

## Search Characteristics of Selected Databases

	Boolean Operators	Truncation & Wild Cards	Field Searching	Limiting	Expanding/ Word Lists	Proximity (# = any no.)	Phrase Searching
ACM Digital Library	<b>AND, OR, NOT</b>	% multiple chars. _ (underscore), single chars.	switches in search screen	year; journal/conf. title; publ. type	no	NEAR((term1, term2,...),#, TRUE) Note: TRUE specifies order	switch in search screen
Cambridge Scientific Abstracts	explicit <b>and, or,</b> and <b>not</b> (or separate lines)	* right truncation or internal; ? single character	by pull-down menus	year	thesauri	within #	yes, implied
Compendex Plus	“Boolean boxes”; explicit <b>and, or,</b> <b>not</b> in Advanced Keyword	Basic search has auto stemming; * right truncation, \$ stemming in Advanced mode	in separate lines of form or <b>within</b> [fieldcode]	single years, document typ, no year limit	buttons on subject, author, affiliation, serial title lines	near (does not accept number)	implied in Basic search
IEEEExplore	< <b>and</b> >, < <b>or</b> >, < <b>not</b> > or separate lines	root words assumed; ? one char. (left, right, internal) * multiple chars. (internal or right)	pull down menus	years; publ. type	no	<near/#> in any order; <near/1> is immediate adjacency	“in double quotes”
Inspec	explicit <b>and, or</b> (or separate lines)	auto stemming (verb tenses and plurals) on stems of 4 chars. or explicit *; use ? for authors	by pull-down menus	language, time period, document type	cited author browse	<near/#>	“in quotes”
SciSearch	explicit <b>and, or</b> (or separate lines)	auto stemming (verb tenses and plurals) on stems of 4 chars. or explicit *; use ? for authors	by pull-down menus	language, time period, document type	cited author browse	<near/#>	“in quotes”

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## Selected Electronic Tools for Engineering

Name	Subject Coverage	Dates of Coverage	Types of Material Included	Best Features	Drawbacks
ACM Digital Library	Journals and conference proceedings of the Association for Computing Machinery and related titles	journals 1954-present conferences 1985-present full-text 1985-present	journals and conference proceedings, including computing reviews	None	Requires Ph.D. in computer science to search
Cambridge Scientific Abstracts	Environmental, water resources, toxicology, and materials science	1981 - present	5064 journals/ environmental	Covers water and environmental topics most comprehensively; multi-file searching	British spellings; many items not available at CSEL.
Compendex Plus	All fields of engineering	1970 - present. (To search 1970, select 1980 first).	over 5000 journals and conference proceedings	Most comprehensive engineering index. Has conference proceedings.	UNM does not own all proceedings in CP. Cannot specify date range.
IEEEExplore	Electrical and computer engineering	indexing 1988-present; full-text 1998-present	IEEE journals and conf. procs. [UNM does not have standards]	Ease of use; direct links to full text	No word lists. Subject headings are not hyperlinked
Inspec	Physics, electronics, and computing	1969-present	4,200 journals; 1000 confs; Some books, dissertations.	Controlled vocabulary; Comprehensive coverage for physics and CS. Covers more than just journals. Easy interface.	Subject headings not hyperlinked.
SciSearch	Astronomy, biology, chemistry, computer science, environment, engineering, earth sciences, mathematics, physics	1977 - present	4000 journals	Ease of use; indicates if CSEL, HSCL, or NMT owns; cited reference searching	No conference papers; not all records have abstracts; not comprehensive