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Information Searching in RKC

RKC information is stored in MySQL database that makes use of implied Boolean logic for information searching. Search tips are detailed below but a summary of key search features are as follows:

- Enclose phrases in “double quotes”
- No operator between search terms implies OR
- + operator in front of a search term stands for AND
- - operator in front of a search term stands for NOT
- * appended to the end of a term is a wildcard operator

Basic Search

Enter your search term (s) in the search box and your search will be conducted on all available indexed fields.

Field Search

Term Searching

Enter your search criteria into as few or as many fields as desired. Field choices are:

1. All Fields (Same as Basic Search) - searches all the available indexed fields.
2. Title – searches only the title field.
3. Author – searches only the author field.
4. Document Number – searches only the document number field.
5. Publication Date – searches between and inclusive of the dates specified. If only a start date is specified, only documents published on that date and later will be searched. If only an end date is specified, only documents published on that date and earlier will be searched. Dates can be specified by a 4 digit year (yyyy), a 2 digit month (mm) and a 2 digit day (dd). Searches can be done on year only, year and month only, or year, month and date.

Sorting

Your search results will be sorted in ascending or descending order based on your 'Sort By' selection. The default is Relevance descending. Other options are Publication Date, Document Number, Document Title, and Author.

Results to Show

Your search results will be displayed based on your 'Results to show' selection. The default is 10 but other options are 50, 100, 150, 200, or ALL.

Search Tips

General

- A. Searching for individual terms does not require a special syntax. For example, a search for TANK will return all results that contain the term TANK.
- B. Multiple words entered as search terms must have at least one of the search terms contained in the field(s) searched in order to be returned in the search results. For example, a search on TANK WASTE will find results that contain TANK or WASTE. No implied Boolean operators with search terms implies the OR logical operator.
- C. To search for a phrase, enclose the phrase in double quotations "TANK WASTE"
- D. A summary of the implied Boolean operators that can be used in RKC are as follows:

Operator	Function
(none)	Default value. The search term or one of the search terms must be present. This is an implied logic OR statement. Example: tank waste will return any results with tank OR waste.
+	A leading plus sign in front of a search term indicates the term must be present. This is an implied logic AND statement. Example: +tank +waste will return any results with tank AND waste.
-	A leading minus sign in front of the search term indicates the term must <i>not</i> be present. This is an implied logic NOT statement. Example: tank -waste will return any results with tank but NOT with the word waste.
*	A truncation (or wildcard) operator on the <i>end</i> of a search term. Example: tank* will return any results with tank, tanks, tanking.
" "	A search term phrase enclosed within "double quote" characters indicates the phrase literally, as it was typed, must be present. Example: "tank waste" will return only results with the phrase "tank waste".
()	Group search terms into sub-expressions and can be nested. Example: +tank +(waste retrieval) will return results with "tank AND waste" or "tank AND retrieval".
~	A tilde in front of a search term reduces the relevance of the search term. Example: +tank ~oil finds rows that contain tank but rank the result lower if it also contains oil.
><	Either of these operators in front of a search term change the relevance of the search term. The > operator increases the contribution and the < operator decreases it. Example: +tank >retrieval <closure would rank results with "tank AND retrieval" higher than "tank AND closure"..

Case Sensitivity

- A. Search terms are case insensitive. A term entered in either upper case, lower case, or mixed case will find/match terms that are in the indexed search fields.
- B. Example: Searching for Tank, tank, TANK, or taNK will return the same results.

Drop-down Menus

- A. To assist you in formulating search strategies, Drop-down Menus have been created for Sort By with pre-defined choices.

Title Searching

- A. Title searching matches title word or phase of the title being searched.
- B. Example: Searching for 'tank retrieval' may return 'Single-shell tank retrieval program mission analysis report'.

Author Searching

- A. Author searching matches word or phase and implied Boolean operators do not work in this field. Because bibliographic fields may vary it is best to search for last name and first names are typically not used and use of initials vary.
- B. Example: Searching for 'Smith' may return 'A. B. Smith', 'A.B. Smith', 'A. Smith', 'A Smith', 'Smith AB' or 'AB Smith'.

Document Number Searching

- A. Document number searching matches number, word or phase and implied Boolean operators do not work in this field. The best search results are generally obtained by entering part of a document number that likely will be unique. To narrow results, using a single symbol in the correct location may help but multiple symbols (unless entered exact as in the database) may yield no results.
- B. Example: Searching for '1234' may return 'ABC/EF-1234', 'AB-01234', or 'ABC-DE-012345'. Searching the previous for '-1234' will return only 'ABC/EF-1234'.

Search Results

Result Display

- A. The Search Results page provides you with information about your search, including your search strategy, your sort choice, an approximate number of results, and the number of results pages.
- B. From your Search Results page you can:
 - a. Re-sort the search results through drop down menu (Default in Relevance)
 - b. Change the results to show through drop down menu. (Default is 10)
 - c. Refine your search in search box at top or link to 'Field Search'.
- C. An abstract link is provided under the document number and allows the document abstract information to be viewed in a new window without the need to fully download the document; many which are very large (over 100 MB) and may take some time to fully download.

View and Download Documents

- A. If an electronic document is available, an icon will appear on the left side of the result display. Click on the 'Title' hyperlink that displays an 'attribution' page that will either allow the document to be opened or saved.
 - a. To view a document, click on the 'OPEN' button or if linked to an OSTI page (Energy Citations / Information Bridge) first click on the file icon or 'View Document' link. The document should automatically appear within the browser if an appropriate viewer has been loaded as a plug-in. Software to view PDF files can be found at <http://get.adobe.com/reader/> [exit federal site].

- b. To download/save the document, click on the 'SAVE' button or if linked to an OSTI page (Energy Citations / Information Bridge) first click on the file icon or 'View Document' link. The SAVE command will then require a file name to be entered (default can be used) with the proper extension for the file type (for example, .pdf for PDF files). Also note that the file SAVE location is specified and user may want to change the default location given. After the file has been download/saved, open it from within the appropriate viewer (i.e., Acrobat Reader, Acrobat Pro, etc.).
- B. Documents available in the RKC are in PDF format and may have come from a variety of native formats.
- C. If the document consists of more than one file, it will be compressed (zipped) for downloading and will need to be uncompressed (unzipped) before it can be viewed. Software to uncompress can be found at <http://www.aladdinsys.com/downloads/index.html> [exit federal site].

Technical Requirements

- A. For complete functionality, you must have a recent version of a major Web browser (e.g. FireFox, Microsoft Internet Explorer, Netscape) and related software.
- B. In order to function correctly on your computer, required browser configurations include:
 - a. JavaScript must be enabled
 - b. Style sheets must be supported. The application is optimized for W3C's CSS Level 2.
 - c. Cookies must be accepted (uses session cookies).
- C. To display a document, a PDF Viewer is suggested and unzip utility (such as WinZip for windows) may be required for some cases where multiple files grouped together. The PDF viewer should be loaded as a plug-in to view individual pages in PDF format. Software to view PDF files can be found at <http://get.adobe.com/reader/> [exit federal site]. Software to uncompress can be found at <http://www.aladdinsys.com/downloads/index.html> [exit federal site].