

Library Tools Workshop for MATLS 4Z06

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Today's class is an opportunity to gather some background information and research that will help you solve the problem in your project.

Finding Resources

The easiest way to access most of the key resources for Materials Science/Eng:

1. From the subject guide: <http://library.mcmaster.ca/guides/materials-science-engineering>

2. Choosing from the available databases: library.mcmaster.ca -> Articles/Databases Tab -> Subject Dropdown -> "Materials Science and Engineering"

Key Databases for Engineering Journal Articles:

- Engineering Village: Compendex/Inspec (with a focus on research articles)
- CSA/METADEX (complete materials database including patents, corrosion abstracts, aluminum industry, etc.)

Background/Reference/Handbooks

- Access Engineering (general information / data)
- Library Catalogue

Worth mentioning:

- ASTM Library (Standards database with articles)
- Scientific.net (selection of journals in materials eng)
- SpringerLink (selection of articles/books/book chapters)

Managing Citations

There is an incredible array of software designed to help you cite correctly with little effort. Remember, every time you use a fact, some data, an image or an idea that someone else created, you need to cite it in your text. If you're ever in doubt about whether you're doing it right, ask.

RefWorks: Web-based only. Currently supported by the library. Not as slick as others. Not great at capturing websites. <http://refworks.scholarsportal.info/>

Mendeley: Web-based, with desktop client. Good for group sharing. Browser plugin. <http://www.mendeley.com/>

Zotero: Similar features to Mendeley. Open-source. <http://www.zotero.org/>

All are free. The choice is yours, but using a citation manager will save you a ton of work. Here's a guide to choosing one: <http://goo.gl/AMgwLv>

Your Objective for this Workshop:

1. Using the databases and tools listed above, find 3-5 articles/sources of information that might potentially help you with your project (it could be a handbook, book, e-book, book chapter, patent, journal article, data table, etc.). Aim to choose highly relevant information, using the title, abstract and other keywords for clues.
2. Export three of these references to a reference management tool of your choosing (see above).
3. Demonstrate that you have captured at least three useful and relevant sources to Joey or myself.