What’s New in the APIRS Online Database & Library

By Karen Brown

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APIRS – What is it?!

• Aquatic Plant Information Retrieval System
• Database of annotated citations to the research literature, e.g.

RESPONSE OF INVASIVE FLOATING PLANTS AND NONTARGET EMERGENT PLANTS TO FOLIAR APPLICATIONS OF IMAZAMOX AND PENOXSULAM

Author: MUDGE, C.R., NETHERLAND, M.D.
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Plants: EICHHORNIA CRASSIPES ** PISTIA STRATIOTES ** SAGITTARIA LANCIFOLIA ** ELEOCHARIS INTERSTINCTA ** ELEOCHARIS CELLULOSA ** Schoenoplectus californicus ** Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani

Category: DISTRIBUTION ** MISSISSIPPI ** CHEMICAL CONTROL ** IMAZAMOX ** PENOXSULAM ** CARFENTRAZONE ** ENDOTHALL ** FLUMIOXAZIN ** 2,4-D ** DIQUAT ** ECOLOGY ** ECOSYSTEM ** PLANT SUCCESSION ** HERBICIDES

Keywords: MESOCOSM ** EFFICACY ** HERBICIDE SELECTIVITY ** HERBICIDE COMBINATIONS ** MODE OF ACTION ** APPLICATION RATES ** SURFACTANTS
APIRS – What’s old?

• In the beginning (early 1980s, pre-WWW)
  – Funded by USAID for aquatic weed assistance to developing countries
  – Mainframe, punch-card computer
  – Entered data on DOS computers and performed literature searches using Boolean commands *(chemical + control + fluridone + florida) -(mechanical biological) +haller*
  – Printed and mailed requested bibliographies to researchers worldwide
APIRS - Then

• We collected aquatic weed, and later any aquatic plant, literature worldwide
  – Peer reviewed journals
  – Books; Proceedings
  – Government reports
  – Theses and dissertations
  – Research institutions
APIRS - Then

- Scoured UF and other libraries
- Requested free journal subscriptions
- Wrote (letters!) to researchers
- Joined professional societies
APIRS - Then

• Annotated and entered citations into APIRS
• Performed literature searches on aquatic plant species
• Users
  – Researchers
  – Natural resource managers
  – Agency and field personnel
  – Graduate students
  – Other stakeholders
APIRS – Why?

- “…information on plant invasions is scattered in at least 189 journals – 15% is in books or proceedings” Peter Pysek, *Plant Invasions*, 1995

- “Information on exotics is badly fragmented – it is scattered about in hundreds of technical newsletters and publications…” Chris Bright, *Life Out of Bounds, Bioinvasion in a Borderless World*, 1998
APIRS - Then

• Went online in 1995
• Volume of literature exploded
• More accessible but still widely scattered
• Research interconnections grew
  – Invasion biology
  – Risk assessment
  – Modeling, mapping technology
• Invasive plants in natural areas became an issue of concern
  – First FLEPPC newsletter appeared in 1991
  – IFAS Invasive Plants Working Group in 1999
  – UF/IFAS Assessment online in 2000
• Aquatic & “Upland” plants addressed by state and federal agencies
APIRS 2000+

- Funded solely by UF/IFAS and DEP/BIPM and later, FWC/IPMS
- Continued to collect all aquatics literature
- Began to collect uplands literature
- Use of the database was strong
  - FY2007-2008
    - 7,200 site visits
    - 38,500 page views
But...we couldn’t keep up
And...we no longer needed to maintain a worldwide perspective
Funding and need was in Florida
APIRS 2010-2012

• Narrowed our acquisitions to:
  – Top aquatic and upland invasive plant species
  – Newly invasive or suspect species
  – Florida, SE US, and areas of shared latitude
  – Native ranges of invasive species, both aquatic and upland, when relevant
  – FLEPPC Category I & II species
  – Florida and Federal Noxious Weeds
  – FL DACS Prohibited Aquatic Plants
APIRS 2013-2014

• More focused on Florida invasive plants in both aquatic & natural areas
• Contacted fewer researchers & institutions
• APIRS use realigned accordingly-FY13/14
  – 2,200 site visits (7,200 in FY2007-2008)
  – 9,000 page views (38,000 page views FY07-08)
APIRS Future?

• Is APIRS a white elephant? **No!**
• Almost 90,000 citations
• Usage more focused
• Of the 2,280 visitors in FY2013-2014
  – 72% from U.S.
  – 64% (1,700) U.S. users from Florida
APIRS vs WWW

• Many journals are subscription only or for university personnel only (with ID!)
• Older items may not be available online
• Retiring professors donate collections
• APIRS citations
  – All in one place
  – No duplicate “hits”
  – Consistently formatted
APIRS vs WWW

• WWW

  – material is still widely scattered
  – doesn’t weed out “junk” unless you use advanced searches competently or have access to commercial databases (e.g. Web of Science)
  – duplicate “hits” & varied sources and formats (websites, reference lists, PowerPoints)

+ often pulls up APIRS citations!! 😊
APIRS Now

• Archived, searchable repository
  – Historical literature
  – New literature
  – State and federal agency reports
    • FWC public waterbody surveys
    • FWC Annual Reports
    • USACOE-APCRP reports
    • White papers
    • Meeting proceedings
APIRS NOW

• Continue to fill gaps in the literature
• Reviewing cataloging of early “gems”
• Recirculating selected articles of interest and importance
  – List-servs
  – Links in the CAIP website
  – Aquatics, AQUAPHYTE
APIRS Still

- Expanding bibliographic database
- Contains up-to-the-minute materials
- Can produce tailored literature searches in minutes
- Can search by author, plant, method, technology, or any combination
APIRS THEN AND NOW

• The only long-term collection of research & management literature on aquatic and upland invasive plant species in Florida and beyond

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• THANK YOU!