Quick Start Guide to Springer Protocols

Springer Protocols is an online database of reproducible laboratory protocols in the biomedical and life sciences.

PLEASE NOTE that the Online Library does not subscribe to this database, so you can only access free protocols.

All free protocols have a yellow F next to the title or can be found by clicking 'Free Protocols' on the right side of the page:

Figure 1. How to access freely available protocols.

Browsing and Searching

Springer Protocols can be accessed via this URL: http://www.springerprotocols.com/ This website offers basic and advanced searching, as well as browsing by subject.

Browsing

On the homepage there is 'Browse by Subject' area. When clicking on a subject area, it will take you to a list of all protocols relating to that subject.

Please note that this will contain material that is inaccessible. Keep an eye out for the symbol for free material.

Figure 2. Browsing options.

On clicking on a subject you will then be taken to a results page, as shown in Figure 3. From here you can narrow your search using the options on the left hand side of the screen as shown in Figure 3.

You can either search within these results, or there is the option to browse further subject categorisations within the subject area you have already chosen. The numbers in brackets are the numbers of items relevant to that topic.

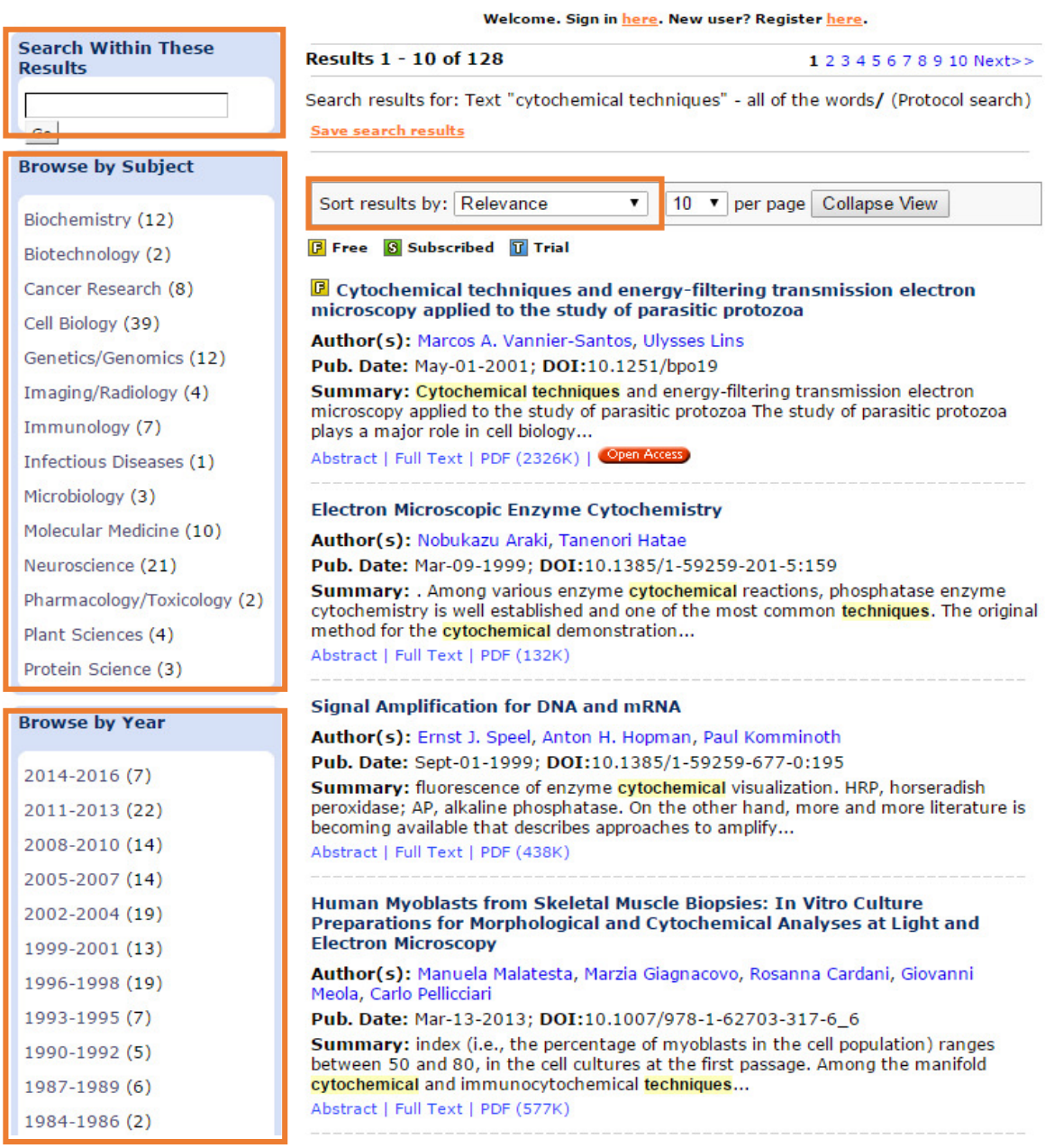

Figure 3. Searching and ordering your browsing search results.

