

Library Research Guide for Engineering Annotated Bibliography 2007

REVIEW OF LIBRARY DATABASES

You need a minimum of 6 sources for your Annotated Bibliography. All sources should be of the level and scope appropriate for a paper to be submitted to a professional conference. You may continue to use any of the databases that have been presented to you in class:

- Academic Search Premier (multiple subject areas)
- Business Source Premier (business topics)
- Compendex (engineering, especially civil and mechanical)*
- Inspec (electrical and computer engineering)*
- Occupational Outlook Handbook (data and statistics on engineers)
- Pittcat (books on engineering)

*Uses the Engineering Village 2 interface.

WIKIPEDIA AND WEB SEARCHES

Entries found in places like Wikipedia and Google are not appropriate for inclusion in an Annotated Bibliography. They can, however, provide a useful starting point, and help suggest terms and topics for further research. For example, in Wikipedia, a search using the phrase “civil engineering” makes reference to a certain structure known as the Falkirk Wheel. The information obtained from Wikipedia should not be used in your Annotated Bibliography, but if you search “Falkirk Wheel” in Compendex, you will find sources that could be used to complete this assignment.

A standard web search using Google, Yahoo, etc., will almost never yield appropriate sources, but may be used to identify company or engineering society sites. If your topic is mobile technology, using Google to find the pages for Research in Motion or the ASPE would be acceptable.

INTRODUCTION TO OTHER LIBRARY DATABASES

In addition to the titles listed above, some other titles include:

- Expanded Academic ASAP (multiple subject areas)
- GeoRef (geology and civil engineering topics)
- IEEE/Xplore (electrical engineering)
- Medline and/or PubMed (bioengineering)
- Metadex (materials science)
- Scopus (multiple subject areas, focus on science)

CONTENT

If you don't understand an article DON'T USE IT! You can use Trade Magazine articles rather than true research papers for this project. When you get to be seniors, or are doing a dissertation, you'll be reading and writing research papers yourself. For now, trade magazine articles, and articles you discover by searching the Academic Search Premier and Expanded Academic databases, may be more helpful to you with this project.

FURTHER ASSISTANCE

Ask for assistance from Kate, Rachel, or Michael at the Engineering Library, or use the Ask-A-Librarian link on the library's website (<http://www.library.pitt.edu>) for a list of the various ways you can get research assistance for this project.