

Tips For Finding Data, Journal Papers and Books at Brunel University



Popular ways of finding scientific information at Brunel University include the following:

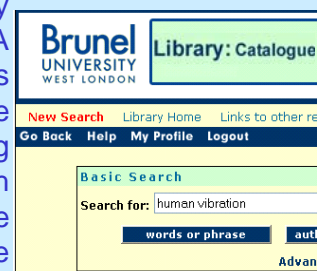
Google search engine on the world wide web

By using web-spiders Google builds indexed databases of internet sites. The web-spiders analyse several features of a site including the site labels, keywords and the repetition rates and font sizes of text. Google searches can be performed using any number and combination of words or numbers. The words used are typically subject keywords, words from a title or the names of authors. Google requires no specific password, thus only a computer terminal with internet access is needed. Advanced search includes Google Scholar which is specially designed to retrieve technical and scientific articles, journals and books.



Brunel University Library Catalogue

Brunel University Library (<http://intranet.brunel.ac.uk/library/home.html>) has a search engine which permits traditional academic searches directly through the **Catalogue** of the Library on campus at Uxbridge, and indirectly through proximity to specialist libraries in London and other libraries of several smaller institutions. A smaller campus library at Osterley provides resources and support for students studying health and social care. The location of journals, reports or books within the individual collections can be directly determined. Searches can be performed using a keyword, a book or journal title, or a known author. If items are found which match the search criteria the location of each item within the collection will be stated (for example: Uxbridge QP82.2.V5G74). The Catalogue system requires the Library Card Number as specific password. Brunel University Library is a member of SCONUL Research Extra, which enables to register without charge as external borrowers at most university libraries available at www.sconul.ac.uk.



Brunel University Library Electronic Resources

Brunel University Library website provides numerous specialty electronic databases, journals and archives which can be used to search for information. The University Library website (<http://intranet.brunel.ac.uk/library>) has links to a number of such resources in the “**Subject Pages**” submenu of the library webpages. The electronic resources are available by selecting the specific subject of interest. Most of these electronic resources require no password, some require an ATHENS system password, while others require that you register to establish a new password for your personal use.

- Subject Pages
- Databases
- Ejournals
- Ebooks
- Eoffprints
- Reference management
- Current awareness
- Useful resources

If the title of the journal is known, the “**E-Journals Gateway**” submenu will list the titles of the electronic journals that the Library subscribes to and allows to select the specific article of interest. If no information, instead, is known the “**Electronic Database**” submenu shall be used to retrieve a list of possible articles. If Brunel University has an electronic copy subscription to the journal in question a icon will link to the journal so that the pdf file of the paper can be directly downloaded.



Among all the database the **Ingenta Journals**, **ScienceDirect**, **Web-of-Knowledge** and **Compendex** are the most comprehensive bibliographic database of engineering research containing many individual academic databases loaded on the servers of various institutions in Europe and North America.



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Some simple tips which can be useful when searching for information include:

- Use the names of authors which you find in the bibliography of papers or books which treat the subject you are interested in.
- Use the number of SAE, IMechE or other publications which associate a serial number with the paper.
- When using Google, begin by including your keywords in phrases surrounded by quotation marks such as “human comfort evaluation”. In this way the search engine is forced to find exact matches. If there are few exact matches, you can begin relaxing the quotation marks until all the words in the phrase are permitted to be found separately.
- When using search engines which permit the AND command begin by searching for a large number of simultaneous terms so as to produce only a few results. You can then begin eliminating some of the words from the AND command so as to pick up larger pools of matching sites or entries.
- When using multiple keywords chose them from distinctly different areas of human activity such that any references which contains all of them together can only be from the subject require.
- Use words in any language other than English that you may speak. It is not unusual to find references to certain information sources when searching with one language but not when searching with another.
- Hop from one identified reference to another or from one matching website to another. You can put new words you have found in one source into the search string so that it produces a new source. This is particularly useful using author names since it is typical that a new paper or report will list authors that were not previously attempted.
- Creativity is important. If keywords begin to produce consistently similar results ask yourself what other words might be appropriate. What words might your friends or colleagues use ? Does the same mathematical equation go by another name in a different field ? Is the inclusion in the search string of the name of a control parameter or of a symbol from an equation likely to focus the search ?
- Have patience. Identifying some sources can take many hours of searching on a given search engine.
- Be aware of the exact level of information you require. For example, there is often no need to obtain a copy of a complete paper because the main information that you require is fully presented in the abstract. Also, the titles of papers by certain authors often provide you a sufficient overview of the development of their method without having to read each individual paper.

Once you have found a journal paper of interest there are three basic possibilities for obtaining a copy: (1) If Brunel University has an electronic copy subscription you can download the paper directly by following the link provided by the web-of-knowledge or by providing an appropriate password if the site was accessed directly from the internet. (2) If the paper is not available digitally, but is in a journal and was published in a year for which Brunel University has a paper-based subscription, you will be able to find the location through the Catalogue system and will be able to make a photocopy in the library. (3) If there is no downloadable copy on the internet and no paper copy which is not held by Brunel Library you can order a photocopy through the British Library. In this case you must fill out an Inter Library Loan form that can be obtained from the librarian at any Issue Desk. You should leave the personal details sections blank and submit the green form directly to me. As your supervisor I will process the request under my name and will charge the payment to a research contract account. Please keep in mind that each photocopy costs approximately £7 pounds therefore be careful that the paper is truly needed and that a copy does not already exist with another member of the group.