



CM-Related Library/Internet Resources

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This document provides basic information about library as well as Internet resources related to Construction Management research, regardless you are on- or off-campus.

TABLE CONTENT

1. Introduction.....	3
2. Books & E-Books	3
Search Library Books	3
NetLibrary.....	4
SkillPort	4
3. Journal Publications	5
Academic Journals	5
Major CM Academic Journals	5
1. Journal of Construction Engineering and Management (ASCE).....	6
2. Journal of Management in Engineering (ASCE)	6
3. Construction Management and Economics (Taylor & Francis, UK)	6
4. Canadian Journal of Civil Engineering (CSCE)	6
5. Automation in Construction (Elsevier).....	6
6. Journal of Information Technology in Construction	7
7. International Journal of Construction Education and Research.....	7
8. Project Management Journal (PMI).....	7
4. Conference Proceedings.....	7
5. Online Databases	9
ASCE Online Research Library.....	9
Google Scholar.....	9
WorldCat.....	10
ACM Digital Library (DL)	10
Some Additional Databases	10
Combined use of Databases and E-Journals	10
ILLiad	11

1. Introduction

Two of the most important ways we can gain knowledge is (1) reading and (2) learning-by-doing. The master research project/thesis is an excellent example of acquiring knowledge through both of the aforementioned ways. To conduct a successful research project, students must have a broad knowledge of the subject area, as well as a deeper understanding of issues related to the particular research problem. This document focuses on reading in relation to master research. More specifically, it answers the simple question – “where to find and retrieve reading materials for my research?”

A quick answer to this question is Internet search. More and more information are made available electronically through Internet and, sometime, full-text articles are available for free. For example, some of the more generic search engines:

- Google
- Google Scholar (<http://scholar.google.com>)
- Google Book (<http://books.google.com>)

However, there are also specialized information sources for Construction Management (CM) field of study. In many cases, these sources can provide more focused search and, thus, yield better results. Better yet, the university library provides free access to many of these resources, which can otherwise be cost-prohibitive to purchase by yourself. This document will review library resources that include books and e-books, journal publications, conference proceedings, and online databases for construction research.

2. Books & E-Books

Books, especially these classic books, usually provide a fairly good coverage of basic knowledge and widely accepted principles/practices in a subject area, such as estimating, scheduling, equipment and methods, and modeling and optimization. Reading such books is probably the best and quickest way to compensate one’s lack of basic knowledge on a certain subject.

Search Library Books

On UH main campus, construction management related books can mostly be found in M.D. Anderson library and the Architecture & Arts library (located in College of Architecture building). To search for books, go to <http://info.lib.uh.edu/>.

Construction estimating techniques



Book

Author: Hardie, Glenn M
ISBN: 0131687417 Date: 1987 Pages: xiii, 354 p.
Subjects: Estimates, Building

Availability: Check Availability

After the search, you may encounter some of the following problems and the solutions are briefly addressed below.

- The book is not currently available (showing “DUE xx-xx-xx”) – you can make it request by clicking on the “Request” button;
- The book is not in M.D. Anderson or Architecture library on UH main campus - you can request the book to be shipped to one of the above mentioned libraries by clicking on the “Request” button;
- The book is an e-book – click the link “View online” use your Cougarnet account to log in.

Many e-books are available thorough UH library and, as mentioned above, you can access them using your Cougarnet account. There are several other ways to gain access to more e-books. NetLibrary and Skillport are two such services purchased by UH that provides more online contents to students. They are described below.


NetLibrary

Netlibrary provides a searchable collection of electronic books in full text. Includes current titles as well as many classics that are now in the public domain. Subjects covered include architecture, business, computer science, economics, education, engineering, as well as many books related to construction. To access, click the link below and login using your last name and PeopleSoft ID.

