

# LUDOK: Documentation Database on Air Pollution and Health Research

<http://ludok.swisstph.ch>



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## Background

Since 1985 the documentation database of 'LUDOK=Dokumentationsstelle Luft und Gesundheit' selects, categorizes and summarizes relevant international research papers on the topic of air pollution and health outcomes on behalf of the Swiss Federal Office of the Environment (BAFU=Bundesamt für Umwelt).

The aim is to provide an easy and publicly available access to a qualified library with a selection of relevant research papers in the field of air pollution and health research to authorities, researchers, organizations or interested persons.

## Methods

From a monthly systematic search query in ISI Web of Knowledge including PubMed and alerts from important journals in the field the research team selects relevant papers. The focus lies on regulated outdoor air pollutants and candidates for regulation and health outcomes.

Population based investigations (Epidemiology), are most of interest. However, important cell and animal studies are selected as well. The papers are categorized into eight areas (Tab.1) and summarized in German with important key words. A bi-monthly newsletter highlights new articles.

## Results

To date, the database has over 7000 entries increasing by 300 every year. The publications on particles have risen constantly over the years. LUDOK contains over 3600 articles on particles and over 372 articles on investigations on ultrafine particles and their impact on health. LUDOK has been a valuable source of information for researchers, policy makers and local authorities in Switzerland. The documentation team is frequently consulted for specific questions and has contributed to evidence based policy making e.g. in WHO working groups.

**Datenbank-Suche**  
= Data Query: Soon available also in English and French

Thema, Schlagwort  exakt

Autor(en)  exakt

Jahr  bis

**Suche einschränken ...**

Auf Zielgruppe:  
 Kinder  
 Erwachsene

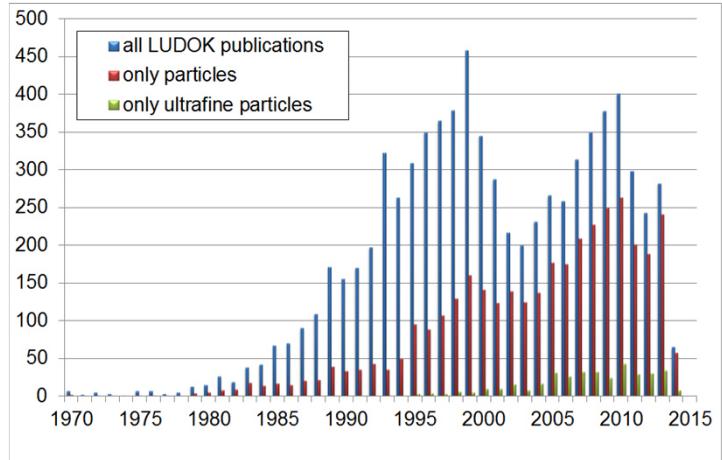
Auf Studientyp:  
 experimentelle Studien  
 epidemiologische Studien  
 Übersichten, Methodik

Eight Categories	Examples
Exposure Agent	Particles, Ozone, Traffic, NO <sub>2</sub> , Metal, CO <sub>2</sub> , SO <sub>2</sub> , Temperature
Regions	Europe, Other Countries
Study Population	Children, Adults, Registry data, People with Asthma, Cells
Health Outcomes	Lung-function, Heart, Fertility, Quality of Life, Cancer, Mortality
Study Design	Cohort, Experimental, Cross-sectional, Time series, Review
Species	Humans, Animals, Viruses, Bacteria, Protozoa
Exposure Duration	Short-term, Long-term
Exposure Type	Ambient Air, Occupational Exposure, Personal Measurement

Tab. 1: Eight main categories for database search

## Number of all publications in LUDOK

from 1970-2014

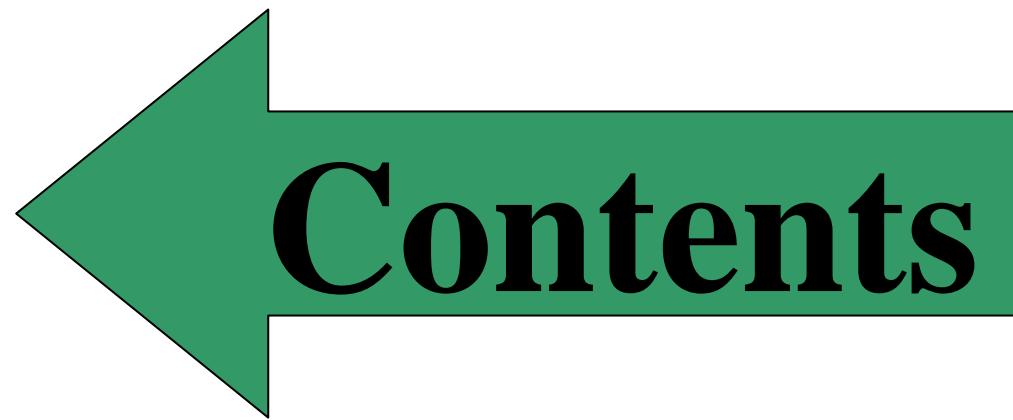
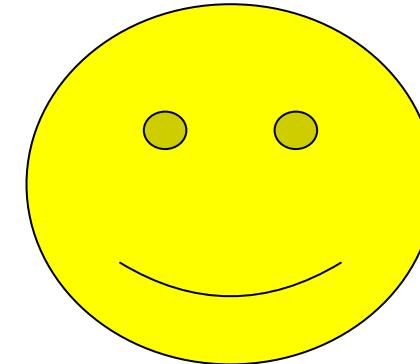


## Summary

The LUDOK database and its services are a unique source of information regarding air pollution and health research. Its coding and keywords selection enable search opportunities beyond PubMed or EMBASE with the advantages to discriminate e.g. between different study designs or length of exposure. Thus researchers can find more specific and relevant publications and studies regarding their interests. Later this year the search options will be available in English and French.



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