

Subject catalogues or portals are an excellent starting point for searching the World Wide Web even if you are a seasoned Internet surfer.

They offer many advantages over search engines where success depends on using the correct terminology.

Portals usually permit you to browse through pre-selected, categorized links—some offer keyword searching in addition. They are generally well maintained, new sources are added and “dead” links weeded out regularly. Although it takes time to fully explore them, you often discover unexpected treasures to be stored away for future use. Broad-based collections also allow you to find more narrowly-focused sites.

The Virtual Library <http://www.vlib.org>

The “Virtual Library” is one of the oldest and largest collections of guides to Internet resources maintained by contributors worldwide. Each guide is an independent production, and collec-

tions vary in size and organization. The site covers many topics and leads to several helpful engineering collections. Click on “Alphabetical Listing” at the bottom of the home page.

The Geotechnical Engineering virtual library <http://geotech.civen.okstate.edu/wwwvl/>

This site provides, among other things, a collection called “geotechnical software resources” and a listing of software resources on the Internet, both commercial and non-commercial.

Australasian Virtual Engineering Library <http://avel.edu.au>

This is a great site developed in Australia, covering a variety of engineering topics and services. Click on any of the popular engineering categories for a vast selection of topics.

Edinburgh Engineering Virtual Library <http://www.eevl.ac.uk>

Searching is available at this site. Try searching “construction codes” within the EEVL catalogue only.

Internet Connections for Engineering (ICE) <http://www.englib.cornell.edu/ice>

This site is maintained by the engineering library at Cornell University. All resources in ICE are related to either chemistry, engineering, math, physics or other “hard” sciences.

The Open Directory project <http://dmoz.org>

Similar to the Virtual Library, this site offers a good selection of engineering resources. Click on “science” from the home page and then “technology.”

CISTI Hotlinks <http://www.nrc.ca/zone/cisti>

This is a Canadian site worth noting. Click on “New Hotlinks/Recommended Resources” for book and journal search tools, news groups and list servers, as well as engineering-specific search engines.

*Reference Department of the University
of Toronto's Engineering and Computer
Science Library*



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