 NetLibrary <https://login.ezproxy.lib.uh.edu/login?url=http://www.netlibrary.com/>

SkillPort

The UH Department of Information Technology provides access to free online courses through SkillPort to all students, faculty, and staff of the UH main campus. SkillPort portfolio of online courses includes over 2500 titles that support development of skills in areas such as business, project management, computer applications, Information Technology, and communication. These online short courses may include video, audio, quiz, simulation, and e-books. To access SkillPort,

1. Follow the link to SkillPort site
 <https://uh.skillport.com/skillportfe/login/login.cfm>
2. Enter your PeopleSoft ID and your birthdate in mmddyyyy format (e.g., "09151980") as the Password.
3. Click Login to SkillPort and you can then search for learning materials

3. Journal Publications

Comparing to books, journal publications provide a more in-depth and up-to-date knowledge about research studies and professional practices. The scope of an individual journal paper is usually limited to a very well defined problem area, but it describes in details about its innovative solution and/or new knowledge derived from the research. Journals can be largely classified as academic journals and professional magazines. An academic journal is a peer-reviewed periodical that serve as forums for the exchange of new research ideas and the critique of existing research. Content typically takes the form of articles presenting original research. Most journal articles must go through a peer-reviewed process, which involves the review and subsequent acceptance or rejection decision made by editors and other peer researchers. The peer-review process is considered critical to establishing a reliable body of research and knowledge. Therefore, journal papers are generally considered as very reliable and credible source of information.

In addition to academic journals, other academic or professional publications that are not peer-reviewed are usually called professional magazines. These publications focus primarily on current trends and issues of the industry and professional practices, such as Engineering News Records (ENR).


Academic Journals

UH library has subscription to numerous academic journals that are free for UH students. Most of them are available both in hard copy in UH libraries and online for easy access. Many journals related to construction management are available online, i.e. you can search and download full articles in a PDF format. You can search available journals as follows:

- If you want to find a particular paper (with known title) ...

 <http://info.lib.uh.edu/>, type paper title to the OneSearch textbox

- If you want to browse through volumes of a specific journal ...

 <http://info.lib.uh.edu/> click “e-Journal Titles” to search for by journal name

Major CM Academic Journals

This section introduces several most significant academic journals related to construction management research and the methods to access full articles. For your interested area of study, you should first try to search these journals as well as ASCE Online Research Library, which is discussed in a later section).

1. *Journal of Construction Engineering and Management (ASCE)*

- The Journal of Construction Engineering and Management is currently the most respected and circulated journal for construction research. It publishes quality papers that aim to advance the science of construction engineering, harmonize construction practices with design theories, and further education and research in construction engineering and management. To gain access to full text, visit the UH electronic journal list

☞ <http://ev7su4gn4p.search.serialssolutions.com/>

and search for “Journal of Construction Engineering and Management.”

2. *Journal of Management in Engineering (ASCE)*

Journal of Management in Engineering is directly devoted to management issues in engineering and construction. It offers an avenue for researchers and practitioners to present contemporary issues associated with management and leadership for the civil engineer. The journal publishes peer-reviewed papers, case studies, technical notes, and discussions of interest to the practice of civil engineering. To gain access to full text, visit the UH electronic journal list

☞ <http://ev7su4gn4p.search.serialssolutions.com/>

and search for “Journal of Management in Engineering.”

3. *Construction Management and Economics (Taylor & Francis, UK)*

- Construction Management and Economics is the leading international refereed journal that publishes original research concerning the management and economics of building and civil engineering, while also including the management of built facilities. You can search and gain access to full text by visiting the UH electronic journal list

☞ <http://ev7su4gn4p.search.serialssolutions.com/>

and search for “Construction Management and Economics.”

4. *Canadian Journal of Civil Engineering (CSCE)*

- Published since 1974, this monthly publication is the official journal of the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering (CSCE). Contributors include recognized researchers and practitioners in industry, government, and academe in engineering and construction community. You can search and gain access to full text by visiting the UH electronic journal list

☞ <http://ev7su4gn4p.search.serialssolutions.com/>

and search for “Canadian Journal of Civil Engineering.”

