

Skills Workshop # 2: Online Search Using Library Facilities

Speaker: Mr. Ted Baldwin, Interim Head, and Mr. Jim Clasper, Engineering Reference Librarian
College of Engineering Library, University of Cincinnati

Date: June 26, 2009

Time: 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. (3 hours)

Prepared by

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This workshop was jointly given by Mr. Ted Baldwin, Interim Head of Engineering Library and Mr. Jim Clasper, Engineering Reference Librarian on June 26, 2009 from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. (3 hours). Mr. Ted Baldwin has been Interim Head of the Engineering Library since May 2009. He oversees activities, staff, and services of the Engineering Library, and is responsible for selecting journals and electronic resources. He has also served as Head of the College of Applied Science Library since 2004. Previously, he managed the research library at Lyondell Chemical Company. He holds a B.A. in Music and Chemistry from DePauw University, and a Master's in Library Science from Indiana University (with a Specialist's Certificate in Chemical Information). Mr. Jim Clasper has been the Engineering Reference Librarian at UC since 1990. He answers reference questions, selects books for the Engineering Library, and assists patrons in locating books, articles, conference papers, technical reports, standards, and patents. Previously, he worked at the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County and the corporate library of Cincinnati Milacron. Jim holds an M.A. in History from SUNY-College at Geneseo and a M.A. in Library Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

This workshop was jointly held for the 14 RET and 14 REU participants participating in a concurrent NSF REU Program. This seminar was an introduction to the variety of resources available to each group during the course of the summer 2009 RET/REU project. The photographs below were taken during the workshop.



Participants During the Online Literature Search Workshop

Mr. Baldwin and Mr. Clasper led the workshop and guided each student through the necessary steps to access the interface of the Engineering Library at UC. Each student was provided with a laptop computer so that not only would he or she be able to see the plethora of databases available, but would also be able to gain experience searching within many of them for information on a particular topic. In addition to the virtual tour via the internet, Jim and Ted led a walking tour of the Engineering Library and of the nearby Langsam Library, which is the main university library.

The primary focus of the seminar was to impress upon the students that there are a seemingly infinite number of resources and means to these resources available on the UC campus, throughout the state of

Ohio, and via the internet. A number of books, dissertations, and articles are available in electronic form through databases such as Knovel and ScienceDirect to aid the University in storage. These collections may be accessed through the Engineering Library webpage and can be used to search not only by title and author, but also using keywords and year of publication.

Aside from resources provided through the UC database, pertinent research information can be found using internet search engines such as Google Scholar and Scirus. Though not all of the literature that may appear in the search can be accessed, UC has linked the search results with its own database to provide students with electronic copies of articles that may require licensing. An important tool for researching current fields is to read through peer-reviewed journals within specific disciplines of engineering. These articles, which have been verified by specialists, can be accessed using databases such as Scopus. This search can yield results over the broad spectrum of science, whereas similar databases such as Scientific.net focus primarily on specific disciplines.

Following topics were specifically presented:

- (1) Main Page contains easy access to useful resources. The main links used include: the Engineering Reference Guides, which contain encyclopedias, databases of journal articles and patents, standards, professional societies; Off-Campus Access allows user to access library records using M-Number; and Library Catalog, which is a union catalog that allows user to search records throughout all University libraries.
- (2) More on the Library Catalog
 - (a) Book Records:
 - User able to view the table of contents; save records; request a book to have it delivered to the library of choice; search OhioLINK database.
 - “Keyword” search recommended over “subject” search to narrow search results.
 - o Keyword search looks for the terms anywhere in the book records.
 - o Subject search looks for the Library Congress Subject Headings.
 - o In order to narrow search results, user is recommended to include prepositions, such as “and, near, within, or, not,” etc.
 - (b) Books Online:
 - User able to search the collection directly, and able to access any University-subscribed materials.
 - Because the University does not have all paper copies available, it is crucial to search online.
 - (c) Databases
 - University libraries have access to databases in which the user may search for material; however, access to journals is limited to subscriptions by the University.
 - o In order to access the articles, an external link to the publisher’s website is given.
 - o Examples of accessible databases are Scopus, Knovel, COMPENDEX, Referex, CASC, etc.
- (3) Other Services:
 - (a) ILLiad, the Interlibrary Loan, allows the user to search for books within the OhioLINK system, and have the book delivered to the library of choice. OneSearch allows the user to search through many databases at once. The University subscribes to all the databases that OneSearch finds. However, at this point, OneSearch does not include all databases available so the user is warned not to overlook other important subscribed databases.

In conclusion, this seminar opened a myriad of necessary resources to the participants so that they are best informed about the research they are conducting and thereby gain the most knowledge from their experience at UC.