

Design Research

Research Guide

University Libraries

081607/HB

SCOPE: This is a guide to resources that will help you find material in the BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES, CULTURAL STUDIES, HUMAN FACTORS, MARKETING, and other fields on how people interact/react to designed objects and places. These resources may be used for design research in ARCHITECTURE, INDUSTRIAL DESIGN, INTERIOR DESIGN, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, and related fields.

The Nature of Design Research is such that you are likely to find material relevant to your design project using a wide range of resources, including: online indexes, full-text databases, e-journals, newspapers, and books.

Find Books Here are just a few examples of **subject searches** you might try using in ADDISON and other library catalogs, such as Worldcat.

Architecture and society
 Architecture – human factors
 Architecture – psychological aspects
 Architecture – social aspects
 Barrier free design
 Color in design
 Engineering – social aspects
 Environmental Psychology
 Human engineering (ergonomics)
 Human factors
 Landscapes – social aspects
 Landscape architecture – psychological aspects

Landscape architecture – social aspects
 Landscape architecture for people with disabilities
 Marketing research
 Materials
 Medical instruments and apparatus - design and construction
 New products
 Packaging - design
 Playgrounds -- social aspects
 Product management
 Research, Industrial
 Space perception

You can also try **keyword** searches in Addison. Here are a few examples:

medical devices design
 alzheimer's environments

If you know the name of the designer, design firm, or company try an **author** and/or subject search. For example:

Dreyfuss, Henry
 Alexander, Christopher

If you know the exact title of a book or journal, try a **title** search in Addison to locate its call number and/or online location:

Worksppheres: Design and Contemporary Work Styles
 Medical Design News

Find Articles Here is a *selected* list of library-provided databases that contain citations and possibly full-text articles related to design research topics (Available to VATEch community only). To access these databases from the University Library's homepage (<http://www.lib.vt.edu>) click on the "articles/databases" link.

Interlibrary Loan If you want to obtain an article or conference proceeding that the University Libraries do not own, try requesting the item from Interlibrary Loan/ILLIAD <http://www.ill.vt.edu/> You can request many other types of items not owned by the libraries, including books, videos/DVDs, and thesis/dissertations.

- **AARP AgeLine:** Bibliographic references and original abstracts for materials related to aging and middle age, from an interdisciplinary perspective of psychology, economics, sociology, gerontology, public policy, business, health and health care services, and consumer issues. 1978 to present, updated bi-monthly.
- **ABI/Inform Global (online & full-text):** Covers business and management topics. Includes citations to articles in over 1000 journals in business, management, finance, and economics with articles covering consumer interest

topics (*Consumer Reports* is indexed/full-text is provided). Abstracts coverage is from 1971 to the present. Full-text coverage is from 1991 to the present. Full text available for 500+ journals. Use the "Topic Finder" to track articles on product design, package design, design engineering, product life cycle, product acceptance, product reviews and MUCH more.

- **ACM Digital Library:** Journals and proceedings from the Association of Computing Machinery. Includes research on interface design and human-technology interaction.
- **AnthroSource:** The premier online resource serving the research, teaching, and professional needs of anthropologists. Developed by the American Anthropological Association (AAA), AnthroSource brings 100 years of anthropological material online.
- **Art Full Text:** Citations back to 1984, with full text as far back as 1997. Subjects include antiques, archaeology, architecture & architectural history, art history, contemporary art, costume, crafts, decorative arts, folk art, graphic arts, industrial design, interior design, landscape architecture, motion pictures, museology, non-western art, painting, photography, pottery, sculpture, television, textiles, video art, etc.
- **Compendex:** The *Comprehensive Engineering Index* online. Coverage is from 1970 to the present.
- **CSA Illumina – Arts & Humanities Database Search:** CSA Illumina allows searching across the following databases – *Art Bibliographies Modern*, *Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals*, *Design and Applied Arts Index*, and *Bibliography of the History of Art*. These databases may also be searched individually.
 - **ARTbibliographies Modern (ABM)** provides full abstracts of journal articles, books, essays, exhibition catalogs, PhD dissertations, and exhibition reviews on all forms of modern and contemporary art, with more than 13,000 new entries being added each year. Entries date back as far as the late 1960s. ABM is the premier source of information on modern and contemporary arts dating from the late 19th century onwards, including photography since its invention. It includes abstracts of English and foreign-language material on famous and lesser-known artists, movements, and trends.
 - **Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals** offers a comprehensive listing of journal articles on architecture and design, including bibliographic descriptions on subjects such as the history and practice of architecture, landscape architecture, city planning, historic preservation, and interior design and decoration. It contains more than 440,000 thousand entries surveying over seven hundred American and international journals. These include not only scholarly and popular periodical literature, but also publications of professional associations, American state and regional periodicals, and the major serials on architecture and design of Europe, Asia, Latin America, and Australia.
 - The **Bibliography of the History of Art (BHA)** covers the current international literature on the history of art. BHA surveys the visual arts and material culture from late antiquity to the present. Included are both the fine arts (architecture, sculpture, painting, drawing and prints) and decorative and applied arts (popular art, folk art). BHA indexes and abstracts 1,400 journals, as well as books, conference proceedings, essays, exhibition catalogues, selected art dealers' catalogues, doctoral dissertations and microform publications. Abstracts are in either French or English and the thesaurus for data from 1990 is in both languages. BHA incorporates the complete contents of International Repertory of the Literature of Art (RILA) and Repertoire d'Art et d'Archeologie (RAA).
 - The **Design and Applied Arts Index (DAAI)** contains over 130,000 annotated references from more than 500 design and craft journals and newspapers published from 1973 onwards, and data on over 50,000 designers, craftspeople, studios, workshops, firms etc., making it the largest index of its kind in the world. Research articles are covered, along with topical news items, conference and seminar reports, and book, video and exhibition reviews.
- **Contemporary Women's Issues:** Articles, newsletters, and reports on women in over 150 countries, compiled in a single collection bringing together such disciplines as sociology, psychology, health, education and human rights.
- **Education Full Text:** Citations and abstracts for English-language articles, yearbooks and books. Abstracting coverage begins in 1994. Approximately half of the materials are provided full-text, beginning in 1996.
- **Ergonomics Abstracts Online:** Abstracts to articles and books covering ergonomics and human factors, with information on mainstream ergonomics as well as related material from psychology, physiology, biomechanics,

job design, human-computer interaction, safety science, human engineering, medicine, occupational health, sport and transport. 1985 to present.