5. *Automation in Construction (Elsevier)*

- Automation in Construction publishes refereed material on all aspects pertaining to the use of Information Technologies in Design, Engineering, Construction

Technologies, and Maintenance and Management of Constructed Facilities. You can search and gain access to full text by visiting the UH electronic journal list

☞ <http://ev7su4gn4p.search.serialssolutions.com/>

and search for “Automation in Construction.”

6. Journal of Information Technology in Construction

- The Journal of Information Technology in Construction (ITcon) is a journal on the use of IT in architecture, civil engineering and facility management. ITcon is an open access journal and its articles can freely and with no charge be read by anybody who has an Internet connection. ITcon web site is

☞ <http://www.itcon.org/cgi-bin/news/Show?id=11>

7. International Journal of Construction Education and Research

- This is the official journal of The Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) and publishes construction education and research related studies (from 2006 to present).

☞ <http://ev7su4gn4p.search.serialssolutions.com/>

and search for “International Journal of Construction Education and Research.”

- To access ASC conference papers, visit its web site at <http://www.ascweb.org>, “Click to View Annual Conference Proceedings”, “Archive Search”.

8. Project Management Journal (PMI)

- This is the peer-refereed academic and research quarterly of PMI. It features state-of-the-art management techniques, research, theories and applications. You can search and gain access to full text by visiting the UH electronic journal list

☞ <http://ev7su4gn4p.search.serialssolutions.com/>

and search for “Project Management Journal.”

There are many other academic journals in CM that are devoted to some specific areas of study. For example, for researches related to Lean Construction, the Lean Construction Journal (<http://www.leanconstruction.org/lcj/paper.html>) provides some good information.

4. Conference Proceedings

Conference proceedings are the collection of academic papers that are published in the context of an academic or professional conference. Unlike journal papers which make take years to review and publish, conference papers are typically released immediately after a conference and most conferences are held on an annual basis. However, since proceedings are mostly published in-house by the organizing institution

of the conference, they may only be available in hard copy or CD for conference participants. If you know the title of the conference paper, try the following methods to get the full text:

1. Limited amount of conference proceedings may be available in hard copy in UH library.
2. You can try to search the conference paper by title in Google or Google Scholar, or some of the library databases (will be described later).
3. Since most authors would convert their good-quality conference papers to journal publications eventually, you can try to search the same author's journal publications. You may be able to find a full journal paper that has similar content as the conference paper.
4. Finally, if you still couldn't find the conference paper, one of the last resorts is to try the library service called ILLiad, which is described at a later section of this document.

Some of the more popular conferences for construction researchers are listed below for your reference.


- ASCE Construction Research Congress (CRC)
 - This biennial event is the focus conference of the Construction Research Council and the ASCE Construction Institute. CRC brings together researchers and educators from all over the world to exchange research results, education directions, and future research directions.
- Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) annual conference
 - The ASC International Annual Conference provides a way of exchanging information that enhances and improves teaching and learning processes within construction education.
 - Full papers are available online. To access ASC papers, visit <http://www.ascweb.org/>, "Click to View Annual Conference Proceedings", "Archive Search".
- Canadian Society for Civil Engineering (CSCE) annual conference
 - The CSCE Annual Conference provides a forum for national and international delegates for recent developments in all areas of civil engineering, including new and innovative technologies and future research directions in civil engineering.
- AACE International annual conference
 - Features papers and presentations on latest industry practices presented by industry professionals

5. Online Databases

A (library) database is a website that allows users to search for articles and technical papers. A database usually contains publication information from a large amount of journals and conferences. Library databases are searchable, such as by keywords, subject, author, and publication title. They often contain full-text articles that user can download. If you cannot find a particular journal or conference paper using other methods, try to search these databases. UH subscribes to many databases that can be found at <http://info.lib.uh.edu/>. The following section introduces some popular databases used for CM-related research.

