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## What is SPACELINE?

From: Patricia Mason <[pmason@ee.net](mailto:pmason@ee.net)>  
Date: Tue, 12 Jan 1999 19:19:30 -0500  
Fwd Date: Wed, 13 Jan 1999 10:26:59 -0500  
Subject: What is SPACELINE?

What is SPACELINE?

SPACELINE is a bibliographic database containing information about publications on space and ground-based life sciences research. Space life sciences research contributes to ensuring a safe and productive presence of humans in space and a better understanding of current medical and scientific questions about which space and gravitational research can provide unique information. It also includes exobiology, the study of the origin, evolution, and distribution of life in the universe.

Background: SPACELINE was established as a cooperative venture of the Life Sciences Division of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the National Library of Medicine (NLM), one of the institutes of the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. Its objective is to consolidate the results of the growing body of space life sciences research into a single, easily accessible resource. Work on the creation of the database began in mid-1993; SPACELINE was made available to the public for searching on October 25, 1995.

National Library of Medicine database: SPACELINE is one of the National Library of Medicine's specialized databases. NLM is considered a world leader in providing online information in the life and biomedical sciences. MEDLINE is the best known of its databases. There are 40 specialized databases such as AIDSLINE, CANCERLIT, TOXLINE, and SPACELINE.

Users: SPACELINE's intended audience is the space life sciences community in the United States and abroad; medical, scientific, and scholarly communities with an interest in the field; librarians; students; and the general public.

Contents: SPACELINE contains references to publications reporting results of ground-based and flight research, both domestic and international, from 1961 to the present. Sample records can be viewed at Examples of Records. Types of publications include journal articles, technical reports, books and book chapters, meeting papers, and meeting abstracts. All languages are included. SPACELINE employs the National Library of Medicine's Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) as the search vocabulary. Terms unique to the space life sciences have been added to MeSH to facilitate searching. A distinctive feature of SPACELINE is the Space Flight/Mission field, which was created so references to a particular flight, groups of flights, or any space flight can be found. This field may also be used to identify manned or unmanned flights, as well as those of short or long duration (30 or more days).

Scope: The scope of SPACELINE is references pertaining to the health and productivity of humans in space, the physical and psychological effects of gravity and the space environment on living systems, applications of space life sciences research, and exobiology.

Specific areas of coverage include:

Clinical medical support to humans in space

Physiology, metabolism, and growth and development of cells, organs, and systems of humans, animals, and plants as they are affected by the space environment, particularly weightlessness

Environmental protection and support of humans in space, including life support, toxicology, and radiation

Psychological, behavioral, and human factors involved in living in the space environment

Origin, evolution, and distribution of life in the universe

Applications of bioengineering to space life sciences

Applications of space life sciences research to the improvement of life on Earth

Records: SPACELINE records are similar in structure to those in MEDLINE. Some of the records in SPACELINE are derived from MEDLINE (journal articles), CATLINE (books), and AVLINE (audiovisuals). Records unique to SPACELINE are created and added by the SPACELINE Project Office; they include NASA technical reports, conference proceedings and meeting abstracts, as well as journal articles and books not covered by National Library of Medicine databases. The SPACELINE Project Office makes a special effort to include citations to publications of NASA-funded researchers.

Database additions: SPACELINE is an evolving database and new citations to recent publications as well as older ones are being added to fulfill the goal of achieving full and comprehensive coverage. SPACELINE is updated weekly with the addition of approximately 150 new records.

See: <http://spaceline.usuhs.mil/>

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