SEARCHING FOR SCHOLARLY INFORMATION: WHERE & HOW

LIBRARY SESSION FOR ENCS 282

Chloe Lei
Teaching & Research Librarian, Engineering & Computer Science
chloe.lei@concordia.ca
AGENDA

1. Where to search?
2. What are the major types of information sources?
3. What are the major library search tools?
4. How to cite sources properly in IEEE style?
WHAT SEARCH TOOL DO YOU USE TO FIND ACADEMIC INFORMATION?
WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

GOOGLE SCHOLAR

Volume | Quantity | Quick

LIBRARY DATABASES

Depth | Quality | Thorough

Right image: Jason Briscoe, Cooking, public domain, https://unsplash.com/photos/V8sG1jV DjL4
WHERE SHOULD YOU SEARCH?

- Google Scholar
- Library Discovery Tool
- Engineering Village (Library Database)
- IEEE Xplore (Library Database)
- Grey literature (e.g. government documents, NGO reports, working papers, newsletters, preprints)
- Google Scholar
Evaluate information equally important in academia and professional practice.
KEY CRITERIA TO EVALUATE QUALITY

Relevance
Authority
Date
Appearance
Reason

MAJOR TYPES OF INFORMATION SOURCES

A DRAG AND DROP ACTIVITY

Cite a wide range of sources for their differences in purpose, scope, and perspectives. Make use of scholarly sources generously.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>References</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>


LIBRARY DISCOVERY TOOL

THE MAIN LIBRARY SEARCH TOOL
LIBRARY DISCOVERY TOOL

- Front and centre on the library homepage
- A good starting point for a general search across library resources
- Answer questions such as:
  - Does the library have this book?
  - Does the library have this journal article?
  - Does the library have some background/overview information on a topic?
LIBRARY DISCOVERY TOOL

- A search for a broad keyword such as blockchain
- Refine options include:
  - Format types (e.g. ebooks)
  - Publication years
- Shows results with Concordia full text access by default
  - Easily expand to other university libraries in Québec or Worldwide
LIBRARY DATABASES

OVER 400 OF THEM ORGANIZED BY DISCIPLINE
Library Databases

- Content is usually more in-depth and specialized
- More options to search, expand, or refine
- Answer questions such as:
  - Where can I find journal articles on a specific aspect of a topic
  - How can I combine different elements/keywords in a search?
MY LIBRARY ACCOUNT

Remember to log into *My Library Account* to access all library e-resources. This is the same as your Concordia netname and password.
ENGINEERING VILLAGE
A CLOSER LOOK AT AN ENGINEERING DATABASE
With a coverage of 1884 to the present, the three indexes **Compendex**, Inspec, and GEOBASE provide content in general engineering as well as more specialized engineering disciplines.
**WHAT CONTENT IS INCLUDED?**

“Publications must consist of peer-reviewed engineering content and have a publicly available description of the peer review process. Exceptions would be trade journals and some conference proceedings.”

-Engineering Village Compendex Content Policy and Selection (A checklist of 13 criteria)
Key Concepts
Electronic waste
Recycling
Guiyu

Synonyms
E-waste
Reuse, management
Guiyu, Guangdong, China

WHAT ARE THE SEARCH OPTIONS?
Search can be built up from a simple one to a complex one, allowing the combination of many keywords or concepts.

Sample Topic:
How does electronic waste recycling affect citizens living in Guiyu, China?
Environmental impact and human exposure to PCBs in **Guiyu**, an **electronic waste recycling** site in China

Xing, Guan Hua 1, 2; Chan, Janet Kit Yan 1, 2; Leung, Anna Oi Wah 1, 2; Wu, Sheng Chun 1, 2; Wong, M.H. 1, 2

Source: *Environment International*, v 35, n 1, p 76-82, January 2009; ISSN: 01604120, E-ISSN: 18736750; DOI: 10.1016/j.envint.2008.07.025; Publisher: Elsevier Ltd

**Main heading:** Printed circuit boards

**Controlled terms:** Electronic equipment - Electronic Waste - Fish - Organic pollutants - Polychlorinated biphenyls - Recycling - Risk assessment - Wastes

**Uncontrolled terms:** Chlorinated biphenyls - Correlation analysis - Dietary exposure - Electronic waste recycling - Environmental media - Inhalation exposure - Polychlorinated biphenyl (PCBs) - Residential areas

**HOW IS THE CONTENT ORGANIZED?**

Every article is displayed with rich metadata, including careful indexing of subject matters.

“Controlled terms” help identify synonyms and related terms.

- Makes searching more precise
- Helps understand hierarchy of topics
- Discover other broader, narrower, or related terms
How to Access Full Text?

Full text may be readily available. If not, the “Find it @ Concordia” button can help check for full text availability in the library. If not available, request it via Interlibrary Loan.
INTERLIBRARY LOAN

- If Concordia Library doesn’t have it, use Interlibrary Loan
- Takes a few days or longer to process depending on the item
FROM TOPICS TO KEYWORDS
## More Examples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Keywords</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| How does electronic waste recycling affect citizens living in Guiyu, China? | • Electronic waste OR e-waste  
• Recycling OR reuse OR management  
• Guiyu OR Guangdong OR China |
| How can nanotechnology make solar energy technology more efficient?   | • Nanotechnology OR nanofluid  
• Solar energy OR solar power |
| Privacy issues in the use of vaccination QR code during Covid-19      | • Privacy OR security OR protection  
• Vaccination OR vaccine OR healthcare  
• QR code OR mobile OR apps  
• Covid-19 OR coronavirus OR pandemic |
Go to www.menti.com and use the code 71536096
DOCUMENTING SOURCES
CITING IT RIGHT IN IEEE CITATION STYLE
SOME ADVICE

• Keep track from the beginning
• Doing it right conveys professionalism and quality
• Make use of a tool such as Zotero to help organize and save time
• Always double check citations and references that were automatically generated
• Consult a librarian if unsure
In this book about decision trees, the authors say all kinds of great things [1]. I cited them and now I would like to cite something I read in this journal [2].

References


[2] The second reference appears here because it was the second item cited in the text above.

**IEEE CITATION STYLE**

- Based on a numbering system
- In-text citations are numbers in square brackets
- Full citations are listed on the reference list at the end
- There are official abbreviations to be followed (e.g. journal title)
WHAT REFERENCE MANAGER DO YOU USE?
ZOTERO

- Manage and organize sources in one place
- Save references/sources from the web browser
- Generate in-text citations and prepare the reference list automatically via a Word plugin
Zotero 5.0 for Windows
Your personal research assistant

Zotero Connector
Save to Zotero from your browser

Other platforms
macOS • Linux 32-bit • Linux 64-bit
Looking for Zotero 4.0?

Zotero Connector automatically senses content as you browse the web and allows you to save it to Zotero with a single click.

Zotero Connectors for other browsers

ZOTERO

- Manage and organize sources in one place
- Save references/sources from the web browser
- Generate in-text citations and prepare the reference list automatically via a Word plugin
Help & how-to
Subject & course guides

Business  Engineering & Computer Science  Fine Arts  Humanities

Sciences  Social Sciences  Interdisciplinary

Help & How-to Guides

Subject guides are available for all schools, including one for Engineering and Computer Science.

General guides cover various topics from peer review articles to annotated bibliography.
Contact the library in-person, by email, chat, or phone.

Contact your subject librarian (that’s me!)

https://library.concordia.ca/help/questions/
QUESTIONS?