

Finding ASME Technical Papers

A Strategy for Success



Why ASME Technical Papers?

- Long society history (1880 – present)
- Persistent relevance of papers
- Collateral effect of information “explosion” circa 1928 – the “Miscellaneous Papers”
- Evolving identification schemes
- The Engineering Societies Library
- Inconsistent bibliographic indexing

The ASME Paper Number

- The “typical” paper number format did not appear until 1944.
- Example: 76-GT-105 : first number is year, letter code indicates conference, last number is paper number.
- Letter code is an Acronym Zoo – A, APWR, IIR, LUB, PVP, MEX, OGP, PET, etc. – over 50 letter codes put into use between 1945-1960 alone

Not so fast!

The paper number does not indicate where the paper was published – ASME journal, conference proceedings, or miscellaneous paper.

No one resource puts all the bibliographic information necessary for access together for the complete set of ASME Technical Papers.

Example of Finding Problems – Miscellaneous Papers

- A set of ten ASME Miscellaneous papers selected, 1 each from 10 random years 1928-1980
- Compendex searched for author and title
- Seven returned “acceptable” records information, three returned no matching records

Strategy : Compile Print Index

- *ASME Transactions* - contain annual indexes in 1932-1939 and 1952-1956 that have a section indexing Miscellaneous Papers
- ASME Annual Publication AM-5 (1961-1980) - indexes *Transactions*, *Mechanical Engineering*, and Miscellaneous Papers
- “Index to Place of Publication of ASME Papers”
GE Technology Marketing, coverage 1950-1977
- “ASME Technical Paper List” - M.Saul, University of Wisconsin-Madison, coverage 1963-1988

Strategy: Triangulate

Use patron information, computerized bibliographic databases and print indexes to converge on correct bibliographic information.

Author, title, paper number, year of publication – any two will usually get you to a findable access point

Help is Available!

- Linda Hall Library has the Engineering Societies Library's card file on ASME papers, with author and paper number access points (roughly 1946-1990)
- Linda Hall Library also has an extensive collection of annotated ASME meeting programs up through 1995
- Ready-reference help can be obtained by phone, e-mail, or in person

Questions?

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