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DTIC's Scientific and Technical Information Network

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DTIC's Scientific and Technical Information Network

By Nora K. Stoecker

The Defense Technical Information Center - Mission

The Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC) was founded in 1945 to collect and disseminate scientific and technical information for the Department of Defense (DoD) community.

DTIC's Scientific and Technical Information Network (STINET) is now one of the DoD's largest repositories of sci/tech information. It contains over 2 million reports in various formats, with over 30,000 new documents added annually. An estimated 41 percent of the collection has unrestricted access and is available to the public. The database is available to the public at no charge via its website at <http://stinet.dtic.mil/index.html>.

Scope of the Collection

The DoD's research interests are widespread, so in addition to areas normally associated with defense research, information can be found in most, if not all, of the basic sciences, as well as

behavioral and social sciences. For an idea of the breadth of research provided, see the table below for a list of the selected recent reports posted to Public STINET.

The reports and other information contained in STINET come from many sources – DoD military and civilian organizations, DoD contractors, other U.S. government organizations and their contractors, and various other organizations, universities, and even foreign governments.

Public STINET – Technical Reports

Public STINET provides access to citations of unclassified, unlimited distribution technical reports; many of the newer citations have links to full-text files.

The Technical Reports collection uses the Verity search engine, and provides four search options: a one-line "simple search" and fielded "quick", "guided", and "advanced" searches. The "advanced" search option is very powerful though the "guided" search option is powerful

Table : Selected Recent Records from Public STINET

1. Title: The California Central Coast Research Partnership: Building Relationships, Partnerships and Paradigms for University-Industry Research Collaboration. AD Number: ADA439041.
Corporate Author: CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIV SAN LUIS OBISPO.
Personal Author: Opava, Susan C.; Adams, Nikki L.; Alptekin, Sema E.; Arakaki, Dean; Beckett, Deborah M.; Beckett, Jonathon L.; Bensky, Thomas J.; Birdsong, Charles; Chadwell, Charles B.
Report Date: October 14, 2005.
2. Title: Monitoring Cellular Interactions during T Cell Activation at the Single Molecule Level Using Semiconductor Quantum-Dots. AD Number: ADA434965.
Corporate Author: CALIFORNIA UNIV LOS ANGELES DEPT OF CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY.
Personal Author: Weiss, Shimon; Witte, Owen; Bentolila, Laurent; Pinaud, Fabien; Tsay, James; Radu, Caius; Wang, Lili.
Report Date: October 05, 2005.
3. Title: New Transfer Theory Relationships for Signal and Noise Analyses of X-Ray Detectors. AD Number: ADA435763.
Corporate Author: JOHN P ROBARTS RESEARCH INST LONDON (ONTARIO).
Personal Author: Cunningham, Ian A.
Report Date: October 01, 2005.
4. Title: Precedents, Variables, and Options in Planning a U.S. Military Disengagement Strategy From Iraq. AD Number: ADA438874.
Corporate Author: ARMY WAR COLL STRATEGIC STUDIES INST CARLISLE BARRACKS PA
Personal Author: Terrill, W. A.; Crane, Conrad C.
Report Date: October 01, 2005.

enough for most searches, in my opinion. "Search Tips" specific to each option provide additional details.

Each of the fielded search options accepts boolean operators in some or many fields, each enables you to sort results by various fields, and each allows you to restrict results by some form of publication date.

Unfortunately, records cannot be ordered directly from DTIC; if there is no link to the full-text file, they must be ordered through NTIS or some other source. Also, unlike the Department of Energy's Information Bridge, the public version of STINET does not offer the ability to set-up "alerts", nor does it allow for records to be downloaded into Endnote or other bibliographic tools.

Nonetheless, STINET provides a wide range of scientific and technical R&D information. It's a good resource to add to your toolbox.

STINET MultiSearch

The STINET home page provides links to other resources, notably STINET MultiSearch, a "portal to the deep web for scientific and technical information". MultiSearch provides access to 33 databases from the DoD, DOE, EPA, FDA, NASA, NIH, NTIS, NSF, NIST, USDA, USGS, and USPTO, as well as military periodical indices and some public websites. See <http://multisearch.dtic.mil/> (figure).

It's possible to search across any or all of the listed resources by selecting each individually or by checking off the "select all" box at the bottom of the page. There is a "simple search" option only, which does accept Boolean operators (AND; OR). Some databases will accept a wildcard asterisk. Duplicates are not automatically removed from cross-database searches.

The MultiSearch results page offers a nice feature – you can "mark" all or any of the results and then, using the "list marks" option followed by the "display" option, create a single page containing the full records for each citation. Note – some of the source databases will create an error message rather than displaying the full abstract.

Technology Transfer

One of DTIC's primary purposes is to help the DoD community convert existing research into the production of new, relevant, and mature technology for use by warfighters. By providing access to unclassified, unlimited distribution information to the public, DTIC also supports the transfer of scientific and technical information for technology development in the private sector.

References:

DTIC. *DTIC Strategic Plan 2000-2005*. http://www.dtic.mil/dtic/strategic_plan.pdf (accessed 1/16/2006)

Schwalb, Sandy. "The Information Business: a Profile of the Defense Technical Information Center." *Defense AT&L* (July-August 2005). http://www.dau.mil/pubs/dam/07_08_2005/sch_ja05.pdf (accessed 1/16/2006)❖

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