

# Search Tips

## for the ASTM Digital Library

Comprehensive Collection of All Special Technical Publications (STPs), Manuals, and Journals Published by ASTM International

[www.astm.org/digitallibrary](http://www.astm.org/digitallibrary)

The screenshot shows the 'Search Library By Keyword' interface. It includes a search input field, a dropdown menu set to 'Entire Library', a 'Full Text Search' dropdown, a 'Search Tips' link, a 'Sort Order' dropdown set to 'Relevance', and a 'Date Range' dropdown set to '1930 through 2008'. There are 'submit' and 'reset' buttons at the bottom.

### Basic Search of the Entire DL

- > Enter a keyword for phrase
- > Click submit
- > Search results will list all papers in the Digital Library containing that keyword or phrase
- > Click through to the paper

### Search a Specific Publication Type

- > Enter a keyword or phrase
- > Select STPs, Journals or Manuals from the dropdown box
- > Click submit
- > Search results will list all papers from that publication type containing that keyword or phrase
- > Click through to the paper

The screenshot shows the 'Search Library By Keyword' interface with the 'Entire Library' dropdown menu open, displaying options for 'Entire Library', 'STPs', 'Journals', and 'Manuals'. The 'Date Range' is set to '1930 through 2008'.

### Search by Specific Type

- > Enter a keyword or phrase
- > Select STPs, Journals or Manuals or leave blank to search all publications
- > Select the field to be searched only, for example, highlighting Title will search only on Titles
- > For example, Search corrosion (keyword), in STPs, by Title, will list all STPs papers that have corrosion in the Title
- > Click through to the paper

The screenshot shows the 'Search Library By Keyword' interface with the 'Sort Order' dropdown menu open, displaying options for 'Relevance', 'Newest First', and 'Earliest First'. The 'Date Range' is set to '1930 through 2008'.

### Relevance

- > Select Newest or Earliest for how you want the search results to appear

The screenshot shows the 'Search Library By Keyword' interface with the 'Date Range' dropdown menu open, displaying a list of years from 1940 to 2008. The 'Sort Order' is set to 'Relevance'.

### Date Range

- > Limit your search by year dates

### Browse or Specialty Searches

- > The browse or specialty searches allow you to view all publications on that topic.
- > Select one of these searches
- > Choose field from dropdown menu
- > Click Go

The screenshot shows the 'Browse by Topic' interface with a dropdown menu open, displaying options for 'Iron and Steel Products', 'Activated Carbon', and 'A01-Steel, Stainless Steel and Related Alloys'. There are 'Go' buttons next to each option.

# Advanced Search Tips

[www.astm.org/digitallibrary](http://www.astm.org/digitallibrary)

## Abbreviations in the Digital Library

- > Special Technical Publication (STP)
- > Journal of ASTM International (JAI)
- > Journal of Testing and Evaluation (JTE)
- > Geotechnical Testing Journal (GTJ)
- > Journal of Forensic Sciences 1972-2005 (JOFS)
- > Journal of Composites, Technology and Research (JCTR)
- > Journal of Cement, Concrete and Aggregates (CCA)
- > Digital Object Identifier (DOI)

## Automatic “AND” Search

- > By default, the ASTM Digital Library only returns pages that include all of your search terms. There is no need to include “and” between terms. Keep in mind that the order in which the terms are typed will affect the search results. To restrict a search further, just include more terms

## Phrase Search

- > Sometimes you’ll only want results that include an exact phrase. In this case, simply put quotation marks around your search terms. Example: “validity of fuel recycling”

## “OR” Search


- > To find pages that include either of two search terms, add an uppercase OR between the terms. Example: steel OR coal

## “+” Search

- > The ASTM Digital Library ignores common words and characters such as where, the, how, and other digits and letters which slow down your search without improving the results.
- > If a common word is essential to getting the results you want, you can include it by putting a “+” sign in front of it. Be sure to include a space before the “+” sign. For example, here’s how to ensure that the Digital Library includes the “I” in a search for Part I: Part +I

## “-” Search

- > You can focus your search by putting a minus sign (“-”) in front of words you want to avoid. : Be sure to include a space before the minus sign. For example: coal -steel



## Capitalization

- > ASTM Digital Library searches are NOT case sensitive. All letters, regardless of how you type them, will be understood as lower case. For example, searches for **RCRA Waste**, **rcra waste**, and **rCrA wAsTe** will all return the same results.