



Engineering Library News

January 1999

Happy New Year!

For more information on any topic please see our Web site at <http://www.lib.washington.edu/engineering/> or email us at [englib@u](mailto:englib@u.washington.edu).

You may be interested to know...

Engineering Standards – What They Are and Where to Find Them

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

Standards establish definitions, characteristics, quality, function, or testing requirements. They specify minimum requirements or optimum characteristics, and promote quality products and operational reliability. Standards result in a uniform, consistent product that enhances quality and reliability. While the United States does not have a national standards body, the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) acts as an umbrella organization to coordinate and provide procedures for standardization.

The Engineering Library has a large collection of US, Canadian and international standards, located on the first floor of the library. These include most engineering related ANSI Standards; complete sets of UL, IEEE, and NFPA Standards; the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code; and many others.

Finding the standard you need here at the UW can be tricky, as they **are not listed** in the UW Libraries catalog. To compensate for this, we have created a local Web-accessible database listing standards we own. Try it out at <http://www.lib.washington.edu/databases/standard>. If you don't find what you need in the database, you can also use one of the extensive print indexes to standards available at our reference desk. In addition, Library reference staff are always happy to help you find what you're looking for.

Vandalism Awareness

The increasing number of library users increases competition, creating a strain on library materials. In extreme cases this strain shows itself in the form of vandalism to our collection, as pages from books and journals are removed or defaced. Such damage seriously injures the volume and greatly decreases its value.

Please report any damaged materials you come across so we can attempt to repair or replace these items, and inform us if you witness any instances of vandalism. The collection is your resource for support of research and teaching -- help us to protect and preserve it for future generations!

NEW This Month

IEEE Electronic Library

Thank you for your comments on the IEEE Web product with full text of IEEE publications online. Based on your comments, on conversations with librarians at other institutions and companies, and on lengthy discussions with IEEE and the product vendor, we have decided to forgo the electronic version of these documents for now and remain with the print. These decisions were based on the following factors, among others:

1. electronic publication delay 1-2 months behind print
2. very high pricing - here are some figures
current print IEEE's IEL print plus electronic
\$40,200 \$74,503 \$98,235
3. product vendor and IEEE incoherence regarding this new product

We will be tracking this product closely, and encouraging IEEE to develop a product and pricing mechanism that is more compatible with the needs of academic institutions such as ours. For those of you who are IEEE members, we encourage you to share these issues with IEEE and stress the value of this type of service for your teaching and research.

We welcome comments on items in this newsletter, or on any library topic. To reach us, please send email to [englib@u](mailto:englib@u.washington.edu).
If you'd like to be on our mailing list please email [pzilius@u](mailto:pzilius@u.washington.edu).