



Community of Scholars Overview

April 2006

Community of Scholars (Scholars) is a new database that provides direct access to more than 1 million active researchers and academics working in over 200 disciplines at over 2,200 institutions in 8 countries.

Scholars runs on CSA Illumina, a platform for searching the more than 100 bibliographic databases offered by CSA. Most universities in the US and many throughout the world subscribe to some of CSA's databases; at most the subscription is held through the library.

Scholars uses CSA Illumina's cross-linking capabilities to link academics represented in the database to their publications in select third-party databases and databases from CSA. This facilitates direct links to author background, contact information, and linked publication histories to provide enhanced document context and novel community-based pathways to relevant literature.

Data

The information in the Scholars database, updated monthly, is gathered from public and private web-based data collections. The data is controlled by strict editorial rules and verified through evidence-based linking.

Individual researchers or scholars do not directly control what appears in their Scholars profiles. They may submit additional or corrected information for their profiles, which is then reviewed and weighed against editorial standards before it is included.

Searching

Scholars offers a simple searching interface through which the user can select which CSA database(s) to search, including Community of Scholars. Then he can refine the search by choosing from four broad discipline categories, and use free-text keywords to further define the search.

Once the search results have been returned, they can be further refined using the "Community Tree" if desired. The results can be reviewed by clicking on links in the individual records to find related information.

This cross-linking is a distinct feature of CSA Illumina that makes it easy to find further information related to a person or a topic. Search results provide brief records including Name, Affiliation and Publication. The user can click on Name to find the scholar's verified publications, and then click on a publication to learn more about it, including links to full-text, when available.

There is also a tab labeled "Co-Scholars" which lists the scholar's co-authors that have verified profiles in the database. This is a wonderful tool for learning about others working in a specific field of interest.

By clicking on the name of an institution, a list of its schools is revealed. Further clicking will reveal divisions, departments and finally, the faculty members who have profiles in Scholars.

[see page 3 for screenshots of Community of Scholars]

Scholars & COS Expertise

It may appear that Community of Scholars and COS Expertise are similar, since they both help you search for people, but actually, they are fundamentally different, and each has valuable strengths.

Most notably, the information in COS Expertise is provided by the individual researcher and/or his institution. This information often provides a personal view of a scholar's past and current research interests, and of his future interests.

There are plans to make it possible to contribute information from COS Expertise to the Scholars database. This would enrich an individual's profile in Scholars and better publicize their work. We expect to make this possible by late 2006.

The COS Expertise search interface offers a variety of criteria to search as narrowly or broadly as you like, according to your objectives.

Information from COS Expertise can be used with COS Funding Opportunities to set up initial COS Funding Alerts (where there is a subscription) or to help administrators run COS Funding Opportunities searches for them.

COS Expertise also offers a wealth of management and reporting tools to help an administrator keep abreast of individual's funding search activities and profile/CV status.

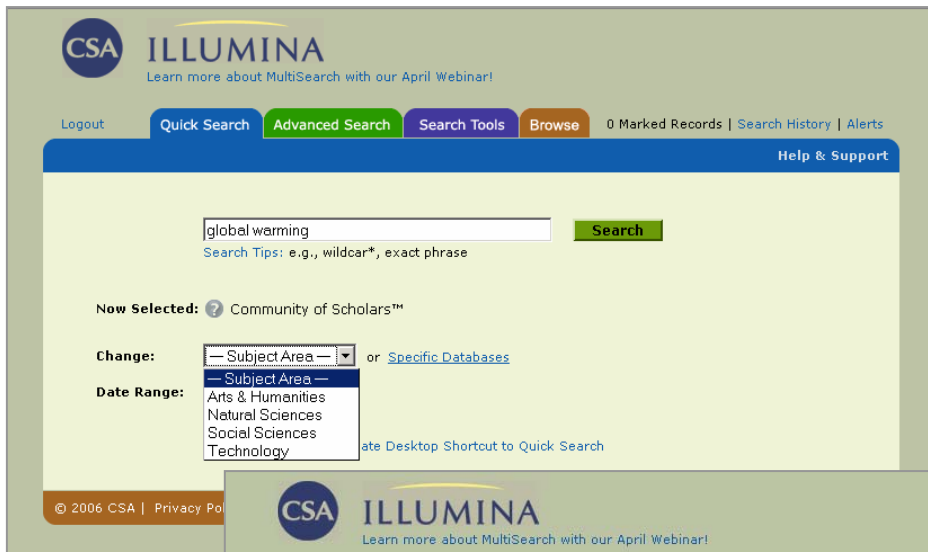
COS Expertise also offers the My Profile view that the individual can customize and use as a professional webpage, with a personal url. An additional option available with COS Expertise is Public View of Expertise, which enables an institution to make select Expertise profile information available to the public, with a searchable interface.

