel free to ask a member of Library staff at any time for help.