Citation Database for Regional Fire Science Publications

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The Lake States Fire Science Consortium has compiled an online, searchable citation database for peer-reviewed scientific literature and agency publications addressing fire science topics focused on the Lake States region. The database was developed as part of the regional Gaps in Knowledge Assessment project.

How were citations identified for inclusion in the database?

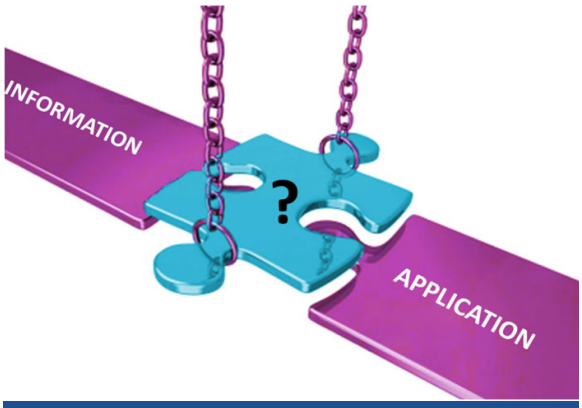
We identified citations by performing rigorous keyword searches of all years in all databases cataloged by the ISI Web of Knowledge, using combinations of the following search terms: fire, burn, wildfire, prescribed fire, prescribed burn, controlled burn or smoke, refined by Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, New York, Ohio, Ontario, Manitoba, Great Lakes, Lake States, Midwest, or North Central.

We included the geographic refinements as the final part of the search string. We checked the abstract and/or full publication for each citation returned to confirm study location and relevance to fire and the Lake States region (see description of topic and location criteria below). We included additional publications that were not captured in these searches if we became aware of them through literature cited lists, database reviewers, or other sources.

Agency technical reports, book chapters and academic theses are often not indexed by ISI, and we acknowledge that our list of these types of documents is currently incomplete. We will add relevant documents to our database as we become aware of them. We welcome citation suggestions from our users.

What topic and location criteria were used to decide whether or not a citation was included in the database?

To be included in the citation database, the publication must provide information on fire, fire history, fire regimes, fire exclusion, fire suppression activities, fire effects, post-fire succession, fire surrogate treatments (including ecological forestry approaches),



MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

1) The LSFSC has developed an online, searchable citation database for publications relevant for the Lake States region

2) To access the online database, go to: http://www.lakestatesfiresci.net/referencesearch.htm

3) We have increased publication searchability by assigning keywords from a standardized list. The list of keywords is available on the project webpage to assist users in selecting appropriate search terms

4) The database will be periodically updated to keep current with new publications

5) For more information about the overall Gaps in Knowledge Assessment, go to: http://www.lakestatesfiresci.net/KnowledgeGapProject.htm

Want to learn more?

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or present a site description of a fire-impacted location (even if control sites/areas were not included) or an ecological description of a fire-adapted/fire-dependent ecosystem.

Publications of field-based studies must include at least one study site located inside or adjacent (within approximately 150 km) to the LSFSC region. We included modeling or synthesis studies that present results at regional, national or continental scales if the data are associated with specific states, provinces, ecoregions or other spatially explicit classifications that include all or portions of the Lake States region.

Review articles were included when they included information generated from studies conducted in – or, provided information directly applicable to – the Lake States region.

What is unique about the way these citations are indexed in the online database?

Keywords associated with each article in the database include 1) original author-assigned keywords, and 2) additional keywords assigned from a standardized list, including the state, province or region of focus, ecosystem type, focal species, and focal topics. Topic keywords were also assigned when the publication presented additional data (such as soil chemistry, fire behavior, or weather) as background to the study, even if it was not the main focus of the publication.

Assigning standardized keywords helps to identify all publications that provide information on a user's topic of interest, even when authors have used terminology differently. For example, many older publications use "fire intensity" (rather than fire severity) to describe the magnitude of fire effects. In other cases, authors may not have included ecosystem type in their keywords or publication title. These situations increase a user's difficulty in locating publications relevant to their interests.

Acknowledgements
We thank Caitlin Bergstrom, Eric Bobel, Forrest Howk, Samantha Lasko, Sean Rausch, Anum Samdani, Jennifer Strangstalien, Dylan Willis, and Andrea Vertz for assistance with locating publications, Dave Lohnes for developing the web search capabilities, and Dr. David Mladenoff for logistical support.