There is also the option to 'Browse by Year' on the bottom left hand side of the screen. You can also sort the results that appear by selecting the drop down box as shown at the top of Figure 3. You can order results by relevance, date (most recent), author name and title.

To see further information, click on the title of the item.

Searching

The homepage provides a basic search box for you to conduct a search with.

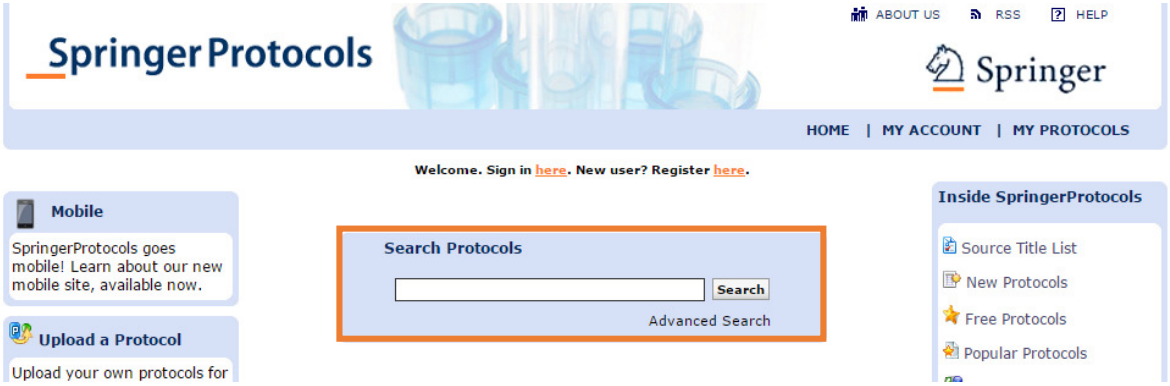

Figure 4. Search box on homepage.

When searching using this box, you will see a similar screen to the one when you have browsed. The results appear as in Figure 3.

There is also an advanced search option which allows you to fill in a variety of different fields to bring back a smaller, more specific number of results.

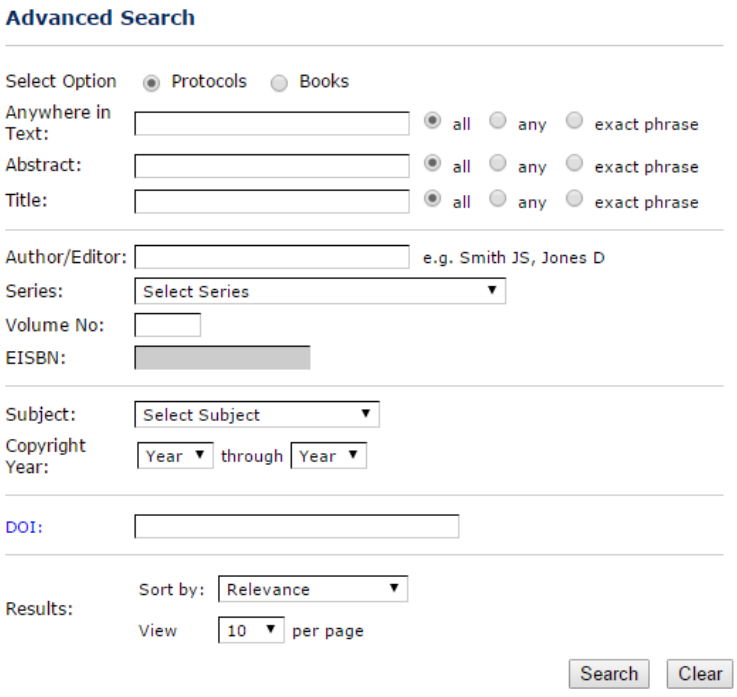

Figure 5. Advanced search.