ASCE Online Research Library

ASCE Online Research Library, or called Civil Engineering Database (CEDB), is by far the most significant searchable database with a focus on civil engineering profession, including construction engineering and management. It provides electronic information retrieval service to all American Society of Civil Engineer (ASCE) journals and publications. It provides access to over 100,000 bibliographic and abstracted records of books and papers published by ASCE since 1970. You can search by publication title, subject area, key words, author, document type, or even body text. Its web address is at

- ASCE Online Research Library
 <http://www.ascelibrary.org.ezproxy.lib.uh.edu/>

Depending on your interest area, for most CM topics, the following journals usually return more relevant results. You can limit your search to these two journals using the “Advanced Search” function.

- Journal of Construction Engineering and Management
- Journal of Management in Engineering

However, please note the following limitations of ASCE Online Research Library.

- You can only search in this database for books and journals published by ASCE. There are several other major academic journals related to CM published by other agencies, such as Construction Management and Economics. These journals and papers are not available in this ASCE database.
- Full text of ASCE conference papers is not available since this service is not currently subscribed by UH.

Google Scholar


Google Scholar provides a simple way to broadly search for scholarly literature. Visit the following link, go to Scholar Preferences and select the library link for

"University of Houston Libraries - Fulltext @ UH Libraries" to obtain online access to library subscriptions.

 <http://scholar.google.com>

WorldCat

WorldCat is one of the world's largest networks of library content and services. It provides online search and, sometime, full content in PDF or other multimedia formats on a wide variety of subjects.

 <http://ezproxy.lib.uh.edu/login?url=http://firstsearch.oclc.org/fsip?dbname=WorldCat&screen=advanced&done=http://info.lib.uh.edu/research/findarticles.html>

ACM Digital Library (DL)

The Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) DL is a vast collection of citations and full text from ACM journal and newsletter articles and conference proceedings. This database can be very useful if your interest is in computing, modeling, simulation, and IT in construction. Most articles are available in PDF format.

 <http://portal.acm.org.ezproxy.lib.uh.edu/dl.cfm?coll=portal&dl=ACM&CFID=1491532&CFTOKEN=45973304>

Some Additional Databases

- [ScienceDirect](#)
Full text of Elsevier journals, the largest publisher of science and technology journals
- [Compendex](#)
Covers all engineering disciplines.
- [Web of Science](#)
Highly cited journals in the sciences and engineering. Find who cited who.
- [Wiley InterScience](#)
Full text to many Wiley journals, a key science and technology publisher.
- [Academic Search Complete](#)
Multidisciplinary database that includes peer reviewed journals, magazines, newspapers

Combined use of Databases and E-Journals

With both online search databases and electronic journal access, you can use a combination of them to quickly locate information needed for your research. For example, you are interested in a project delivery method, called Public Private Partnership (PPP).

1. Your first stop should be the ASCE Online Research Library, since you will have a very good chance to find many relevant papers. Many of these papers are available for download. You should also try to search the journals listed previously in the section titled “Journal Publications.”
2. To expand your search to publishers other than ASCE, you can try Google, Google Scholar, or WorldCat etc. If full text of your interested paper is not available, you can record the publication information (i.e. paper title, journal title, issue and volume number etc.) and go to step 3 or 4.
3. If this paper is a journal paper and UH has subscription to the journal, then you should be able to download the full paper in PDF. Search here using the paper title, <http://info.lib.uh.edu/> using OneSearch. If not, UH library may have the hard copy available.
4. If this paper is a conference paper, try the different methods previously discussed in the section titled “Conference Proceedings.” Remember, if all attempts fail, you still have the option to try UH library’s ILLiad service, which is discussed below.

ILLiad

Students can use ILLiad (Interlibrary Loan internet accessible database) to request the delivery of books and articles. ILLiad allows you to make requests online, track the processing of your requests, request renewals, and update your personal information. You must register on ILLiad to use it. You will need your PeopleSoft ID number and a valid email address. Through ILLiad, you can request books and papers regardless they are owned by UH or not. If the library can locate your requested item, the item will be delivered to you in hard copy or in an electronic format.

 <http://info.lib.uh.edu/services/interlibrary-loan>