

Guidelines for querying the SANREM CRSP Knowledgebase

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The SANREM Knowledgebase (SKB) is a catalog of information resources specific to the SANREM project as well as a catalog and archive of other resources and projects that relate to sustainable agriculture and natural resource management. The “resources” cataloged in the SKB are primarily articles, papers, and reports but also include other digital resources such as presentations, images, webpages and other materials that can be referenced. In addition to standard bibliographic data and descriptive metadata (i.e. description and keywords), the SKB provides a full copy of digital resources (unless prohibited by copyright). The overall goal is to make these resources readily available to facilitate the wide and effective dissemination of information, and to provide a structure for effective search and retrieval of the sustainable agriculture and natural resource management information resources.

The query webpage for the SKB is accessible at:
<http://www.ext.vt.edu/cgi-bin/WebObjects/SANREM.woa/wa/advancedSearch>

The query page contains the following search options:

- Keywords
- Free text search (searches Title, Author, spatial, or “all fields”)
- Creation Date
- Landscape System
- Type
- Temporal
- PES-specific Criteria (see description and link below)
- SANREM Project ID

Following are guidelines and suggestions for effectively searching the SKB for resources.

Searching by keywords:

Restricted keywords

- The SKB provides a categorized list of common keywords that pertain to SANREM topics. This restricted vocabulary was developed to facilitate the search process and to minimize potential problems from mistyped or misspelled keywords. You will likely have the most success with your search if you locate the relevant keywords on the restricted lists.
- The keyword lists appear on the right hand side of the page; click on the listed categories and they will expand to show the keywords for each category.

- Searching for multiple keywords is non-exclusive – your results will include entries with any of the selected keywords (i.e. selecting additional restricted keywords will increase, rather than decrease, the number of results).

Unrestricted / free text search

- Use the free text box at the top of the search page to enter any words you would like to search for. Using the drop-down menu box to the right, your search can include all metadata fields or be limited to one of the following specific fields:
 - Author (Creator – individuals or corporate)
 - Language (of the resource)
 - Spatial (geographic location)
 - Title
 Searching “All fields” includes the above fields as well as alternate title, contributor, unrestricted keywords, description, publisher, bibliographic citation fields.
- This search function does not search the restricted keyword list (i.e., if you type in “biodiversity,” it will not necessarily find entries for which “biodiversity” is selected as a restricted keyword.)^{*}
- You may add additional search terms by clicking the button “Add Search Criteria.” Your search results will show only entries that match all of the free text search criteria you enter.

Searching by other criteria:

Creation Date

- You may enter a year in one or both of the fields to search for resources produced before or after a certain date, or within a specified timeframe.
- Examples: “from 2003 to 2006” or “from 1997” or “to 2003”

Landscape System

- This refines the search to entries that apply to a specific landscape scale
- Selecting more than one Landscape System will find entries with at least one of the chosen landscape scales.
- Adding additional landscape systems will increase the number of results, but will not find entries for which a landscape system has not been selected.

Type

- The vast majority of resources in the SKB are text resources.
- This search feature may be used to:
 - exclude any non-text resources from the search
 - search for one of the other types of resource in the SKB
 - if searching for Payments for Environmental Services (PES) entries, limiting the search to only projects

^{*} NOTE: The search function will be revised in 2008 and should subsequently have improved searching capacities.]

Temporal

- This is the time frame the resource covers (e.g., the span of years in which a study was conducted)
- Entering a year in only the “from” field will find any entries with temporal spans beginning on or after that year. Entering a year in only the “to” field will find all timespans ending in or before that year. Entering years in both “from” and “to” will find any entries with temporal ranges within those limits.
- For many resources entered in the SKB, the temporal range of the resource content is unknown. Therefore, there are likely resources that cover a temporal period of interest but will not be found by searching the temporal field.

Payments for Environmental Services (PES) Specific Criteria

- Select this only if you are searching for PES projects and resources. A guide specifically for querying PES entries in the SKB is available at:

<http://www.oired.vt.edu/sanremcrsp/documents/PES.Sourcebook.Oct.2007/PESKnowledgebaseQuery.pdf>

SANREM Project ID

- To find resources that have been produced by a specific SANREM project, select the corresponding Project ID from the drop-down list.

Search Results

The search results page will provide a list of entries in alphabetical order by title. The search results contain the following information for each entry listed:

Title
Creator
Contributor
Creation Date
Type
Spatial
Keywords

In addition to this listed information, there is an active “**View**” link at the top of each entry. Clicking will bring up the full record for the resource, showing all information that was entered for that resource.

Some results listings also have a “**Download Resource**” link next to “View;” this indicates that a full digital copy of the resource is stored in the SKB and may be directly downloaded. You also have the option of downloading the resource when viewing the full record; the link to open the file is at the bottom of the record entry page.

Please send suggestions for correction and improvement to:
Theo Dillaha, SANREM CRSP program director, dillaha@vt.edu