The CAB Thesaurus

Indexers at CABI develop and maintain two search aids, the CAB Thesaurus and CABICODE List, which are hierarchical structures of terms that aid in database retrieval. The CAB Thesaurus is a list of controlled vocabulary of terms used when indexing articles to help standardise terminology across the database. This makes it easier to find records relevant to your search. For users, this means that searching on the CAB thesaurus term pertinent to your topic will retrieve all of the articles in the database that are related, regardless of the variants in terminology that different authors used in each article.

Animal and plant names are recorded in the Organism Descriptor field, while the Geographic Location field is used for country and other geographic names. If a plant, animal or region belongs to a broader category, a corresponding Broad Descriptor is also applied. The Descriptor field is used for any terms that are neither animal, plant nor geographic. Every CABI record may not have all four fields listed. Based on the content of a given article, only the relevant terms are present.

Identifiers are keywords that do NOT appear in the CAB Thesaurus. This field is important for papers that discuss new or emerging concepts that currently do not have a Thesaurus term.

In addition to adding index terms to a record, papers are also indexed with CABICODES, which are alphanumeric codes that represent general subject categories. These categories represent concepts that can be difficult to describe with keywords alone.

CABICODES are alpha-numeric codes that represent concepts that are often difficult for searchers to describe in words. They enable you to locate general subject categories which are not easy to retrieve using keywords or thesaurus terms alone.