

Special Skills Workshop # 4: Online Literature Search Using Library Facilities

Speakers: Mr. Jim Clasper and Mr. Ted Baldwin, Engineering Reference Librarians

Date: Thursday July 8, 2010

Time: 9:00 – 11:00 AM

Venue: University of Cincinnati, Baldwin Hall, room 860B

Prepared by:

Ms. Tracy Greeley, Woodward Career Technical High School, Cincinnati, OH

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This workshop was jointly given by Mr. Ted Baldwin and Mr. Jim Clasper on July 8, 2010 from 9:00 to 11:00 AM (2 hours). Mr. Jim Clasper is an Engineering Reference Librarian who is responsible for reference, bibliographic, and instructional functions in the Engineering Library. Since 1995 Jim have been selecting monographic materials for the collection in the engineering disciplines of mechanical, industrial, nuclear, aerospace, engineering mechanics, chemical, biomedical engineering, civil, environmental, and materials engineering. Mr. 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. He holds an MA in History from SUNY-College at Geneseo and a MA in Library Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Mr. Ted Baldwin is the Head of the Engineering Library since 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.

Mr. Jim Clasper started our meeting by giving a tour of the Engineering Library, as shown in the picture below, and the rooms, computers, printers, scanners, and other things available at this library.



Mr. Ted Baldwin took over the lecture by presenting a lecture on literature search in the electronic classroom. He discussed all the libraries around campus, ending that topic with handouts including a map of the libraries found around campus and their times.

The web link tinyURL.com/retreu was referenced as a shortcut to the website in which the RET/REU presentations and instructions were stored. Mr. Baldwin continued by showing the library web site and the instructions page for those who cannot remember the instructions on library searches. One would need a student ID number (M Number) to access from off campus.

Mr. Baldwin demonstrated how to do a key word search and how to sort the hits which are of relevance. If someone cannot find much at the UC libraries they can click the OhioLink button to see if this reference is available to borrow from other universities.



Mr. Ted Baldwin Presenting

Other applications are also available on the web site like Safari and Knovel to assist users. Knovel is an engine which can assist the user in analyzing and perform “what-if” experiments.

Mr. Casper continued the talk by going over other free online search engines that may assist in finding references. Two such search engines are Scirus.com and Googlescholar.com. Googlescholar.com will give one an electronic copy of the cited, if it is available at UC or other institutions which are not found on regular search engines. Scirus.com gives DNA gene sequences where other search engines do not.

Mr. Casper demonstrated also the search engines that the university subscribes to. These are more specific in nature (e.g., EBSCO for example). A demonstration was given using these search engines and where to find the full text materials either at UC or at an university available online. Another great search engine for engineering is Engineering Village, which was also shown by Mr. Casper due to the limiting search for the databases. Scopus.com was presented as a job search tool because one can

search companies and the research being done there. Also if one is looking for specific topics in peer reviewed journals, the CSA is a great source.

Refworks and endnotes will automatically format one's references in the style desired for use in papers and reports. A list of all the online journals available within the University is given on the web site. Mr. Carper and Mr. Baldwin completed their talk by giving a tour of the Langston Library, which is the main university library, and the features available for students. The photographs below were taken during this tour.