Future

Both Community of Scholars and COS Expertise continue to evolve. As new features to either database or features to further integrate the two are planned, we'll keep you apprised.

at a glance...

Community of Scholars	COS Expertise
Over 1 million records	Nearly 500,000 records
Third-party information gathered from web-based sources, objectively verified	First-person information verified by liaison, then reviewed by COS editorial team for relevance
Information includes name, affiliations, related urls, email address, degrees, publications and co-scholars	Information includes name, position, institution, contact information, expertise, current research, research interests, future research, memberships, publications, awards, funding received, and more.
Updated monthly; all urls validated monthly; each profile reviewed and updated (if necessary) semi-annually.	Updated daily with any new or changed information individuals have made to their profiles
Simple searching interface; cross-linking to learn more about people, their publications and their colleagues	Search criteria to search as broadly or narrowly as you like
Hosted on CSA Illumina platform	Hosted on COS platform
Searching functionality only	Management tools, linking to COS Funding Opportunities and COS Funding Alert, My Profile view, option for Public View of Expertise

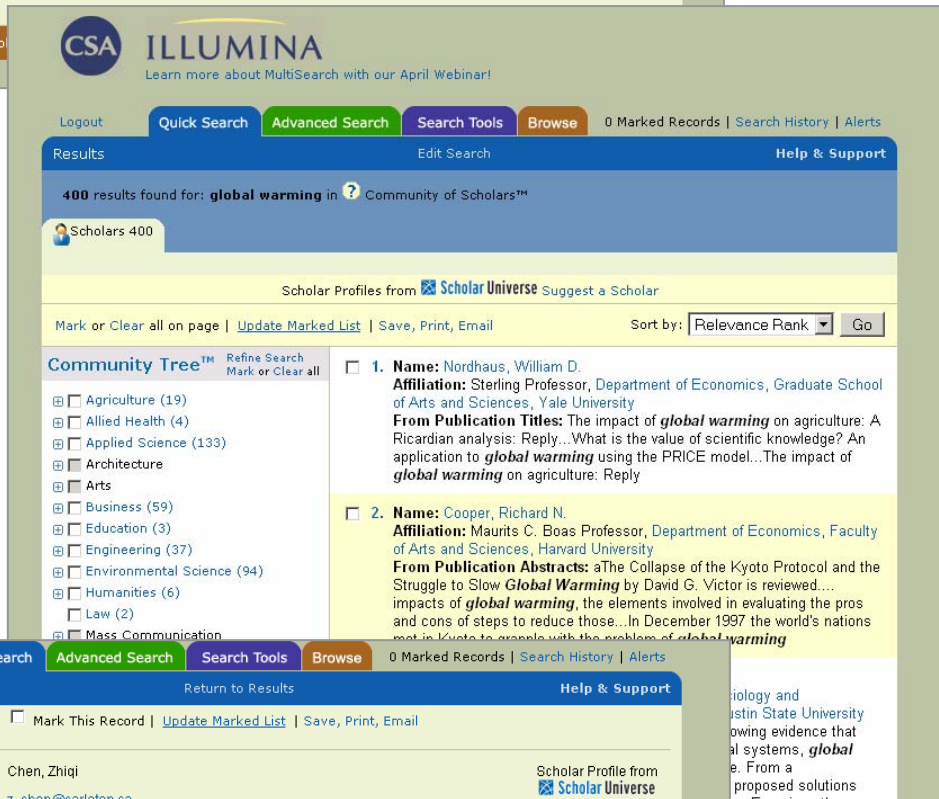


CSA Illumina search screen, with fields for search terms, subject area and link to specify which database(s) to search.

Note that Community of Scholars has already been selected.

Search results, with records including scholar name, affiliations and publications relevant to the search.

On the left is the "Community Tree" which can be used to refine the search.



biology and
Justin State University
showing evidence that
al systems, *global*
e. From a
proposed solutions
e. Examine the

Full Scholar profile.

Note the Co-Scholars tab is selected and show information about the scholar's 3 co-authors who have profiles in the database.

The Verified Publications tab would list the 17 verified publications the scholar has authored or co-authored.