- **ERIC:** Journal articles and reports on all aspects of education, including counseling, tests, and measurement, 1966 to present, with the full-text of ERIC Documents (items with ED numbers) from 1996 to present.
- **Infotrac Onefile:** The interdisciplinary nature of industrial design research may require you to search indexes outside the fields of art and architecture. Infotrac is an index that covers a wide variety of disciplines and includes some full-text to five major newspapers, 89 newswires, general interest periodicals and refereed academic journals.
- **LexisNexis Academic:** Access to over 1 billion full-text documents covering a wide variety of subjects. Search for documents in these broad areas: News, Business, Legal Research, Medical, and Reference.
- **LexisNexis Statistical:** Indexing and abstracts to statistical reports from U.S. federal and state governments, or from privately published, international, or intergovernmental sources.
- **PsycINFO:** Online version of Psychological Abstracts, 1872 to present. Covers journal articles, book chapters, books, technical reports, and dissertations, in psychology and psychological aspects of related disciplines.
- **PubMed (Medline):** Dates back to 1966 and covers the fields of medicine, nursing, dentistry, veterinary medicine, the health care system, and the preclinical sciences.
- **Risk Abstracts:** The broad, multidisciplinary coverage of risk-related concerns ranges from public and environmental health to social issues and psychological aspects. Professionals involved in risk research studies, environmental science, engineering and design, or any type of industry will find in Risk Abstracts essential information that can help them identify, measure, evaluate, and manage risks of all kinds. Included in Environmental Sciences, from Cambridge Scientific Abstracts. Dates of Coverage 1990 –
- **Safety Science & Risk Abstracts:** Cited studies are geared to help researchers identify, evaluate, and eliminate or control risks and hazards from environmental and occupational situations. Dates of Coverage 1981 – current
- **Sociological Abstracts:** Abstracts of articles on all aspects of sociology, in the Social Sciences section of Cambridge Scientific Abstracts.

Thesis and Dissertations

- **Dissertation Abstracts Online:** Dissertations and theses from institutions in the North America and Europe. (Link from the library homepage, under “Online Resources”.)
- **VATech Electronic Thesis and Dissertations:** <http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/theses/>

Conference Papers & Proceedings

- **PapersFirst:** An index of papers presented at conferences worldwide. Coverage is from 1993 to the present. (Link to PapersFirst from the University Libraries website: <http://www.lib.vt.edu>)
- **ProceedingsFirst:** Index of worldwide conference proceedings. Coverage is from 1993 to the present. (Link to ProceedingsFirst from the University Libraries website: <http://www.lib.vt.edu>)
- **Search for conference proceedings in Addison** by doing a SUBJECT SEARCH in ADDISON for your topic along with the word “congresses”.

Writing and Research Guides

- **Architectural Research Methods.** Linda Groat and David Wang. New York: J. Wiley, 2002. (NA2000 G76 2002 ART/ARCH; there are two copies – one on Reserve and another in the stacks) Offers a good overview of research strategies including qualitative, correlational, experimental, quasi-experimental, simulation and modeling research. Also includes a section on ethnography.
- **Design Research: Methods and Perspectives.** Brenda Laurel, editor. Cambridge, Mass. : MIT Press, 2003. (TA174 .D483 2003 ART/ARCH)

- ***A Practical Guide to Behavioral Research: Tools and Techniques.*** Barbara Sommer and Robert Sommer. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997. (H62 S724734 1997 NEWMAN)
- ***Real World Research: A Resource For Social Scientists and Practitioner-Researchers.*** Colin Robson. Oxford, UK ; Madden, Mass.: Blackwell Publishers, 2002. (H62 R627 2002 NEWMAN)
- ***Universal Principles of Design.*** William Lidwell, Kritina Holden, Jill Butler. Gloucester, Mass.: Rockport, 2003. (NK1165 .L53 2003 ART/ARCH) In an A-Z format, provides short explanations of a wide range of research methods, tools, and theories that can be applied to design. "From the 80/20 rule to chunking, from baby-face bias to Ockham's razor, and from self-similarity to storytelling, 100 design concepts are defined and illustrated for readers to expand their knowledge." (NK1165 L53 2003 ART/ARCH)
- ***Writing for Design Professionals: A Guide to Writing Successful Proposals, Letters, Brochures, Portfolios, Reports, Presentations, and Job Applications for Architects, Engineers, and Interior Designers.*** Stephen A. Kliment. New York: W.W. Norton, 1998. (NA1996 K57 1998 ART/ARCH) While geared specifically for architects, engineers and interior designers, most of the text is applicable to the industrial design field. A wide variety of scenarios is explored, from writing cover letters and formal e-mail correspondence, to writing marketing brochures and portfolios.

Citation and Style Manuals Online (including MLA): <http://www.lib.vt.edu/find/eref/toc/citation.html>

Need Help? Please consult a librarian. Heather Ball the Librarian for the College of Architecture and Urban Studies at Virginia Tech and can be reached via e-mail: h.ball@vt.edu, or by phone: (540) 231-9272.