

ACM Digital Library

COVERAGE

The ACM Digital Library (Association for Computing Machinery) provides bibliographic information, abstracts, reviews and the full text for articles published in ACM periodicals and conference proceedings from 1985 onwards. Works published by affiliated organisations are also included.

ACCESS

From the Library's homepage click on **Electronic Information Services**. Or go directly to <http://www.ulst.ac.uk/library/electronic/>.

Click on **Association for Computing Machinery** to view the ACM Digital Library homepage (<http://www.acm.org/dl/>).

SEARCHING

Under the column **Browse and Search the Digital Library** click on **Search the Digital Library** to display a search form.

** Do not confuse this function with the **search acm** icon at the top of the screen. Clicking on this icon will search the web site of the Association for Computing Machinery and not the Digital Library as desired.**

Help

Click on **Help** at the bottom of the screen for guidance on completing the search form.

Search Articles

- **Terms:** enter your search words or phrases in the **Terms search box** and move the bullet below this to the desired option:

All words	all of the search terms must occur somewhere in the text eg. the search Internet Intranet will retrieve articles where both the term Internet and the term Intranet are included
Any words	only one of the search terms must occur within the text eg. the search Internet Intranet will retrieve articles where either Internet or Intranet or both terms are included
Exact phrase	use this when your search terms take the form of a phrase eg fuzzy logic or neural networks
Subject	use this option to retrieve records on a particular topic

Expression	select this option when using operators such as AND, OR, NOT (see below for more details)
Stem	only to be used with <i>All words</i> or <i>Any words</i> . Includes words that have the same linguistic root as the search term

- **In Fields:**

Specify which area(s) of the record you want the search to be carried out in:

Title	looks only in the title of each record for your search terms
Full-text	searches in the complete text of the article
Abstract	looks only in the summary or abstract area
Reviews	searches the Review area of each record only. Reviews are taken from <i>Computing Reviews</i>
Index Terms	terms used to describe the article, compiled using article keywords and the ACM Computing Classification system . (To view the ACM Computing Classification system go back to the <i>ACM Digital Library homepage</i> and click on <i>Content and Organization</i> under the heading <i>About the Digital Library</i> . Scroll then to <i>Index terms</i> and click on <i>ACM Computing Classification System</i>)

You can search in more than one field at a time. Articles will then be displayed where the search terms appear in any of these specified fields.

- **Authors:**

All names	all names entered must occur in the record eg the search <i>Miller Fredriksen</i> will retrieve the article written by both <i>Barton P. Miller</i> and <i>Louis Fredriksen</i>
Any name	only one of the names entered needs to occur in the record eg the search <i>Miller Fredriksen</i> will retrieve articles where either <i>Miller</i> or <i>Fredriksen</i> are authors or co-authors
Expression	select this option when using operators (see below)
Soundex	only to be used with <i>All names</i> or <i>Any</i>

	<i>names.</i> Includes names sounding like the name entered in the author search box.
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Limit Your Search To

Narrow your search by limiting by publication or time period.

Click on **search** at the bottom of the search form to process the search.

SEARCHING TIPS

- **Using the Expressions option:**

If you select this option you can combine terms together using operators or use symbols to represent particular functions. For example:

AND	retrieves records containing both terms or phrases specified eg. Internet and Intranet
OR	retrieves records containing either of the terms specified eg. neural networks or neural computing
NOT	retrieves records containing the first term but not the second eg. browser not netscape

Click on the **Help** function for further guidance on using the Expressions option.

- **Using Wildcards**

Use % to search for different endings of a term eg. **network%** will find **network, networks, networking, networked**. The % cannot be used with the *exact phrase* option.

Use _ to represent one character eg. **computeri_ation** will find **computerization or computerisation**

- **Using Brackets**

Use **brackets** to combine different search operators together eg. **artificial intelligence and (image processing or computer vision)**

VIEW RESULTS

The **search results screen** displays results. Click on **Help** at the top of the screen for further guidance on viewing your search results.

Brief Listing format includes the title, author/s, publication, volume, issue and page details for each reference. Click on **Find Related Articles** to view other similar articles.

To view a fuller record either click on **Full Listing** at the top of the list of references or click on the **hyper-linked title** of each reference.

Click on the **PDF icon** when records are displayed in the fuller format to display the full text of the article.

REFINE SEARCH

From the search results screen you can narrow your results by using the **Refine** function at the top of the screen.

Click on Refine to redisplay a fresh search screen. Enter your search terms. The results displayed will include only those which contain both the original search terms and the new ones.

PRINTING AND SAVING

To print or save full text documents use the **Adobe functions keys** and not those of your browser.

BROWSING

You can also **browse** through the Digital Library. From the **ACM homepage** (<http://www.acm.org/dl/>) select the desired option under the heading **Browse and Search the Digital Library**

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