Introduction to the ACM Digital Library
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Introduction

The ACM (Association for Computing Machinery) is the world’s largest educational and scientific computing society, and delivers resources that promote computing as a science and a profession. ACM provides the computing field’s premier Digital Library and serves its members and the computing profession with leading-edge publications, conferences and career resources. The ACM Digital Library is a vast collection of citations and full text from ACM journal and newsletter articles and conference proceedings.
1 Search Functions

On the Digital Library main page there are three different search options available: Basic Search, Advanced Search and Browse.
1.1 Basic Search

On the Digital Library main page, type your word or phrase into the text box. The search engine searches on each word individually as well as on the whole phrase. Put quotations (""") around the phrase to search for the exact phrase.

The ACM Digital Library is the full-text repository of papers from publications that have been published, co-published, or co-marketed by ACM and other publishers.

The Guide is a collection of bibliographic citations and abstracts of works published by ACM and other publishers. Citations for all ACM published works are included in the Guide as a small subset of the total bibliographic space.

Activate your search by clicking on the button.
1.2 Advanced Search

On the Advanced Search screen, use the fields provided to conduct your search based on specific criteria, such as a key word or phrase, author, ISBN or ISSN.

Customize your search by specifying the month and year the item was published; item type; or ACM Computing Classification System (CCS) term. You can use these fields separately or combine them.

Activate your search by clicking on the button.
1.2.1 The ACM Computing Classification System (CCS)

ACM’s Computing Classification System (CCS) is a hierarchically structured subject classification for computer science and information technology. It is structured in four levels: three outer levels that are coded by capital letters and numbers, and an uncoded fourth level consisting of subject descriptors.

By choosing the now current version (the "1998 system") you can proceed to the top level of the system and start to navigate through its structure.
With the exception of the top level, each category has two standard subcategories: “General”, coded with a "o", and "Miscellaneous", coded with an "m".

Navigating through the CCS’s structure is very straightforward and easy.

On every sub-level you can click on the icon to get a list of results with documents related to the chosen subject.
1.3 Browse the Digital Library

You can browse the Digital Library categories of journals, magazines, transactions, proceedings, newsletters, publications by affiliated organizations, special interest groups (SIGs), and ACM oral history interviews.
1.3.1 Example: Browse in "Proceedings"

You get an alphabetical list of all ACM proceedings. You can either search further in all proceedings or go to specific series within the list by clicking on the links.

1.4 Guided Navigation

The ACM Digital Library provides a Guided Navigation for new users. New search technology has dramatically enhanced the search facility and enabled a much richer Guided Navigation experience of ACM (and other publishers') content. Users can discover new information and relationships within ACM's massive bibliographic database and digital collection thanks to being able to prioritise their choices, apply structured metadata to content, and benefit from more sophisticated browsing and faceted navigation facilities.

For more details please click here.

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2 Search Results

2.1 List of Results

The results can be sorted by the following criteria: relevance, title, publication, publication date, publisher, citation count, and downloads in the last 6 or 12 weeks.

You can further refine your search results by using additional keywords or by several criteria listed under headings like "People", "Publications" and "Conferences".

There is also the option of saving the results to a Binder, but to use this function you must be a registered member of the ACM. For further information on this subject please refer to the ACM main page.

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2.2 Full Title Display

The full text of the title is provided as a .pdf file by clicking on the icon. Besides the abstract and the list of references, the full title display also contains information about the source, authors and publisher, the bibliometrics and other useful information.

Further functions are listed under "Tools and Actions". With the "DOI Bookmark" function (Digital Object Identifier) you can also bookmark a specific title.

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FAQs

On the ACM Digital Library entry page you can also find a link to the Frequently Asked Questions page which contains lots of additional information about ACM and the use of its Digital Library.

Thank You!

Thank you very much for your interest in the ACM Digital Library. Please contact us if you have any further questions about using the library.