

EI Compendex/Engineering Village 2

EI Compendex (Engineering Index) is the world's most comprehensive interdisciplinary database for engineering related subjects. Abstracts and references, approximately 9 million, are taken from over 5000 journals and conference proceedings starting from 1969. The database is updated weekly.

Getting Started

Open a web browser. Go to the Information Services electronic resources page at www.cardiff.ac.uk/insrv/eresources and click on **Databases**. Click on the letter **E**, and click on the **Ei Compendex** link.

If you have an Athens username and password, enter them in the boxes and click the Login button. Alternatively, if you use your CU Login, click on the **Alternative Login** link to get to the CU Login page.

There are three ways to search the database:

Quick Search

This is the default search and is designed for simple searches. You may search in a variety of fields from dropdown menus.

Expert Search

Provides more precision and flexibility. It incorporates advanced Boolean logic and includes extra search options.

Thesaurus

Allows you to search using terms from a controlled vocabulary and broaden or narrow your search in the hierarchy of terms. For example, *light rail* retrieves the terms light rail transit, monorails, railroads, rapid transit, subways, trackless trolleys, trolley cars and urban planning.

Features of the database

Autostemming

Allows you to search for variants of a word using the word root, e.g. *management* will retrieve manage, managed, managing, manager, managers, management. Search terms are automatically stemmed in Quick Search except in the author field. Click **Autostemming off** to disable this feature.

Truncation

To search for all words which start with the same letters use an asterisk * to indicate truncation. For example, *comput** finds computer, computerized, computation, computational, etc.

Exact Phrase Searching

To search for an exact phrase, use brackets or quotation marks, e.g. "pore pressure", {finite element method}. Autostemming and truncation cannot be used with Exact Phrase Searching.

Using Quick Search

Use the *Search For* boxes to enter a single search term or combine terms using Boolean logic. For example:

- *cracks* **OR** *holes* finds articles in which either term appears;
- *cracks* **AND** *holes* finds articles in which both terms appear;
- *cracks* **NOT** *holes* finds all articles in which the first term appears but excludes those in which the second term appears.

The *Search In* boxes allow you to select the search field(s). Click on the drop down list to change the default setting of All fields. If you choose *Subject* search remember that as well as Boolean logic you can use truncation.

To search by *Author* enter the author's surname. Truncate by using an asterisk after the name, e.g. SMITH* will retrieve SMITH, SMITHE, SMITH A.

If you enter the author's institution e.g. London in the next search box, and choose Author affiliation in the field to be searched, you will retrieve references containing both London and the author's name.

The *Limit By* facility enables you to select a type of document, e.g. journal article, conference paper, review, or a treatment, e.g. biographical, historical, numerical, by clicking on the drop down lists. Similarly, any date range 1969 to 2006 may be selected. To search for a single year select the same year in both date range boxes.

Sort by enables you to choose the order in which your references appear. To have the most recent papers appearing first, change from *relevance* to *publication year*.

Finally click on **Search**.

Viewing the results

The search results screen shows how many records have been found and lists the first 25 in short format. Click on the **Detailed** link under the record to see full details, usually with an abstract.

Some records will have a link to the full text. If available there will be a yellow **Full Text** button; Click on it. If not available, check Voyager to see if the document is in any Cardiff University Library.

To continue viewing your list of references click on **Next Page**.

Refine Results

This column on the right hand side of the screen allows you to include or exclude references by

selecting specific authors, document types, languages, years, publishers, etc.

Selecting / marking records

You will probably want to select some of the references for further investigation. On the left hand side of the screen against each reference you will see a small tick box. Tick those references which interest you.

There is a *Choose format* option at the top and bottom of the screen. *Citation* provides the minimum information, *Detailed Record* the full information.

You can perform further searches and add more references to the marked list at any time. Click on the blue **View Selections** button to review the list.

Downloading and Printing

Choose the output you prefer from the options listed across the top of the screen: email, print, or download. To save references click on the **Download** button and select the format.

Emailing results

Click on the **Email** button and insert your email address.

New Search

When starting a new search click the yellow **Reset** button at the bottom of the screen to clear previous searches or **New Search** which is displayed at the top of the results screen.

End session

Click on the yellow **End session** button on the top right of the screen to log out. Sessions expire after twenty minutes.

*For further information or assistance contact the Trevithick Library. Tel: 029 2087 4286
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Also available in alternative formats.