

How to Find Journal Articles

Kresge Engineering Library
<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/ENGI/>

Scientists and engineers publish much of their research as articles within scholarly journals. These journals use a peer-review process to insure their quality: each article must be approved by a group of experts before it is published. In order to find these journal articles, you should use the following two-step process:

1. Identify relevant articles
 - a. Search article databases
 - b. Examine references in articles and books
2. Get the full text
 - a. Use UC-eLinks
 - b. Search Melvyl

Step 1. Identify Relevant Articles

Choose an Article Database:

The library provides access to numerous article databases, covering a wide range of subjects. The key to efficient library research is choosing an article database appropriate for your topic and assignment.

Access our article databases for engineering at <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/ENGI/listdbs.html>.

Use the following questions to help you choose an appropriate article database for your search:

- What subject or discipline covers your topic? Is it multidisciplinary or specialized?
- Do you need basic sources, professional/trade information or scholarly research?
- Do you need articles written for a general, a novice or a specialist audience?

The following article databases are usually the best starting points for engineering research:

	Years Covered	Engineering Strengths	Default Search	Truncation Symbol
Applied Science & Technology Full Text Covers trade journals and magazines in all fields of engineering and applied science	1983-present	All	adjacent	*
Compendex Covers scholarly journals and conferences in all fields of engineering	1884-present	BioE, CEE, IEOR, ME, NE	All	*
INSPEC Covers scholarly journals and conferences in electrical engineering, computer science, physics and related fields	1969-present	EECS, IEOR, MSE, NE	Adjacent	* or \$
Web of Science Covers the core scholarly journals in all fields of science and engineering	1900-present	All	All	*

If you need research published prior to the online coverage of these article databases, use the print equivalents available in the Engineering Library. Ask a librarian for assistance.

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Search for Relevant Articles:

After you choose an article database, you need to search it for relevant articles. Here are some tips to help you:

- Search for **keywords** first, then use **subjects** or **descriptors** for more precise searching.
- Use **truncation** to find variant endings, including singular and plural forms.
- Use **boolean operators** to combine keywords:
 - AND to find all your keywords and phrases.
 - OR to find at least one of your keywords or phrases.
 - NOT to exclude a keyword or phrase.
- If you find **too many** articles, **narrow** your search:
 - Search using more specific keywords.
 - Use AND to add keywords to your search.
 - Limit your search by language, publication date, publication type or treatment.
- If you find **too few** articles, **broaden** your search:
 - Search using less specific keywords.
 - Use OR to add synonyms to your search.

Step 2. Get the Full Text

After you identify a relevant article, you need to see if **UCB** owns the journal in which it appears.

Use UC-eLinks

In many article databases, you can use **UC-eLinks** in order to:

- Link directly to the full text online when available through library subscription
- Check Melvyl to see if UCB has it
- Request it if UCB does not own it.

Search Melvyl

In some cases, you will need to search for the journal title yourself in **Melvyl**. This is also the most efficient method for finding articles that you have identified by examining references in other articles and books.

1. Choose **Journal Title** as your search type, then enter the journal title as your search.
 - Change the **Words as Phrase** option to **Yes** if you are searching an exact phrase.
2. View your search results, looking for the record that matches your journal.
3. Click into the **Details/Locations** to locate the **UCB** call number and location.
 - If we have online access, a link will be provided.

Note: If you have an abbreviated title, choose **Journal Title (exact)** as your search type and search on the abbreviation **without truncation**. If this does not work, ask a librarian for assistance.

Ordering Articles not found at UCB

Current UCB faculty, staff, and students can request articles from journals that are not available in the UCB Libraries. Use the **Request** service in **UC-eLinks**, or consult our guide on borrowing materials from other libraries (<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/ENGI/ill.html>) for other options.

Need Help Finding Journal Articles?

Stop by the Engineering Library Reference Desk to ask a librarian for help. Or send us your question online through the form on our **Ask Us** page (http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/ENGI/ask_us.html).