



Engineering Library Progress

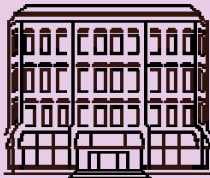
Winter 2006

Volume 8, Issue 1

TIGER IN A SPOTLIGHT

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Databases & Electronic Resources News	2
Library Tip: "Proxy" a URL	2
Winter Class Schedule	3
Undergraduate Research Award	4
New Engineering Journals	4
Department Liaisons	4



Winter Quarter Hours:

Mon-Thurs	8:00 am-10:00 pm
Friday	8:00 am- 6:00 pm
Saturday	9:00 am- 5:00 pm
Sunday	1:00 pm-10:00 pm

Reference Hours:

Mon-Thurs	9:00 am-8:00 pm
Friday	9:00 am-5:00 pm
Saturday & Sunday	1:00 pm-5:00 pm

Contact Us:

Info: 206-543-0740
Circulation: 206-685-8324
Reference: 206-543-0741
Email: englib@u.washington.edu

<http://www.lib.washington.edu/engineering/>

How much is a journal worth? No, I'm not talking about how much you or the Libraries have to *pay* for it, but rather how much it's really *worth*. If it's the primary journal in your research area you probably think it's hugely valuable, at least to you and your work, but to someone outside your field of research that same title may have little or no value.

There have been a number of attempts in the past to define journal worth or value using various measures, and now a new system has been proposed. Take a look at <http://www.journalprices.com>. The two authors of this site, both economics faculty members at UC – Santa Barbara, have taken a new stab at measuring the cost effectiveness of journals using a combination of criteria. I will not attempt to address their methodology here – that and their terminology are defined on their Web site. But this *is* one of the first attempts I've seen that rolls together a number of factors into a composite "score" that can be used as a means to measure the worth/value/cost-effectiveness of over 500 journals in comparison to each other or against others in a particular subject area.

As a test, check the "Engineering" box in the subject area listings, then ask for a descending sort by either "price per article" or "price per citation". You'll find price per article values that range from a high of \$193.17 for *Progress in Crystal Growth and Characterization of Materials* (not surprising that review journals would be near the top of this sort – fewer, longer papers per volume than with most other types of journals yields a higher cost per paper) down to a low of \$0.31 for *Chemical Engineering* (among those titles for which all relevant data elements are present).

Sorting by price per citation yields a high of \$1306.25 for the journal *Measurement Techniques*, a translation journal from Consultants Bureau, down to a low of \$0.25 for the *Journal of the Electrochemical Society*. Also check out, for titles in your research area, the "composite price index", which is the geometric mean of "price per article" and "price per citation" for each title, as well as the "relative cost index", which compares the "composite price index" for each title against the median "composite price index" of all not-for-profit journals in the same subject area. See how the journals in your research area stack up and let me know if you find any surprises.

A final caveat: no method attempting to assess value/worth/cost-effectiveness of journals will ever be perfect, and neither is this one. I've noticed a few issues with some of the measures used by the authors, especially if one attempts to compare journal scores *across* subject areas instead of *within* a particular subject area. But at least this is an attempt to measure the cost-effectiveness or worth of journals in a particular subject area against a baseline value for that subject area.

So how do the titles you use or publish in stack up? Are they a good value (coded green), a bad value (red), or are they somewhere in between (yellow)? What color spotlight shines on the titles you use?

Mel DeSart
Head, Engineering Library
desart@u.washington.edu

DATABASES & ELECTRONIC RESOURCES NEWS

COMPUTING REVIEWS

Computing Reviews, a joint effort between Reviews.com and the Association of Computing Machinery (ACM), compiles expert, unbiased, critical reviews of current publications of note in all areas of computing. Their goal is to provide an overview of developments in computing to both specialists and generalists who wish to survey the field as a whole, isolate and illuminate quality materials, and build and enhance communities of computer scientists and others by promoting the exchange of ideas.

Over 1000 reviewers review current books and articles. These reviews are read by category editors who are experts in computer science, and the best ones are selected for publication in Computing Reviews. New reviews are published daily.

Computing Reviews is available online at <http://www.reviews.com>.

CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Keep up with the latest news in higher education with the UW Libraries' online subscription to the **Chronicle of Higher Education**. The *Chronicle* is the number one source of news, information, and jobs for college and university faculty and administrators, and the web edition is updated every weekday.

