

## Engineering Databases - Quick Overview - UC access only

These databases let you search for articles within hundreds of journals. Some articles may be full text; others will be in print. Use [UC-eLinks](#) to see if we own the article online or in print, or to request the article from another UC. Go to <http://library.ucsc.edu/science/> and then to the **Science Article Databases** link to access these databases.

DATABASE	WHY USE IT? (scope)	SEARCH LIKE GOOGLE? *	SEARCH TIPS	STRENGTHS & WEAKNESSES
<b>INSPEC via Ovid</b> 1969-current Archive = 1898-1968	The primary electrical engineering, computer science, and physics database	<b>X</b> For keyword use AND. Truncation not automatic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Truncation is \$</li> <li>Use Advanced Search to use <b>Map Term to Subject Heading</b>. Matches search term to controlled vocabulary.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Includes conference proceedings.</li> <li>Includes all IEEE, IEE &amp; ACM articles.</li> <li>Use <b>Change Database</b> button to search both INSPEC and INSPEC Archive together or search each databases separately.</li> </ul>
<b>Compendex</b> 1884-present	All engineering disciplines, including materials, applied physics, and bioengineering. Good for cross-disciplinary topics.	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Truncation is *</li> <li>Use Quick Search</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Includes conference proceedings.</li> <li>Results sorted by relevance.</li> <li>Extensive Refine Results options.</li> </ul>
<b>PubMed*</b> 1966-current <small>*Only the UC version of PubMed has <a href="#">UC-eLinks</a></small>	Focus: medicine, pathogenic organisms, bioinformatics, genetics.	<b>X</b> Multiple words = looks for phrase as official subject heading. For keyword use AND. Truncation not automatic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Truncation is *</li> <li><b>AND, OR, NOT must be in UPPER CASE!</b></li> <li>AND is <u>not</u> assumed</li> <li>Extensive limits (see tab)</li> <li>Review article tab helpful.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Smart search box does a lot of vocabulary work for you.</li> <li>Different sources than BIOSIS.</li> <li>Links to other NCBI databases.</li> </ul>
<b>Web of Science</b> 1975-current	All subjects. Citation counts. Able to see who cited an article and sort by citation count.	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Truncation is *</li> <li>Can search simultaneously with BIOSIS.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>No conference papers.</b></li> <li>Different mix of sources than BIOSIS or Google Scholar.</li> <li>More sorting options than Google Scholar.</li> </ul>
<b>Google Scholar</b> <small>(beta release)</small> Dates <i>unknown</i>	All subjects. Citation counts. Able to see who cited an article. Default relevance rank considers citation count.	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can limit to Biological Sciences in advanced search.</li> <li>Recent Articles limit is helpful (but still sorted by relevance, not date).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Different mix of sources than Web of Science, including open web resources.</li> <li><b>BE AWARE</b> that some unrestricted web info is incomplete, unreliable, and not permanent.</li> </ul>

\*Google search syntax assumes an "AND" between words (all your words will be included, in any order). If you want a phrase to be searched intact (word order preserved) you must enclose it in quotes. Google also automatically stems or truncates search terms, when appropriate.

