

DID YOU INCLUDE YOUR LITERATURE SEARCH?

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In order to avoid duplicating the efforts of any other research studies, a literature search is now required prior to beginning a new research project. The literature search should cite any existing research, ongoing or completed, on the topic, and show where reports or findings on the subject may be obtained.

For ODOT Technical Liaisons, this means that a copy of preliminary literature search results from the ODOT library, TRIS, RIP, and/or other sources must be attached to the problem statement when it is submitted to R&D. General comments on the results of the search to support the need for this research should also be included.

For researchers submitting a proposal to R&D, this means that any existing research on the topic should be discussed in the "Background and Significance of Work" section of the proposal. A brief summary of literature findings should be presented, and any additional information that demonstrates the project is not a duplication of other ongoing or completed work should also be included.

To assist you with this task, the ODOT library has prepared some guidelines. A good place to start your literature search is:

State Library/ODOT Combined Catalog

For ODOT personnel:

<http://intranet.dot.state.oh.us/library/> Click on "ODOT Library/State Library Catalog."

Outside ODOT:

<http://slonet.state.oh.us>

Here you'll find the entire collection of ODOT research reports, FHWA and DOT reports, archival & current specifications, other state reports, commercially published documents, proceedings, etc. The format will be in paper, video, microfiche, or cd-rom. Some of the records have been linked to full-text documents via the Internet. Items in this catalog can be checked out immediately by any Ohio resident who is registered as a State Library of Ohio patron. This site also posts a link to OhioLINK (Ohio Library and Information Network), a consortium of over 84 institutions, including Ohio college and university libraries and the State of Ohio Library.

ODOT staff have access to most OhioLINK services, including several commercial databases that can provide valuable research information. Click on "Listed by Name" to access an alphabetical list of the following recommended databases:

Applied Science and Technology Abstracts

indexes abstracts and articles in core scientific and technical journals.

Compendex

provides an index and abstracts to engineering literature from international journals, conferences, and reports.

Dissertation Abstracts

contains an index of doctoral dissertations and master's theses from North America and Europe.

Electronic Theses and Dissertations Center

provides online theses and dissertations from Ohio graduate students.

WorldCat

provides a catalog of books and other materials held by libraries worldwide, and includes the resources of the Institute of Transportation Studies Library, University of California at Berkeley; Northwestern University's Transportation Library; and some state DOT libraries.

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A good database for articles, proceedings, and papers is:
TRIS (Transportation Research Information Service)

<http://www.ntl.bts.gov/>

This is the National Transportation Library website, the Transportation Research Board's (TRB) database. Click on "TRIS Online". This web version can be searched by author, title, and keyword, but descriptor searching is not available. For ODOT staff, the ODOT Library can perform the search. For others, public libraries often provide this type of search service for a fee. If you need only TRB papers, then the following database is a good place to search:

<http://www.nationalacademies.org/>. Click on "Transportation" under the subject index, then "Transportation Research Board."

Another useful website:

American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Publications

<http://www.pubs.asce.org/cedbsrch.html>

ASCE maintains a searchable electronic information retrieval service for all its publications published since 1972. Click on "CE Database" to begin your search.

To avoid duplication of more current research, researchers should also search:

TRB's Research in Progress

<http://rip.trb.org>

This site contains active research projects of state DOTs, referencing active research projects that will not yet have final publications available.

As a general note, academic and commercial databases operate on boolean logic, meaning you use *and*, *or*, or *andnot* between words or phrases. Make sure you understand the structure and intent of the database you are searching. Many databases use keywords, but some can be searched using descriptors (controlled vocabulary indexers apply). Be sure to look at any tutorials provided and read the help screens for each database you search. Each is indexed a little differently, so the defaults will change from database to database.

