SFF Fact Sheet 2011-3

# **Getting the Most from Online Fire Resources: Tall Timbers Fire Ecology Database**

Carol Kimball, Annie Oxarart, & Alan Long

The Tall Timbers Research Station E.V. Komarek Fire Ecology Database is an online tool that efficiently searches thousands of bibliographic records to help you find fire science information you need (Figure 1). Beginning in 1987 with donations of personal research collections from the founders of Tall Timbers, the Database now contains over 30,400 citations for fire science and research literature. The database is currently As of November, 2017, the database can still be searched, but no new records are being added. For more recent southern fire science research, check out the Southern Fire Exchange's Regional Fire Science Publications Database discussed at the end of this fact sheet. This fact sheet contains a brief description of the extensive Tall Timbers Fire Ecology Database, tips for using it, and where to go for more information.

#### WHAT IS THE FIRE ECOLOGY DATABASE?

Fire-related bibliographic records from peer-reviewed journal articles, books, government documents, conference proceedings, and magazine and newspaper articles are indexed and cataloged in the Database by the Tall Timbers Librarian. Each item is indexed by several attributes, including fire, ecological, and forestry terms; geographic designations; habitat types; management types; and scientific and com-



The E.V. Komarek Fire Ecology Database

The donation of personal research collections from E.V. Komarek and Herbert L. Stoddard, who were two of the
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Management Exchange System (FRAMES) to provide more access to bibliographic records in a unique, ordersible collection of the ecologist and the science little faunt. The Library as identised to exclude acide with REMES with support from the John Efre Sciences Program to develop a web-based gateway for fire information called the Southern Fire Pervalta (SFP) within provides access to fire data, documents, projects, toos, and webbliers related to fire and natural resource management in the southern United States. The Tall Timbers Fire Ecology Database and the Southern Research Station's office Percylogistical Southern Fire Science as bey components of the FSP Because online resources are now resulty available for research, fall Timbers will no longer addit records to the database. The database can still be searched, but no review cords have been added since Newberred 2013.

Document delivery of materials cited in the database is not provided. Users are encouraged to access local librar resources or a commercial document delivery service to obtain materials listed in the database. Most URLs in database records do to publishers' Web sites. In some recent records, links to PDFs are available. **Database topics include:** 



SEARCH the Fire Ecology



Figure 1. The Fire Ecology Database is an online tool that searches thousands of bibliographic records.

mon names. These different attributes allow the search engine to locate relevant and accurate records for the user.

## WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO SEARCH THE DATABASE?

The Database was originally housed on the Tall Timbers Research Station website which still contains a page leading to the database (https://talltimbers.org/information-resources-the-e-v-komarek-fire-ecology-database/). However, the database itself is now housed through FRAMES at https://www.frames.gov/search/ttrs/?q2=trees&button2=Search. Some helpful resources that have been developed to help you search the Database include:

- 1. Fire Ecology Thesaurus (www.talltimbers.org/images/fedb/FEDB-thesaurus.pdf): This tool contains a list of all words or phrases used to catalog records in the Database by topics. It does not contain geographic descriptors nor species names. By using the Thesaurus to look up the terms of interest to you, you can find the appropriate search engine keyword as well as related terms, narrower or broader terms, terms to use in place of others, and scope notes. All keywords are shown in the Thesaurus in bold format.
- 2. List of All Terms (www.talltimbers.org/images/fedb/ AllTerms.pdf): In addition to all the keywords from the Keywords List and Thesaurus, this list includes all scientific names, common names, and geographic descriptors that can be used in the database search. These are the only words that will work in the search engine.

Once you select terms for the search engine, click "Search the Fire Ecology Database" in the middle of the page, then enter the search terms in the box and click Search. Be sure to click Reset before each new search. The search box at the top of the webpage is for the Tall Timbers website, not the Database. The search engine for the Database, which is supplied by the Fire Research and Management Exchange System (FRAMES), will search titles, authors, and abstracts for each keyword and term you list.

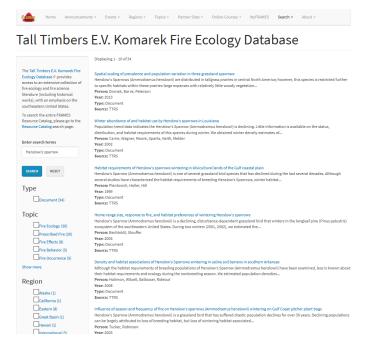


Figure 2. A search for "Henslow's sparrow" returns 34 bibliographic records.

Your search results in a list of related bibliographic records (Figure 2). Clicking on each item on the list takes you to the Tall Timbers catalog record for that item, which includes

- An abstract or description (available for most records),
- A complete citation for the reference, and
- Other cataloging information.

When multiple citations occur in the list, they may be clustered in the left margin by additional keywords that occur in the records. Each subtopic can be opened to show the references that include, or focus on, these additional terms.

### WHAT NEXT?

The Tall Timbers Fire Ecology Database is intended to be a bibliographic resource. For most citations, full documents are not available from the Database. This is to adhere to copyright laws. To gain access to the full documents, users are encouraged to use their local library resources or webbased resources such as TreeSearch

(www.treesearch.fs.fed.us), which provides links to many federal documents. In some Database records, such as government publications or newspaper articles, a link to the document may be indicated, but many of the links are non-functional.

## SOUTHERN FIRE EXCHANGE'S REGIONAL FIRE SCIENCE PUBLICATIONS DATABASE (RFSPD)

The RFSPD was created to continue on the legacy of having a database of fire science research relevant to the southeastern United States while also adapting to the technological trends and availability of research. Thus Zotero, a free reference manager, was used which allows users to search the database, follow doi/urls to the article's website, export bibliographies to use in other reference managers, or add the RFSPD Zotero group to your own Zotero account to be searched and referenced in you publications. Zotero also does not require users to have a Zotero account to search the database. To learn more about how to utilize the RFSPD, check out the video tutorial (https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=Sy1M lpQa1o) or pdf tutorial (https:// southernfireexchange.org/wp-content/uploads/Zotero-Tutorial.pdf). The RFSPD can be access through the SFE website (https://southernfireexchange.org/publications/ regional-fire-science-pubs-searchbar/) or through its Zotero group (https://www.zotero.org/groups/2521811/; Fig. 3).

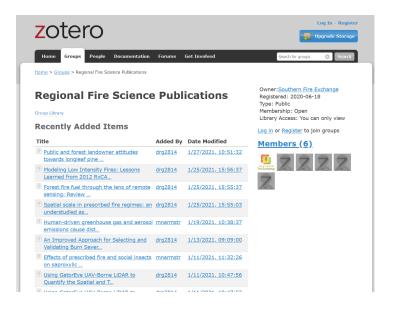


Figure 3. Regional Fire Science Publications Database Zotero Group Home Page displaying the most recent articles added.

#### **Authors**

Carol Kimball, Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy, Tallahassee, Florida
Annie Oxarart, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida
Alan Long, Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy, Tallahassee, Florida
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