

### Coverage

- Compendex is a major interdisciplinary **engineering** database offering abstracts from 5,000 engineering journals, conference papers and technical reports
- Covers the following engineering areas: **mechanical, civil, environmental, electrical, materials science, chemical, optics, solid state physics, control, and engineering management**
- Allows you to search Inspec database at the same time

### Getting Started

Go to the DCU library homepage and click on **e-resources / A-Z of Databases / Compendex**. Under **Select Databases**, select **Compendex**.



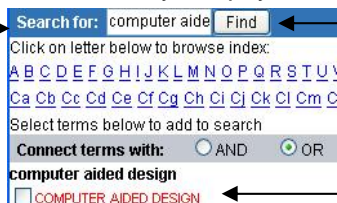
### Quick Search

- Use the words AND, OR, NOT to run **complex searches**, e.g.
- “Mohr’s circle AND two dimensional” searches only for articles that are about both of these subjects
  - “CAD OR computer aided design” searches for articles have either word
  - “Stress test NOT corrosion” will search for stress test articles that don’t mention corrosion

### Browse Indexes



This will help if you’re not sure about the right term to use or the right spelling, e.g. you don’t know whether to search for “computer aided design” or “CAD”, or if you don’t know if an author is listed as Barry Murphy or B.D. Murphy.



Enter the term you want to check here

Correct terms are displayed in red. Select it and it will be added to your search on the main page

## Expert Search

Construct more complex searches with the words AND, OR and NOT and the **Search Codes** listed on the **Expert Search** page, e.g.:

**Diodes wn CV AND (international space station OR MIR) wn TI**

“Search for articles with ‘diodes’ as a controlled term that mention either ‘international space station’ or ‘MIR’ in the title”

The screenshot shows the 'Expert Search' tab selected. Under 'SELECT DATABASE', 'Compendex' and 'Inspec' are checked. Under 'ENTER SEARCH TERMS BELOW', the query 'optical arrays wn CV AND O'Neill, F.T. wn AU' is entered. A callout box points to the query with the text: "Search for articles with 'optical arrays' as a keyword, written by O'Neil, F.T."

## Accessing full-text articles

Compendex is an abstract database, meaning that it will search a very large number of journals, but it won't have the full text of every article. If Compendex doesn't have it, then another library database might have it, or the library might have a print copy of it on the shelves.

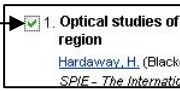
The screenshot shows search results for the query. The first result is 'Optical studies of InAs/In(As,Sb) single quantum well (SQW) and region' by Hardaway, H. (Blackett Lab., Imperial Coll., London, UK); Heber, J.; Mock, P.; SPIE - The International Society for Optical Engineering, v 3621, 1999, p 12. Below the result, there are links for 'Abstract', 'Detailed', 'Full-text', and 'Find full-text'. An arrow points to the 'Full-text' link.

Click here to access the full-text article.

If the full-text icon doesn't appear, the best way to find the article is to go to the library's **A-Z of journals** (*DCU library homepage / e-resources / A-Z of journals*). Search for the journal title, and then the year, volume number and issue number to find the article.

## Saving your searches

You're probably going to be working with a large number of search results, so it's a good idea to keep a record of them for future reference. For example, you could keep them in a separate folder in your email account called *My Essay*.

1. Select the record(s) you want to save. 
2. Select the format you want it in (citation only, abstract etc.)
3. Choose how you want to save it (email, print, save as a text file, etc.)

The screenshot shows the 'Choose format' section with radio buttons for 'Citation' (selected), 'Abstract', and 'Detailed record'. There is also a checked box for 'Clear selected records'. Below these are buttons for 'View Selections', 'E-Mail', 'Print', 'Download', and 'Save to Folder'.



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