MME4499 Library Session

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Agenda

• Library website
• Information sources
• Evaluating sources
• Finding information sources
• Search strategy
• Citing and writing
• Help contacts
Western Libraries Website

• Getting Started section
• MME Research Guide & MME4499 course guide
• Off-Campus Access
• InterLibrary Loan (RACER)
• Databases
Information Sources

- Scholarly journals
- Books, Handbooks, and Encyclopedias
- Trade magazines/literature
- Websites
- Standards
- Patents
# Information Sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Journals</th>
<th>Books/Handbooks</th>
<th>Trade Literature</th>
<th>Websites</th>
<th>Standards</th>
<th>Patents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • Academic Research  
  • Peer reviewed  
  • Narrowly focused topics | • Basic or introductory information  
  • More reliable & in-depth than websites | • Industry news  
  • Not peer reviewed  
  • Insights of practicing engineers  
  • Practical information | • Background information  
  • Companies  
  • Products | • “Standard” ways  
  • Design codes  
  • Guidelines  
  • Procedures | • Grant of exclusive right  
  • Technical information rarely available elsewhere |
Evaluating Sources

- **C**urrency
- **R**elevance (intended audience)
- **A**uthority (author’s credentials)
- **A**ccuracy (verifiability)
- **P**urpose (objectivity)

* Evaluating Sources [video]
Finding Journal Articles

• **Subject-specific databases**
  – EI Compendex & Inspec

• **Multidisciplinary databases**
  – Web of Science
  – Scopus
  – Google Scholar (via the library Database listing page)

• **InterLibrary Loans (RACER)**
Finding Journal Articles

• Demo in EI Compendex and Inspec
• Demo in Web of Science
Finding Books

• Use the Library Catalogue
  – Keyword search
  – Subject search
  – Title search
Finding Handbooks

• CRCnetBASE (containing ENGnetBASE)
  – Online engineering handbooks
  – Full text of e-book chapters available for download
  – Permanent access to downloaded e-book chapters

• Title search on “CRCnetBASE” in the library catalogue
  – Link to CRCnetBASE platform
Finding Trade Literature

• ABI/Inform Trade & Industry
• CBCA Business

* Look up these databases under the library database listing page
Finding Websites

• Background information
  – Companies
  – Products

• Vendor and supplier information
  – ThomasNET, GlobalSpec (IHS Engineering360)
Finding Standards

• Standardized ways of:
  – doing tests (for consistency)
  – selecting materials for buildings (for safety)

• Rules and guidelines from national or international organizations

• **Not all** in the library catalogue

• “Finding Standards” [guide](#)
Finding Patents

- esp@cenet
- Canadian Intellectual Property Office
- US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)
- Free Patents Online (www.freepatentsonline.com)
- Scopus contains patent information
- “Finding Patents” guide
Search Strategy

• Break down your topic into concepts
• Identify keywords for each concept
• Use asterisk (*) or quotation marks (" ") if necessary
• Use Boolean operators (AND, OR)
  – AND is demANDing
  – OR gets you mORE
Search Strategy

• Apply search limits
• Analyse your search results
• Modify your search
• Refine your results
Search Strategy

• Sample Research Question: The effect of hybrid cars on gas consumption.

• Demo in EI Compendex and Inspec
effect OR impact

AND

hybrid car* OR smart car*

AND

gas consumption OR petroleum use
hybrid car

effect

gas consumption
Citing Your Sources: Why?

- To support your own argument
- To give credits to the original source
- To avoid plagiarism
- Plagiarism tutorial (Library Home -> Citing and Writing -> Plagiarism)
Citing Your Sources: What?

• Everything you quote directly “ ”
• IMPORTANT: Everything you paraphrase
• The sources for any:
  – processes
  – numbers or data
  – tables, diagrams or images
Citing Your Sources: How?

• Pick a citation style and be consistent!
• Guides to popular styles available at: Western Libraries → Citing & Writing → Style Guides
• Purdue University’s Online Writing Lab has helpful info on citing
Need Help?

Email, Phone, In-person, Chat

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“Ask a Librarian” Chat Reference Service