



USGS Publications Warehouse, Transportation Research Information Services, ASIST Digital Library

My two picks are government (and therefore open access) databases: the Publications Warehouse of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the Transportation Research Information Services (TRIS) from the U.S. Department of Transportation. Both are filled with information about topics of increasing importance. The pan is Wiley's disappointing implementation, both in terms of content and software, of the ASIST Digital Library.



the picks

USGS PUBLICATIONS WAREHOUSE

The USGS continues to be on the frontline of digitization. Its satellite maps were published on the Web years before Google Earth, MSN Live Local, or the many other commercial entities (many of which rely heavily on USGS sources) entered the scene. The Publications Warehouse [<http://infotrek.er.usgs.gov/pubs>] is just one of its many valuable digital resources about earthly matters. This past year's catastrophic events, which cost not only billions of dollars, but also hundreds of thousands of lives, while shattering millions of others, highlighted the practical uses of USGS products. Earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods occurred worldwide without respect for individuals or national boundaries. In this context, open access and highly functional searchability of the results of scientific research about natural disasters are particularly precious.

The USGS Publications Warehouse contains information on approximately 68,700 USGS documents. For half of them, the full document is available. Full-text (and image) availability depends greatly on the document genre, even in the same subject category. For example, of the 2,503 Water Data Reports, only 585 are available as full text online, but the ratio is far better for Water Supply Papers—2,953 out of 3,157 are available. Although the A&I records from the GeoRef database of journal articles authored by USGS researchers are no longer available through USGS (in spite of the banner link), 75 percent of the approximately 3,000 items in the Professional Papers series are available in full text, and the rest have bibliographic information and abstracts. (The entire GeoRef database is available through fee-based services, such as CSA, Dialog, EBSCO, OCLC, and Ovid.)

In a physical warehouse you have to pay to get something. In this information warehouse, however, not only are the bibliographic records and abstracts free, 50

percent of the source documents, including high-quality maps and illustrations, are included in their entirety. For example, there are 1,215 records where the word "earthquake" is in the title; 874 of them are available as full-text documents. The same figures for "water quality" (a huge problem; just think drought in Africa and the Western U.S. states, even without highly visible natural disasters) are 2,639 full text out of a total of 3,403.

If geoscientists, engineers, and other scholars can readily access scientific documents, the chances to mitigate the consequences of natural disasters are much better—as long as incompetent federal emergency managers don't get in the way.

TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH INFORMATION SERVICES

As if natural disasters were not enough, there are also many man-made ones. Some target urban transportation systems, where one misguided religious martyr can kill and maim hundreds of innocents. Transportation security has become a huge issue. No wonder that information on 1,307 terrorism-related documents exists in TRIS, in the company of more traditional topics [<http://trisonline.bts.gov>].

TRIS, produced and maintained by the Transportation Research Board (TRB) at the National Academy of Sciences

Title: Review of Policies and Practices for Hurricane Evacuation. 1. Transportation Planning, Preparedness, and Response
Author(s): Welshon, Brian, Urbina, Eba, Wilnot, Chester G., Levitan, Marc
Language: English
Journal Title: *Natural Hazards Review*
Volume: 6 Issue: 3
Publication Date: 08/01/2005
Page(s): pp 129-142
ISSN: 1527-6988
Features: FIOS: 1 TABS: 6 REFS: 39 APPS: 1
Publisher/Corporate Author(s):
 American Society of Civil Engineers
 1801 Alexander Bell Drive
 Reston, VA 20191-4400
 USA
Abstract:
 Although evacuation planning and operations have long been topics of critical significance to the hazards preparedness and response community, only in the past several years have they emerged to become important issues among transportation professionals. The increased level of interest has been the result of several recent high-profile evacuations and the realization that, in the wake of the September 11 terrorist attack, the potential need to rapidly evacuate large populations is perhaps greater than it has ever been. This paper is the first in a two-part series that reviews transportation engineering aspects of hurricane evacuations, addressing policies and practices for transportation system planning, preparedness, and response. (Part II focuses on traffic operations, management, and control.) Results of a survey of state evacuation practices are presented, including command and control strategies, types of evacuations used, and implementation and enforcement criteria. Evacuation modeling methods are reviewed and recent transportation community initiatives are discussed. Although this study focused primarily on issues pertaining to hurricane evacuations, many of the findings are also applicable to multihazard evacuation planning and operations.

Record of a more-than-timely record in TRIS.

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 Earth Explorer
 Ordering USGS Products
 Library Sources for USGS products
 Publications of the USGS (from AGI GeoRef)
 Minerals Periodicals

Search results about earthquakes from USGS.

[<http://www4.nationalacademies.org/trb>], is a database with more than 600,000 bibliographic records about books, journal articles, and conference papers. It is available on Dialog through Ovid at \$60 per hour and \$1.30 per displayed or printed record. While the version hosted by TRB does not have all the power search capabilities of Dialog or Ovid, it has a capable software—and it is entirely open access. The irony is not lost on me that one of the first items that came up as I was browsing the database was the record about an article on policies and procedures for hurricane evacuation published in *Natural Hazards Review* a month before Katrina hit. While there were 40 additional records about documents related to hurricane evacuation as a phrase in the native version, on Dialog there were only 29.

