

Competence in science information – a guide to invasive species on the internet

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INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

By accessing the gateway portal ‘Plant Protection Invasive Species’, provided by the Information Centre for Phytomedicine and Library (IZ) on behalf of the Federal Biological Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry (BBA), one can learn about the impacts of invasive species on the environment and the economy, and find links to agencies and organizations dealing with such issues.

A rapid and comprehensive supply of information on the latest international research results is essential for any scientific work to be effective. At BBA (centred in Berlin and Braunschweig), this task is performed by its IZ. From searching both subscribed and freely available databases, through the acquisition of relevant literature (in electronic or printed form), IZ aims to provide data relevant to BBA’s research focus in as timely and reliable a manner as possible. The results are then presented (mainly online) in the BBA intranet or on the internet website, but also distributed in print or via electronic mail. Such services are performed mainly on behalf of BBA scientists, but are intended also to provide a sound information base for both the scientific community and the general public.

THE PORTAL AND ADITIONAL SERVICES

With regard to invasive species, both datasets in applied science databases and websites containing information on the subject were thoroughly searched on the internet, and appraised for their relevance and importance. This was done by BBA-IZ scientists specializing in the field of phytomedicine/phytopathology, and competent in documentation and information services. The most promising search strategies were then compiled and sorted into linked lists, for presentation on web pages, to enable interested parties (less versed in such matters) to obtain quickly the results they were looking for. Considering the main target audiences, the search terms as shown on these pages are in German as well as in English, the *lingua franca* of science. To any or all literature citations that are found this way, IZ staff are then able to supply the customer with the corresponding document. This can be in electronic form (as full text in PDF format from online sources or via document scanning), or as a photocopy printout (from the extensive holdings of our unique specialist library of phytomedical literature, open to the interested scientists or students for further research).

Search examples are given in Figures 1 & 2.

PHYTOMED

Search by keywords:

Invasiv*	start-search
alien*	start-search
Invasiv*&Pflanzenschutz	start-search
alien*&Pflanzenschutz	start-search
Invasiv*&plant protection	start-search
alien*&plant*	start-search
Invasiv*&plant health	start-search
Invasiv*&Pflanzengesundheit	start-search
alien*&Pflanzengesundheit	start-search
Invasiv*&Quarantäne	start-search
alien*&Quarantäne	start-search
Invasiv*&quarantine	start-search
alien*&quarantine	start-search

Figure 1. Search templates for databases (here: BBA PhytoMed)

GOOGLE.DE

Search terms:

Invasive Arten BBA	start search or start search
Invasive Arten/Pflanzenschutz	start search
Invasive Arten/Quarantänebestimmungen	start search
Invasive Arten/Pflanzengesundheit	start search
Invasive species/plant health	start search
Invasive species/plant protection	start search

Figure 2. Search aid for a search engine (Google).

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