COMPREHENSIVE INTERDISCIPLINARY ENGINEERING INFORMATION DATABASE

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.

Ei's interface for Compendex including access to Scirus, US and European Patents, Standards and CRC Press Engineering Handbooks table of contents.

- CRC ENGnetBASE gives you online access to some of the world's leading engineering handbooks. Currently, more than 140 titles are available. Explore technical concepts in depth by entering your query.
- USPTO provides access to a full text patent database, which currently contains over six million patents. Records cover the period from 1790 to the most recent weekly issue date. Patents from 1790-1975 can be searched and retrieved by patent number or current US classification code only.
- Techstreet - search over 500,000 technical information titles including one of the world's largest collections of industry standards and specifications. Abstracts only. Includes ASTM, IEEE, ISO, BS, ANSI, ASME.
- Esp@cenet – esp@cenet provides access to patents produced by national patent offices in Europe as well as the European Patent Office (EPO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and Japan. (abstracts only)
- Scirus – “the most comprehensive science-specific search engine available on the Internet”. Produced by Elsevier, it allows you to search the web focusing on science web sites only.

ACCESS

The database is accessible from any PC with Internet access, using your Athens username and password. See 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 and scroll down the list of databases until you come to 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 Engineering Village 2.

SEARCHING

The Quick 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 Expert Search page offers a wider number of search options. Use this page for complex searching. Go there by clicking the Expert Search tab at the top of this web page.

Enter search term(s) in one or more of the SEARCH FOR textboxes. You may search a term in a specific field by selecting the field from the SEARCH IN pull-down menu to the right of the textbox.
The three search boxes available allow you to combine terms using Boolean operators AND, OR, and NOT.

- To broaden a search, or to allow for variant spellings, combine terms using OR (results contain any specified term), for example, seatbelts OR seat belts
- To narrow the scope of a search, combine terms using AND (results contain all specified terms).
- prosthetics AND biocontrol
- To eliminate terms from a search, use the NOT operator. A search for windows as a building component: windows NOT Microsoft

If you need to combine more terms within your search, please use Expert Search or, alternately, use the Combining Previous Searches feature, by clicking on the Search History tab in the top navigation.

**Autostemming**

Stemming allows you to retrieve variants of a word using the word root as the stemming basis. Search terms are automatically stemmed in Quick Search except terms searched in the author field.

management returns managing, managed, manager, manage, managers, etc.

Click "Autostemming off" to disable this feature.

**Truncation**

The asterisk * is the truncation symbol. To avoid unexpected results, truncation should be used with care.

The truncation command retrieves all the words that start with the same letters as the truncated term, up to the point that the truncation symbol is used.

comput* returns computer, computerized, computation, computational, computability, etc.

**Exact Phrase Searching**

Phrases entered without braces or quotation marks will return good results because of the relevance sort, but to guarantee that the phrase is an exact match, braces or quotation marks should be used.

"International Space Station" or {solar energy}

**Sorting**

Search results for Compendex, INSPEC and Combined Compendex & INSPEC can be sorted by either relevance or publication year. Search results are sorted by relevance by default.

**Publication Year:** Records are sorted by year. Most recent years are displayed first. 2002, 2001, 2000, 1999 etc.

**BROWSING**

The look-up indexes help you select appropriate terms for your search. Compendex has indexes for author, author affiliation, serial title, publisher and Ei controlled term.

From the Browse Indexes box (located on the right hand side of the Quick Search page) select the index you wish to use by clicking on the radio button next to it and then clicking on "Browse."

Once the index is loaded, you can navigate by either selecting the first letter(s) of the term you wish to search for or by typing in the first few letters of the term in the SEARCH FOR box and clicking on "Find." Additionally, you can browse through the index by clicking on either "Previous" or "Next" at the bottom of each page of entries.

When you select a term from the index, it is automatically pasted into the first available search box. The SEARCH IN box will also be changed to the appropriate field. Un-selecting the term from the index will remove it from the search form. If you select more than three terms, the fourth term will overwrite the term in the third search box.

**VIEWING AND MARKING ARTICLES**

Search results are initially presented in the citation format. This provides enough information to identify the source publication. To view a record in its abstract or detailed format click on the Abstract/Links, or Detailed Record/Links hyperlinks beneath each individual citation.

**Selecting Records**

You can select particular records from the search results in one of three ways. You can individually mark check boxes next to their corresponding records; you can click on the hyperlinked phrase "Select all on page" (this will select up to 25 records on an individual page of results); or you can select a range of records by entering the first and last record numbers to be included within the range and then clicking on the GO button.
The records are then transferred to a Selected Records page. You can add up to 400 records to work with in Selected Records. Click on the Selected Records icon in the top navigation bar to work with your Selected Records.

PRINTING, EMAILING AND SAVING DOCUMENTS

E-mail Selected Records
By clicking on the e-mail output option, you can e-mail the results to yourself or others. An e-mail form box will appear that allows you to enter the e-mail address of the recipient, as well as any message you wish to add to the e-mail.

Print Selected Records
Selecting the print option will format the Selected Records in a clean format suitable for printing. All links to full-text and local holdings are removed. The records appear in a new window in a printer friendly format. Click on the Print icon in the new window to start printing.

Download Selected Records
By selecting the download option, you can choose to download the records in RIS or ASCII format. You will be asked to choose the format you wish. The RIS format is compatible with most bibliographic utilities such as EndNote, ProCite and Reference Manager. However, it is necessary to have one of these products installed on your computer in order to import your Selected Records to that utility.

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

EXIT
Click on the End Session button at the top of the screen.