

LITERATURE REVIEW - 9/11/02

WHAT IS A LITERATURE REVIEW?

A part of a research study, providing a foundation.

A narrative describing the state of knowledge in a particular area of study (level of detail can vary widely).

WHAT AM I RESEARCHING?

Am I an Engineer or a Scientist?

Hydrology, Hydraulics, Groundwater, Water resource planning and management, GeoSciences, GIS applications, or others in Civil & Environmental Engineering.

Lesson #1: Read widely; think globally (at least at first); consider linkages.

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

“There is never enough time to do it right, but always enough time to do it over.”

Lesson #2: Have confidence in your abilities (you are now part of the larger scientific community).

Lesson #3: Consider yourself fortunate (golden opportunity).

Lesson #4: Begin reading about topic(s) using references from coursework, personal contacts, or Web browsing (save important articles or abstracts).

Lesson #5: Organize filed articles or abstracts based on a general outline (can be refined later).

Lesson #6: Identify and use the resources at your disposal (many not available 5-10 years ago).

HELPFUL LIBRARY RESOURCES

1. ADDISON (*library catalog*)

Lists books, journals, government documents, and other materials available at VT libraries:

Carol M. Newman Library

**Art & Architecture Library
(3rd floor Cowgill)**

**GeoSciences Library
(3040 Derring Hall)**

Access ADDISON from Library home page:

<http://www.lib.vt.edu/>

1. Connect to Web Version of Addison.
2. Use BASIC search of AUTHOR, KEYWORD, SUBJECT, or TITLE.
3. Determine availability*, location, and CALL NUMBER of journal.

*Search also shows if journal is available as an on-line journal (or go to electronic journals link from library home page).

HELPFUL LIBRARY RESOURCES

2. DATABASES (ARTICLE SEARCH ENGINES)

Access Engineering databases from Library home page:

1. Under Subjects, select Engineering and Physical Sciences.
2. Under Subject pages, select Engineering (contact persons Larry Thompson and John Cosgriff listed).
3. Under Table of Contents, select Databases for Literature Searches

Example databases:

Compendex*plus

Water Resource Abstracts (Cambridge Scientific)

ASCE Database

GeoRef (geological literature, from 1785)

HELPFUL LIBRARY RESOURCES

3. ILLiad (borrow from participating non-VT libraries)

ILLiad stands for InterLibrary Loan internet accessible database.

Access ILLiad from Library home page or <http://ill.vt.edu>

Can request a:

Photocopy

Book

Patent

Thesis

Technical standard

Can pickup document(s) at:

Library (1st floor Newman Library)

Mail delivery available (on campus)

Electronic delivery available

Personal request history available.