The *Chronicle's* web site features the complete contents of the latest issue; daily news and advice columns; thousands of current job listings; articles published since September 1989; vibrant discussion forums; and career-building tools such as an online CV's, salary databases, and more.

<http://chronicle.com/>

IEEE XPLORE RSS FEEDS

Researchers may now receive notification of the online posting of new IEEE journals in the format of their choice: email or RSS. Users select which IEEE journal(s) they want to know about, then receive notification whenever a new issue is posted online, along with a link to the issue's table of contents in the IEEE Xplore Digital Library. Sign up at any journal's home page in IEEE Xplore, or at http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/localerts_signup.jsp.

SYNTHESIS: THE DIGITAL LIBRARY OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

Synthesis is an innovative information service for the research, development, and educational communities in engineering and computer science.

The basic component of the library is a 50- to 100-page "Lecture," a self-contained electronic document that synthesizes an important research or development topic, authored by an expert contributor to the field. These Lectures offer unique value to the reader by providing more synthesis, analysis, and depth than the typical research journal article. They are also more dynamic and convenient than traditional print or digital handbooks, contributed volumes, and monographs.

The library and its lectures are organized in a hierarchical structure of disciplines and series. Each series is managed by a prominent consulting editor. The series editor guides lecture topic and author selection as well as peer review. New series and lectures will be added continuously and existing lectures will be revised as needed. This will make the collection dynamic in a way that has not been achieved with traditional reference or educational products.

The Synthesis platform provides the user with access to content in both PDF and HTML formats, with live links to references and sophisticated search and personalization functions.

<http://www.morganclaypool.com/page/synthesis.jsp>

LIBRARY TIP

To access these and other UW-Restricted resources from home or abroad, log onto the **UW Libraries' Proxy Server** at <http://www.lib.washington.edu/help/connect.html>. On this web page, you can enter the URL for the resource you want in the "URL to proxy" box near the bottom of the screen, and then click on "Submit Query." You can then log in with your UW NetID and connect to the resource! If you want to cite this source in a bibliography, you can also "un-proxy" the URL on the same web page.

Questions? Ask us at enlib@u.washington.edu or call 206-543-0741.

ENGINEERING LIBRARY WINTER CLASS SCHEDULE

Library Tours

Find out about the Engineering Library's collections and services-- from course reserves to technical reports and standards, copiers, and study rooms. Especially useful if you're new to the UW campus or the College of Engineering.

Tours are available by appointment. Contact Linda Whang (lcwhang@u.washington.edu or 685-8370) to schedule a tour.



Effective Database Searching Techniques

Learn how to construct effective search strategies to get the most out of engineering databases such as Compendex, Inspec, NTIS, Transport, etc. The class will cover search techniques that can be used in a variety of engineering databases.

Monday, Jan. 30 12:30-2:00 pm	Wednesday, Feb. 8 5:00-6:30 pm
----------------------------------	-----------------------------------

Introduction to Engineering Databases

This one-hour session will go over the basic steps of doing a search for engineering research literature-- from choosing a database, constructing a search, and finding the articles or papers (online or in print). Bring a topic to research.

Thursday, Jan. 19 12:00-1:00 pm	Wednesday, Feb. 1 12:00-1:00 pm
------------------------------------	------------------------------------

Introduction to Patent Searching

An introduction to patent searching. Our patent expert will take you through the process step-by-step, showing how to search the USPTO's Patent Database (www.uspto.gov) using both print and electronic resources.

Wednesday, Jan. 18 2:00-4:00 pm	Tuesday, Feb. 28 12:00-2:00 pm
------------------------------------	-----------------------------------

EndNote for Engineers

Learn how to download citations from Compendex, Inspec, IEEE Xplore, Web of Science, NTIS, the UW Libraries Catalog, and Ovid databases such as ERIC and PsycINFO, and import them into your own personal EndNote library. This class will be useful to anyone who needs to manage large numbers of citations.

Tuesday, Jan. 24 5:00-6:00 pm	Wednesday, Feb. 15 12:00-1:00 pm
----------------------------------	-------------------------------------

Please note:

If you would like to take any of these classes but cannot attend at the scheduled times, please send an email to lcwhang@u.washington.edu and we will try to schedule another session.

Searching Compendex

Compendex is the most comprehensive index available for journal articles, technical reports, and conference papers on all engineering topics. Attend this half-hour session to get an overview of the database and find out how to set up email alerts and search Inspec and Compendex simultaneously (and de-dupe the results!).

