



Ovid is a platform for searching databases. Select *Ovid Online System* in the Library's Databases list to see a menu of all Ovid databases. Two important engineering databases are Compendex and INSPEC.


Searching: There are two general methods of searching in Ovid - an *Advanced Search* and a *Basic Search*. The *Find Citation* search allows you to look for more information about a known item.


The screenshot shows the Ovid search interface. At the top, there are four main search options: **Advanced Search** (with a magnifying glass icon), **Basic Search** (with a magnifying glass icon), **Find Citation** (with a magnifying glass icon), and **More Fields** (with a magnifying glass icon). To the right of these is a **Search Tools** button (with a briefcase icon). Below these are four search field options: **Keyword** (with a key icon), **Author** (with a pencil icon), **Title** (with a document icon), and **Journal** (with a book icon). The **Keyword** field is selected. Below the search options is a text input field containing "cell phones" and a red **SEARCH** button. To the right of the input field is a checkbox labeled **Map Term to Subject Heading**, which is checked.


Choose the type of search (Keyword, Author, Title, Journal) and then enter term(s) in the search box.


 **Keyword** This is the default search field and will result in the most comprehensive retrieval, although not necessarily the most precise retrieval. If the *Map Term to Subject Heading* box is checked, Ovid will search the database thesaurus. As an example, the phrase “cell phones” is not an official INSPEC thesaurus term and will miss relevant articles if used alone. With *Map Term* checked, Ovid shows that the term “cellular radio” is used in INSPEC for “cellular telephones”. A search on “cellular radio” will pull up many relevant citations. If there is not a good thesaurus match for the terms you type, uncheck the *Map Term* box.

 **Author** To search for documents by a specific author, click the *Author* icon, enter the last name, a space, and first initial if known. When the index displays, select all possible variations from the list and click *Perform Search* button. If only the last name is known, search for all authors with that last name by adding a \$ followed by the field code for author **.au.** (e.g., smith \$.au. or torgers\$.au.).

 **Title** To search for documents containing your keywords in the title field. Example: thermal conductivity and noble gases


 **Journal** Enter the first few letters of a full journal name (do not use abbreviations), select your publication from the displayed list, and hit the *Perform Search* button.

 **More Fields** Additional fields are listed that you can select for your search; e.g., institution, publication type, conference information, report number, key phrase identifiers, etc.

 **Combine Searches** Use Boolean Operators (AND, OR) to refine a search. Choose AND to search the intersection of two or more searches (narrows a search). Choose OR to search for the union of two or more searches (expands a search). In the example below, the search results for the terms ‘building materials’ and ‘recycling’ will be compared and those containing both will be identified as Set # 3.

Combine a search using: **CONTINUE >>**

Select	#	Search History	Results
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1	building materials/	4135
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2	Recycling/	12623

 **Search Tools** To access advanced search features that are database specific, such as *Thesaurus* (official subject terms used in a database), *Permuted Index* (enter a single word to look for all variations in the Thesaurus), *Scope Note* (definition of term, when introduced, related terms), and *Explode* (takes a thesaurus word and adds all of the narrower terms to the search statement using the OR operator.).

LIMITS: To restrict the results of a search. The most commonly used limits display on the main search page (e.g., language, publication type, or year), but there are additional ways to customize your search in *More Limits*.

Operators:

- **OR:** Retrieves records that contain any one or all of the search terms. Example: concrete OR masonry.
- **AND -** Retrieves only those records that include all of the search terms. Example: radiation AND cancer.
- **NOT -** Retrieves records that contain the first search term and exclude the second search term. Example: bridge NOT steel. Use carefully or you might eliminate relevant articles. The NOT operator can only be used by entering it directly into the Command Line box.
- **ADJn -** Retrieves records that contain search terms within a specified number *n* (from 1-99) of words of each other in any order. When you separate terms with a space on the command line, Ovid presumes them to be adjacent to one another, so you do not need to separate search terms manually by inserting ADJ between them. Example: harmonic currents ADJ5 filter\$.
- **FREQ -** Using the frequency operator (FREQ) lets you specify a threshold of occurrence of a term in the records retrieved from your search. Records containing your search term are retrieved only if the term occurs at least the number of times specified. In the syntax for the frequency operator, *xy* is the two-letter field code and *n* represents the minimum number of times that you want your term to appear in records retrieved from the search: **<term>.xy./freq=n**. Do not use spaces in this command. Example: concrete.ab./freq=4.

Truncation & Wild Cards:

- **Unlimited truncation [\$ or :]** –Retrieves all possible suffix variations of the root word indicated. Type the root word or phrase followed by either of the truncation characters: \$ (dollar sign) or : (colon). Use with caution.
- **Limited truncation [\$n]** - **Limited truncation** specifies a maximum number of characters that may follow the root word or phrase. Example: circuit\$2 retrieves the words circuit, circuits, circuitry; but not circuitous.
- **Mandated wild card [#]** – Requires that a character be present. Useful for retrieving specialized plural forms of a word. Example: wom#n retrieves results that contain both *woman* and *women*.
- **Optional wild card [?]** can be used within or at the end of a search term to substitute for one or no characters and is useful for retrieving documents with British and American spellings. Example: colo?r retrieves results that contain the words *color* or *colour*.

Results: Results display in the area below Limits. At the bottom of each screen is the *Results Manager* where you can choose *Fields*, *Result Format*, and *Actions*.

<p>Tey, L H. So, P L. Chu, Y C. Improvement of power quality using adaptive shunt active filter [Journal Article] <i>IEEE Transactions on Power Delivery</i>. v 20 n 2 II April 2005. p 1558-1568</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Abstract ■ Complete Reference ■ WebLink
<p>Fincannon HJ. Comparison of ISS power system telemetry with analytically derived data for shadowed cases. [Conference Paper] <i>2002 37th Intersociety Energy Conversion Engineering Conference (IECEC) (IEEE Cat. No.02CH37298)</i>. IEEE. 2004, pp.100-5. Piscataway, NJ, USA.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Abstract ■ Complete Reference

Results	Fields	Result Format	Actions
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Selected Results <input type="radio"/> All on this page <input type="radio"/> All in this set (1-827912) and/or Range: <input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/> Citation (Title, Author, Source) <input checked="" type="radio"/> Citation + Abstract <input type="radio"/> Citation + Abstract + Subject Headings <input type="radio"/> Complete Reference <input type="button" value="SELECT FIELDS"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Ovid <input type="radio"/> BRS/Tagged <input type="radio"/> Reprint/Medlars <input type="radio"/> Brief (Titles) Display <input type="radio"/> Direct Export	<input type="button" value="DISPLAY"/> <input type="button" value="PRINT PREVIEW"/> <input type="button" value="EMAIL"/> <input type="button" value="SAVE"/>

Direct Export allows you to save results to bibliographic management programs like RefWorks, EndNote, Procite, or Reference Manager.

WebLink: Opens a window to the Library’s OpenURL link resolver, which checks against the Library’s Ejournal database holdings for a match to online content. If none, use the *Addison* links to check for a print or microfilm copy, or use the *ILLiad* link to submit a request to interlibrary loan. WebLink works best with journal articles. For conference proceedings you may have to check Addison .