**Inspec**

Produced by the Institution of Electrical Engineers, INSPEC is a comprehensive database covering physics, electrical & electronic engineering, computing and control engineering. It contains details of journal articles, conference papers and reports from 1969 onwards.

**Accessing the Database**

1. As the url for access is long, either type Inspec into the library catalogue or find a link in iFind Research under your subject area.
2. You will now need to enter your university username and password. (This is the same as for email and other university services).
3. You will see a message saying Welcome to Ovid Online. Click **Continue**.
4. Inspec will automatically go to the Advanced Search. This is usually the best option for your search.

**Searching**

**Basic**

Identify the key terms contained in your topic and also any alternative terms which describe your subject. Type a word or phrase in the search box. Then click on **Search**. Inspec will automatically match your term to terms in the Inspec thesaurus which you can then select on the next screen. If you wish to bypass this feature, uncheck the Map Term to Subject Heading box which you will see below the search box.

**Wildcards**

Use a truncation symbol (*) to pick up all possible endings, e.g. comput* to pick up computer, computers, computing, etc

**Advanced search tips**

1. It is possible to limit your search to articles in English or published in a particular year. Click **Limits**. Click the English Language box to search only for articles published in English and use the drop down menus next to publication year to choose the years you want to search.
2. You can combine more than one term using **and**, **or** or **not**.

**Narrow** your search by using **and** e.g. disaster **and** Chernobyl
This only finds records which contain both the word disaster and the word Chernobyl

**Broaden** your search by using **or** e.g. disaster **or** accident
This will retrieve records which contain the word disaster, the word accident or both words.

**Exclude** a term from the records you retrieve by using **not** e.g. disaster **not** Chernobyl
This will find records which contain the word disaster but exclude any which mention Chernobyl

**Results Tools**

The Results Tools box at the left of the screen allows you to filter your search results. It will give you a list of the most common subjects, authors and journals so you can choose to view only results which contain the term you select. Click Subjects, Authors or Journals to see the list of terms.

**Displaying Search Results**

1. Search results are displayed (10 at a time) in summary form below the search box. The total number of records found appears at the top of the list. Click **Next** to see more results. Click on **Complete reference** to see more detail (note that Inspec does not include the full text of articles)

2. button will find any online version which is available or link you to our library catalogue to see if we have a print version.

3. You can print, e-mail or export records to packages such as Word or EndNote using the buttons at the top of the result list. You can also use **My Projects** to store your results – you will be asked to create a username and password.

**Help**

On-line help is available by clicking on Help at the top of the screen.

For further help please contact your subject team. Staff at the Library Desk will find us for you or e-mail scilib@swansea.ac.uk for science students and englib@swansea.ac.uk for engineering students.

**Finishing**

1. Click on **Logoff** (top right of the screen) to finish your INSPEC session.