Tuesday, Jan. 10 5:00-5:30 pm	Thursday, Jan. 26 12:30-1:00 pm
----------------------------------	------------------------------------

Searching IEEE Xplore (IEEE/IEE Electronic Library Online)

IEEE Xplore provides full-text access to IEEE transactions, journals, magazines and conference proceedings and all current IEEE Standards. Attend this session to get an overview of this online library, and find out how to make the most of the time you spend searching.

Monday, Jan. 23 12:30-1:00 pm	Wednesday, Feb. 1 5:00-5:30 pm
----------------------------------	-----------------------------------

Searching Inspec

Inspec is the most comprehensive index available for journal articles and conference papers in the physical sciences, electrical engineering, and computer science. Attend this half-hour session to get an overview of the database and find out how to set up email alerts and search Inspec and Compendex simultaneously (and de-dupe the results!).

Tuesday, Jan. 17 12:30-1:00 pm	Monday, Jan. 30 5:00-5:30 pm
-----------------------------------	---------------------------------

Register:

Register by email to lcwhang@u.washington.edu listing which class(es) you would like to attend with date(s) and time(s), or by calling 685-8370.

All classes will be held in the Engineering Library Instruction Center (ELIC), on the 3rd floor of the Engineering Library.

Class schedule is available on the web at <http://www.lib.washington.edu/engineering/classes/classes.html>.

Engineering Library Progress is produced quarterly
by Engineering Library staff.

Editor: Linda Whang
Contributors: Mel DeSart, Linda Whang

Engineering Library Progress is available online at
<http://www.lib.washington.edu/engineering/elp/>

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT LIAISONS

Christina Byrne cbyrne@u. 685-8371
Bioengineering

Julie Cook julesck@u. 685-8367
Civil & Environmental Engineering

Mel DeSart desart@u. 685-8369
Aeronautics & Astronautics ■ Industrial
Engineering ■ Mechanical Engineering

Susanne Redalje curie@u. 543-1604
Materials Science and Engineering

Linda Whang lcwhang@u. 685-8370
Computer Science and Engineering ■
Electrical Engineering ■ Technical Com-
munication

Contact the library
liaison for your department
with purchasing suggestions
or for class specific instruction

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARD

The University Libraries, in cooperation with the Undergraduate Research Program, is again sponsoring the **Library Research Award for Undergraduates**. These awards recognize University of Washington students who “produce significant inquiry requiring use of information resources, the library, and its collections.”



Up to six awards will be offered. Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors are eligible for a \$750 award, and Seniors are eligible for a \$1000 award. Applicants must be UW undergraduates and submit work for courses taken in Summer Quarter 2005 through Spring Quarter 2006. Each applicant must use library resources and tools in the completion of the project. Students from all disciplines are invited to apply and the deadline is **5:00 pm May 22, 2006**.

Orientation sessions where students and faculty can learn more about these awards will be held in the Allen Auditorium, on the Ground floor of the Allen Library, on:

Monday, January 16, 3:45-4:20 pm
Thursday, January 26, 1:45-2:20 pm
Tuesday, January 31, 9:45-10:20 am
Thursday, February 2, 3:45-4:20 pm

Visit the Research Award web site at <http://www.lib.washington.edu/researchaward/>, or email libaward@u.washington.edu for more information.

Please encourage your students to apply!

NEW ENGINEERING JOURNALS

Thanks to a healthy collections budget this biennium, and the cancellation of several Elsevier journal titles, we are able to add the following new journals to the Engineering Library's collection:

- *Computing Reviews* (see page 2 for more information)
- *Foundations and Trends in Communications and Information Theory*
- *Foundations and Trends in Computer Graphics and Vision*
- *Foundations and Trends in Electronic Design Automation*
- *Foundations and Trends in Human-Computer Interaction*
- *Foundations and Trends in Information Retrieval*
- *Foundations and Trends in Networking*
- *Foundations and Trends in Theoretical Computer Science*
- *International Journal of Crashworthiness*
- *Journal of Mechanics of Materials and Structures* [former editorial board of the *International Journal of Solids and Structures*]
- *Wind Power Monthly*

Please look for these titles in our library or on our web site beginning in 2006. We hope they will support your research and teaching. Let your department's library liaison (see list at left) know if there are other titles you would like the Engineering Library to subscribe to in the future, or fill out our Purchase Request Form at <http://www.lib.washington.edu/services/borrow/purchase.html>.