Please note that when using the browse and search functions of this resource, the results will include anything relevant from its collection and not all of the content may be accessible as the Online Library does not subscribe to this resource. Remember to keep an eye out for the yellow F next to the title

to find those that are freely available:

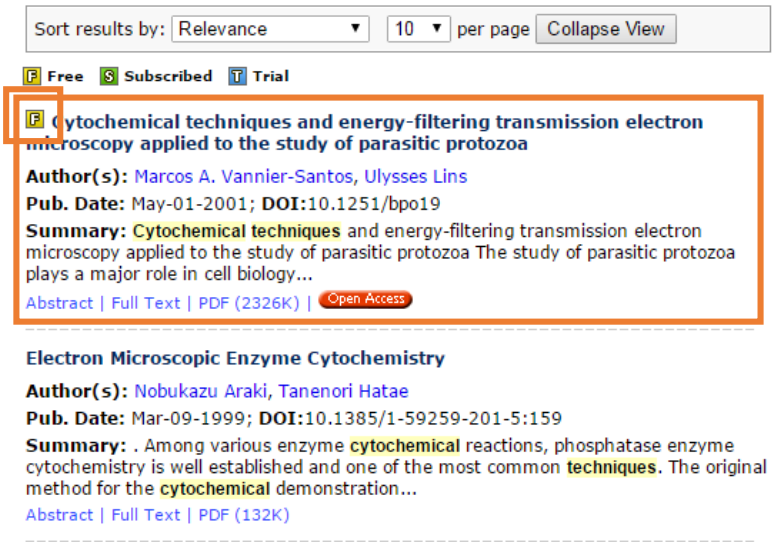

Figure 6. Example of a freely available text.

Once you have clicked on the title of the item, you will see a page like the one in Figure 7:

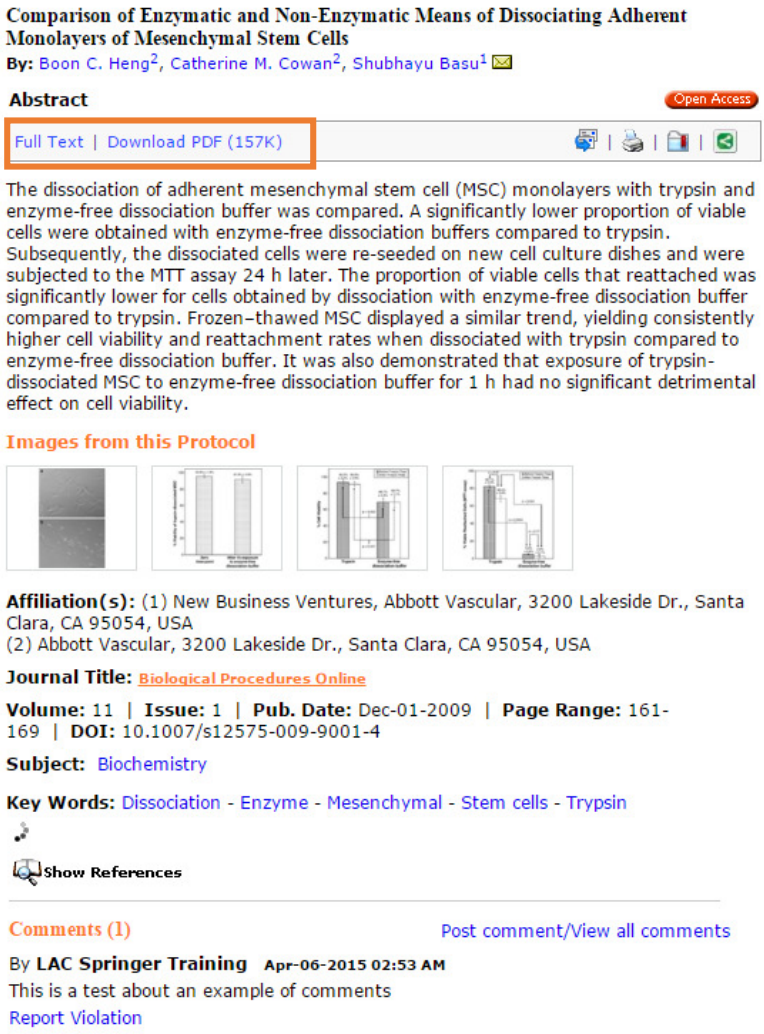

Figure 7. Example of a freely available text record and how to access the full text.

You will be able to download the full text by selecting on the hyperlink ‘Full Text’ or ‘Download PDF’ options as shown in Figure 7.

There is a helpful video provided by Springer to guide users on how to use and conduct searches on their resource:
http://www.springerprotocols.com/tour/Protocols_Introduction/Protocols_Introduction.vm

Further Help

If you need help using this or any other information resources, please contact the **Online Library** by:

Telephone at: +44 (0)20 7862 8478 (between 09.00 and 17.00 GMT),

By email at: OnlineLibrary@shl.lon.ac.uk

By the Enquiries Form at: http://onlinelibrary.london.ac.uk/about/contact-us