

ENGINEERING AND ME: WHY I WANT TO BE A _____ ENGINEER LIBRARY RESEARCH PROCESS FOR ASSIGNMENT #3

INTRODUCTION

For this assignment you will search two sources: the Occupational Outlook Handbook, and Pittcat.

SEARCHING THE OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK

The Occupational Outlook Handbook is an annual government publication that details educational requirements, working conditions, salary, employment prospects and other types of information regarding specific careers.

- Log on to the Occupational Outlook Handbook at: <http://www.bls.gov/oco/>
- In the Search box, select Occupational Outlook Handbook from the drop down list.
- In the For box, type “engineer” as your search term.
- Select the Engineers link, first entry on the results screen.

Most of the information you need will appear on the main Engineers page. Additional links are embedded within the main page for related fields of employment.

You may also wish to use the links to professional society websites listed under Sources of Additional Information.

SEARCHING PITTCAT

Pittcat is the online library catalog for the University of Pittsburgh. It enables you to locate books on a particular topic.

- Log on to the main library website at: <http://www.library.pitt.edu/>
- Select the Find Books and More tab.
- There are two versions: Plus and Classic. Pittcat Plus is typically better for subject searching.
- Try search terms such as “civil engineering handbook” or “mechanical engineering handbook.”

- If you find a relevant item, be sure to click the title to view the full record. This is the only way to see accurate, up-to-date location and circulation information. What appears on the results list may be incorrect.
- You may limit results by location, date, and format by clicking the links to the right of the list.
- A variety of Pittcat handouts can be found at: <http://www.library.pitt.edu/guides/>

Handbooks will provide you with basic background information on the various disciplines within the field of engineering. Most titles will be available in the Engineering Library, but a few may appear elsewhere, depending on the subject. Bioengineering handbooks might be held at the Langley or Falk libraries, computer engineering handbooks might be found at the Hillman or Information Science libraries. Some might even be online. You may also find it beneficial to find a few call numbers and then browse those sections of the book stacks to find similar items (books are shelved by subject, unlike journals, which, as you learned for your last writing assignment, are shelved alphabetically by title). Consult with a librarian if you are experiencing difficulties.

Some additional suggested search terms:

- career
- careers
- jobs
- employment
- guide

CONCLUSION

Library research is a cumulative process. Build upon the skills you have already learned. If you believe you can find relevant material in resources already covered such as Academic Search Premier, you may use them. For help, ask Michael or Judy at the Engineering Library, or click on Ask Us from the ULS homepage at <http://www.library.pitt.edu/>