Database Spotlight: Science Fall 2014

The University of Alabama in Huntsville

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At some point you have to move from theory to practical application when developing a new technology, or improving upon an older one. It’s important to become aware of the state of an industry or market for what you’re working on, and Salmon Library has the tools for that! While listed as a business database, members of the College of Science should be aware of Frost & Sullivan’s database. This resource provides market and industry data to inform a global perspective for a given product idea or application. With a brand new layout in 2014, you can browse industries such as Aerospace & Defense or Energy Systems, or technologies by categories like microelectronics or materials & coatings. There are handy categories as well to allow customization in finding just industry research versus press releases, or for finding forecasts based on country. Be informed about the global application potential of your products.

Contact your librarian with questions or comments about your resources! To see a complete listing of Science databases, check out our LibGuide at: http://libguides.uah.edu/databases/science.

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The ProQuest SciTech Collection offers more than 6,000 titles across the natural sciences, engineering, and technology focused disciplines. The titles in Salmon Library’s collection represent a compilation of smaller databases from ProQuest, such as Earth Science, Atmospheric Science, Aquatic Science, and a few others. In addition to many scholarly journal articles, this collection offers several reports, working papers, conference papers, and trade publications that can be useful in reading up on newer research that hasn’t made it past the peer-review process. In the past year, Salmon Library upgraded our SciTech offerings to include the Illustra feature. This brought a deeper indexing of tables and figures found within articles, allowing researchers to go straight to graphical data within papers, for example. The Illustra data makes it easier to discover image data within relevant research, and it even has its own search tool. Under Figures and Tables you’ll find an option to select a combination of limiters for graphs, illustrations, photographs, maps, transmission/emission images, and tables.

Quick Tip: When using the Journal Citation Reports database, select “Science Edition,” search by “subject category,” then by categories like “Optics” or “Computer Science, Cybernetics.” The results can be sorted by total cites or impact ratings, granting insights into leading journals in several fields of study!

Did you know…?
The Astrophysical Journal was cited 193,430 times in 2013, according to Journal Citation Reports, leading the field of astronomy & astrophysics in this category. Hint: We have this journal. Check it out!
Salmon Library provides access to a few thousand titles from ScienceDirect. This is a key resource for our College of Science, as we have over 1,500 titles under the Physical and Life Science categories that offer full text, as well as hundreds of abstracts. While our subscription is robust, take advantage of their Open Access collections as well! The database’s homepage has a link near the bottom left that will take you to a directory of open access content which can also be browsed by subject area.

Another great feature is ScienceDirect’s Top 25 Hottest Articles, located near the center of the page. This is a quick way to see a listing of some of the most relevant and highly cited content in a given year. Limit by Earth and Planetary Science, for example, to get a top 25 list which you can sort by year all the way back to 2004. In many cases, you can even view the most read articles from a particular journal! Elsevier uses data from a sister database, Scopus, to indicate how many times a given article has been cited. You can see that information under each article on this list, granting insights into an article’s practical applications over time. As a bonus, there is an easy “Blog this” button on each article listed, providing an embedded link to copy and paste this article’s data into a web application or program.

**OneSearch : Make It Work For You!**

Ah, OneSearch...that “search everything right now” solution! Well, it can be a boon or a burden depending on how you use it. While this is a tool for discovering what offerings Salmon Library has on a subject across various databases, formats, and publishers, it can be overwhelming. It’s probably not the best place to search for a term like geology, as it’s a bit too broad. However, OneSearch begins to shine as you select limiters on the left toolbar to hone in on what you want. So, perhaps a more focused search for a term or phrase like plate tectonics might be a good start, but you’ve still got 200,000 results to wade through. Limit to only scholarly articles we have full text access to right now, and you’ll almost halve these results. Perhaps you only wanted conference proceedings addressing the subject. Limit to proceedings, then select a publication date range of interest, and you’re down from thousands to a dozen or so in no time! Since OneSearch is so comprehensive in scope, it’s helpful to keep it mind when you want a nice variety of resource types such as books, articles, or dissertations, but getting the most out of it requires a bit of refinement.

**Did you know...?**

We provide access to over 700 e-books covering life sciences fields via our Springer collections.

**Quick tip:** Check out this Fall’s edition of Salmon Library’s primary newsletter, The Call Number, for a glimpse into the Timelines found in the Oxford Reference Series. The series covers over 50 reference books in science and technology, including 6 devoted to the earth sciences!

The library provides access to a suite of Nature Publishing publications. While not technically a database, you’ll find a link to Nature Publishing Journals under the Science database tab. This will take you to a journal list which you can browse by title. You’ll find titles such as Cell Death and Differentiation, Journal of Human Genetics, Vital, Scientific Reports, and of course the flagship Nature publication itself. Additionally, Salmon Library’s collection includes a number of Nature sister titles such as Nature Chemistry, Nature Materials, Nature Photonics, and more. We have varying degrees of coverage for these titles, so make sure to check out those coverage dates and embargo details as you browse. We also provide several popular titles in the Nature Reviews series. Most of these are also found in our Health Reference Center Academic database, since several of these titles are useful to the health sciences as well. You’ll find entries in the Reviews series such as Genetics, Neuroscience, Cardiology, and Molecular Cell Biology.

The Scifinder Scholar collection is a database of references, substances, and reactions in chemistry and related sciences. Hosted by the American Chemical Society, this resource is limited to UAH students, staff, and faculty. To access it you must create an account at the Scifinder landing page, where you will be asked to register as a current student, staff, or faculty member. We are currently limited to three simultaneous users, so please logout of Scifinder Scholar when you are done to allow others to access the database! The search interface allows you to look up research topics, such as the catalytic decomposition of hydrogen peroxide. From there you can limit by publication years, document types (book, patent, journal, dissertation), language, author, and company. From there you will view several references, often with granular information such as Substance or Reaction Details, whether a substance is commercially available, and even search for specific molecular formulas.

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