COVERAGE

**Ei Compendex**, produced by Engineering Information Inc. (Ei) is the most comprehensive interdisciplinary engineering information database in the world, with over six million summaries of journal articles and conference proceedings, and 220,000 new additions every year.

**Subjects covered include:** mechanical, civil, environmental, electrical, structural, process, materials science, solid state physics and superconductivity, bioengineering, energy, chemical, optics, air and water pollution, solid waste management, hazardous waste, road transportation, transportation safety, manufacturing, quality control, and engineering management issues

Compendex covers the years 1970 to the present, and is updated weekly.

EDINA's interface for Compendex includes a cross-search of the web resources catalogue from EEVL, the Internet guide for Engineering, Mathematics and Computing. EEVL (the Edinburgh Engineering Virtual Library) is a UK-based guide to engineering information on the Internet. It is a free service, created and run by a team of information specialists from Heriot-Watt University, with input from a number of other universities in the UK. The site features a catalogue of quality engineering resources (selected by subject consultants). This catalogue has descriptions and links to thousands of quality Internet resources. It is these descriptions you are searching, not the sites themselves.

ACCESS

The database is accessible from any PC with Internet access, using your Athens username and password. See [http://studentweb.ulst.ac.uk](http://studentweb.ulst.ac.uk) for your details, or contact Library staff.

To access the database go to the Library’s Electronic Resources page at [www.ulster.ac.uk/library/electronic](http://www.ulster.ac.uk/library/electronic) and scroll down the list of databases until you come to **Ei Compendex**. Click on the title, click on **Login**, and enter your Athens username and password if off-campus (login is automatic on-campus).

You can now choose between two different ways to access the Compendex database:

- Ei Compendex via Edina, cross-searching EEVL.
- Ei Compendex via Engineering Village 2

Choose your preference to enter a search screen. This user guide describes searching using Edina Compendex.

SEARCHING

The **Standard Search** page is best used for simple searches using one search term, and searching on only one field or one combination of subject-based fields (Title/Abstract/Descriptors).

The **Advanced Search** page offers a wider number of search options. Use the **Advanced Search** page for complex searching. Go there by clicking the "advanced" button at the top of this web page.

**Search Term**

Enter a word or phrase you wish to use to find a record into these text boxes. Use quotation marks (") to search for an exact phrase of more than one word. **Note:** If you use two words with no quotes around them, it is assumed that the **boolean operator and** is between the terms.

**Boolean Operators:** You can combine two search terms with Boolean operators.

- Use **and** between search terms to limit your search to those records that only contain both terms.
- Use **not** to limit your search to those records that contain one search term but not the other.
- Use **or** between search terms to broaden your search to records that contain either search term.

If you want to combine more than two search terms, it might be better to use the **Advanced Search** page, where more complex searches are made easier to perform.
**Truncation:** Truncation refers to using characters that can represent any other characters, and is used when you want to search for more than one form of a word. Use * when you want to match any number of characters in or at the end of a word. For example, bridg* will find records with fields that contain bridge, bridged, bridging, bridgehead, etc. Use ? to match 0 or 1 character in the middle or at the end of a word. For example, color? will find records with fields that contain colour and color, and bridge? will find records with fields that contain bridge, bridges and bridged. Use + at the end of a word to search for the singular or plural form of the word. For example, bridge+ will find records with fields that contain bridge or bridges.

**Index**
Use this drop-down menu to choose from a limited selection of record fields to look for your search term in. You can choose from three subject-based fields, a combination of these three fields, or the Authors field.

**Browse**
Use "Browse" to generate an alphabetical list of possible search terms that includes the search term in the text field and possible related terms. **Note:** If you press the "Browse" button with nothing entered in the text field, an alphabetical list of possible search terms will be generated beginning at the top of the list.

**Limited by Year**
Use these drop-down menus to limit your search to those records that match the specified years of publication.

**Clear All**
Use this button to clear all the search items you have specified, and reset them to the default value. This includes both the "Search Term" text box and all the drop-down menus.

**Include EEVL Web Resources**
Check this button to include web resources from the EEVL catalogue in the search.

**BROWSING**
Clicking on the Browse button brings you to the Browse page, which displays an alphabetised list of indexed search terms to help you find other terms that may be related to the original term. The original search term is found at the top of the middle column. The list includes terms that come before and after the search term in the alphabet. For each term listed, the number of records in the complete Compendex*Plus database containing this term in the field specified is given. Use the checkbox next to each search term to select one or more terms to search on. If, after ticking one or more checkboxes, you then click on the "Select" button, the Search page (either Standard or Advanced, depending on which you were using before browsing) comes up again with the selected terms in the "Search term" text box. If more than one search term is selected, the terms are combined with the or Boolean operator.

If you click on the "No Selection" button, the Search page comes back up with the original search term in the "Search term" text box. In addition to selecting search terms, the Browse page also offers you the opportunity to input another search term into the "Browse term" box, and select a different index via the drop-down menu, for further browsing.

**VIEWING AND MARKING ARTICLES**
Once you have entered your search terms, a list of records may be displayed. The Current Results page displays the records (if any) that were found as a result of your search. This page will appear whenever you click on the "Results" button in the navigation bar at the top of any page. In this case, the page will show the results of the most recent search. (Note that if no searches have been performed during this session, the "Results" button will be greyed out.)
This page will also appear when you press the "results" button next to a search on the Search History page, or the "run search" button on the Previous Sessions page. In both these cases, those results will become the current result set.

The page is divided into three sections:
1. Information about the list of records
2. Navigation buttons and position bar to move about the list of records
3. The list of records itself.

1. Information about the list of records
The top line tells you how many records in all were returned, and which part of the list you are viewing (e.g. "Viewing records 1-10 of 151 results from Compendex").
Each database searched is listed after "database", with the number of records found in each one. Use the buttons to switch between the results from each database. For more information about the databases, see the help text on the Standard or Advanced pages.

2. Navigation buttons and position bar to move about the list of records
Immediately above and below the list of records is a navigation bar that consists of four buttons and a position bar.
The previous button calls the records (if any) in the list that precede the ones you are currently viewing.
The next button calls the records (if any) in the list that follow the ones you are currently viewing.
The buttons to the left and right of the position bar take you to the start and end of the list of records, respectively.

3. The list of records itself
Each item on the list is comprised of the record number, a checkbox to mark the record, a button to view the full record, and an abbreviated form of the record.
Tick the checkbox by the record to create a subset of marked records to be displayed, saved, or e-mailed.
Above the list of results are the "mark all on page" and "unmark all on page" buttons. The "mark all on page" button adds each record on the page to the list of marked records, and the "unmark all on page" button removes the records on the page from the list of marked records.
For Compendex, the abbreviated form of the record consists of the title, author, and publication information. For records from the EEVL catalogue, the web site title and URL are displayed.

LINKING TO OTHER DATABASES
Clicking on Full Record gives you a chance to read the abstract. A recent introduction to the database is the Links button, which allow you to find out if the journal is available in paper format in the University of Ulster Library Catalogue, or is available in SwetsWise, our largest electronic journal full-text database. Clicking on this button opens up a new browser screen.

PRINTING, EMAILING AND SAVING DOCUMENTS
Printing lists of results or individual records (marked or unmarked) can be done by clicking on your browser’s Print button. If you have marked records, click on the Marked button at the top of the page, and you can then select how you want to save records – there is an email option, or a save to disk option.

HELP
Contextual help is available on all pages of the database. Click where you see Help.

EXIT
Click on the Logout button at the top of the screen, and confirm by clicking on the Logout button on the next screen.