In addition to being open access and having the most current records, another bonus of the native version is that it includes the full text (in PDF and/or HTML), for close to 10,000 documents. This is merely 2 percent, but for current information the rate of full-text availability is better. For example, my tests showed that eight out of the 41 documents published recently had the full text freely available.



the pan

ASIST DIGITAL LIBRARY

The American Society for Information Science and Technology [www.asist.org] is the professional organization for

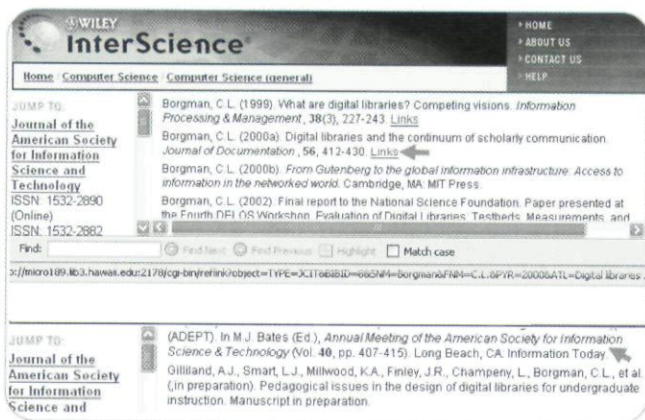
The ASIS&T Digital Library is where you will find ASIS&T publications online. The *Journal of American Society for Information Science (JASIST)*, the *Bulletin*, *Annual Review of Information Science & Technology (ARIST)* can all be accessed electronically in one place. What makes this such a powerful tool is that not only can you search on an individual article or issue, but across all publications, current and past.

Members who selected electronic access* as their *JASIST* option will be able to see full text of all the content. Non-electronic subscribers will be able to search and explore other features, but will only be able to see abstracts of materials (but the *Bulletin* remains free as full text in the DL).

The ASIS&T Digital Library contents include:

- Electronic *JASIST*, 1986 to present.
- *ARIST* Volumes 36 (2002) and 37 (2003), with Volume 38 to be added this year.
- *Bulletin* since 1996
- Annual Meeting *Proceedings* for the 2002 and 2003 Annual Meetings, with 2004 to be added this year.

Minimal digital coverage of three of the four ASIST serials.



Bad links and no links are pervasive in Wiley's archive.



Wiley denies recognition of its own journal.

information scientists (and practitioners). Its Web site did not reflect this until December 2005, when it was finally re-organized. Wiley InterScience now hosts the ASIST Digital Library, which more closely resembles an ASIST Digital Shelf. It seems to be too little, too late for such an important society, which could have—and should have—been the leader in the digital libraries revolution.

The ASIST Digital Library has two of the top-cited periodicals, the *Annual Review of Information Science and Technology* (ARIST, published by Information Today, Inc.), and the *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology* (JASIST, and its predecessor, JASIS). Two other ASIST titles, the *Bulletin of the American Society*, and its *Proceedings*, are also important, although having a much lower impact factor than the former two.

The ASIST Digital Library offers only a fraction of its serial publications' content in digital format for print subscribers. This may not be obvious unless you know that JASIS started in 1970 (if you don't count *American Documentation*),

the *Bulletin* is in its 31st volume, the *Proceedings* in its 41st volume, and *ARIST* has been published for almost 40 years. It is one thing that very early volumes are not available, but why are the 2004 and 2005 volumes of the latter two publications still unavailable when they are digitized at the manuscript phase?

This is a far cry from how the ACM Digital Library handles its own journals and how impressively the Medical Library Association handled the digitization of its *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association*, now titled *Journal of the Medical Library Association*, which are not only available from Vol. 1, No. 1, but are also free for anyone, not only members. (The *Bulletin of ASIST* remained free after transferring the content from the earlier www.asis.org site in the redesign of the association's Web site, but only the issues from 1996 are now available.)

Beyond the content, there are also software shortcomings in Wiley's implementation. The most serious is the inappropriate link and match technology. Wiley uses query URLs instead of Digital Object Identifiers, and often the links don't go anywhere. The cited articles in the accompanying screen shot show two articles published in *Information Processing & Management* and *Journal of Documentation*. Both have a simple and valid DOI, but the links do not use them. Instead, they hide a query URL as can be seen in the bottom of the screen.

Maybe Wiley stayed away from DOIs because many of the Wiley DOIs are antisocial. Take this example: 10.1002/(SICI)1097-4571(199001)41:1<27::AID-AS13>3.0.CO;2-I. With all the special characters (which are allowed but should not have been by the DOI standard), Wiley got a lot of complaints from those who wanted to link to a Wiley journal. On other occasions, the problem is not providing any link. Wiley does not provide the link to an available conference paper in one of the two volumes of the *ASIST Proceedings*.

Wiley seems to be so confused and insecure in its new citation tracking feature that in listing some of the citing references to a JASIS article, it classifies the citing JASIS article as published by another publisher. Would a mother refer to her own child as some other mother's offspring? Once again, this is not an isolated problem. You will find it everywhere, as articles frequently get the most citations from the very same journal in which they were published.

There are many other inconvenient and irritating deficiencies in Wiley's implementation, which uses the capable Verity software. The above-mentioned types of mistakes are particularly embarrassing for the ASIST Digital Library, which has many articles about citation indexing and analysis, as well as link analysis. This is certainly not the way to do it.

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