



Quick Guide to Compendex

Compendex, the electronic version of *Engineering Index*, covers the world's technological literature in all engineering disciplines. It includes citations and abstracts for journal articles, conference papers, and technical reports from 1884 to the present. It indexes over 5,000 journals and conferences in engineering. Access Compendex from the S&E Databases link on the UCSD Science & Engineering Library's website (<http://scilib.ucsd.edu>).

SEARCHING

Compendex launches with the **Quick Search** screen. The default search is *all words*, meaning it will automatically retrieve articles that contain all your keywords anywhere within the record.

The screenshot shows the Compendex Quick Search interface. Callout boxes provide the following information:

- Enter your search terms:** Points to the main search input field.
- Select the field to search:** Points to the 'SEARCH IN' dropdown menu.
- Use indexes for more precise searching:** Points to the 'Browse Indexes' dropdown menu, which lists: Author, Author affiliation, Controlled term, Serial title, and Publisher.
- Sort by relevance or date:** Points to the 'SORT BY' section, which includes options for Relevance and Publication year, and a checkbox for Autostemming off.
- Use limits to narrow your search:** Points to the 'LIMIT BY' section, which includes filters for document types, treatment types, languages, and date ranges (1884 to 2005).

To override the default search, use Boolean operators. Enclose exact phrases in **quotation marks** (" ").

- AND** Finds records that contain both your search terms.
- OR** Finds records that contain at least one of your search terms.
- NOT** Finds records that contain your first search term but not your second.

Examples

- structural health monitoring = all records with the words *structural* and *health* and *monitoring*
- "structural health monitoring" = all records with the phrase *structural health monitoring*
- "structural health monitoring" and (sensor* or sensing) = all records with the phrase *structural health monitoring* and at least one of the words *sensor** or *sensing*

Truncation and Wildcards

You can use truncation and wildcards to find the variant endings and spellings of your search terms.

- Use the **truncation symbol (*)** to replace an unlimited number of characters.
logarithm* = logarithm, logarithms, logarithmic, logarithmically
model*ing = modeling, modelling
- Use the **wildcard (?)** to replace exactly one character.
gr?y = gray, grey

Fields

Compendex will search **All Fields** by default. To search within a specific field, choose it from the pull-down menu. Common fields include:

Abstract	Conference information	Ei classification code
Author	ISSN	Ei main heading
Author affiliation	Publisher	Ei controlled term
Title	Serial title	

Title searches the article title and translated title. **Conference information** searches the conference name, date, location and sponsor. **Classification codes, main headings and controlled terms** come from the *Ei Thesaurus*.

Author Search

To search for authors, choose **Author** as your search field. Enter the **last name, first initial*** (e.g., **chen, r***) then click on the **Search** button. This is the easiest way to search for authors, but it often retrieves irrelevant results since many authors have similar names. For more precise searching, it is highly recommended that you **Browse** the Author index instead.

BROWSING INDEXES

Use indexes for more precise searching of authors, author affiliations, controlled terms, serial titles, and publishers.

1. Click into the index that you want to browse.
2. Search for the first few letters of your term to move through the alphabetical index.
3. Check up to three variations of the term to add them to your search.

Note: If there are more than three variations, browse the index through **Expert Search** instead.

LIMITING SEARCHES

To refine your searches, you can limit them based on specific criteria. Use the pull-down menus to limit by document type, treatment, language, or publication date.

WORKING WITH SEARCH RESULTS

Search results are displayed in reverse chronological order by default. Use the links above the search results to sort by relevance, date, author, source, or publisher (descending or ascending).

Search Results

604 records found in Compendex for: (("constructed wetlands") WN All fields), 1884-2005

[Save Search](#) | [Create Alert](#) | [RSS](#) ?

Sort by: [Relevance](#) ▼ [Date](#) [Author](#) [Source](#) [Publisher](#)

Use the **Create Alert** link to create an email alert, notifying you when new records are added that match your search. Use the **RSS** button to create your alert as an RSS feed instead.

Results Manager

The results manager displays at the top and bottom of every set of search results. The results manager helps you to view, e-mail and print your selected citations. It also allows you to download citations to bibliographic managers such as EndNote and Refworks, or save them to a folder on the EV2 server.

Results Manager

[Select all on page](#) |

Select range: to 

[Clear all on page](#) |

[Clear all selections](#)

? **Choose format:** Citation Abstract Detailed record

Clear selected records on new search

[View Selections](#)

[E-Mail](#)

[Print](#)

[Download](#)

[Save to Folder](#)

Finding Call Numbers and Full Text

> **UC-eLinks** Follow the UC-eLinks option for each record in order to:

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