

ANSI Standards: Creating a Local, Searchable Database: An Addenda

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Introduction

This short addenda to *ANSI Standards: Creating a Local, Searchable Database* is to bring readers up to date on the use of the ANSI Database in the ISU Library's current electronic environment since the article published in 2005 (Dowell) outlining the "history behind and steps taken to inventory and build search/edit modules for a database containing the Iowa State University Library's extensive collection of American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standards" (p.29).

The search engine originally used to find the Library's collection of standards was separate from the front end search, making user education about the existence of ANSI standards and the search engine more difficult. The purchase of Quick Search by Primo by ExLibris allowed the Library to provide coverage of the ANSI Standard collection through the main search engine. "Quick Search is a simple search box that retrieves results from several different sources simultaneously. Results may include books, CDs, DVDs, journals, magazines, and web pages, as well as full-text articles from Quick Search Articles." (Primo) The following update explains what has been achieved and what has changed over the past 15 years of using and searching the ANSI Standards Database.

Upgrades to the database and collection

Over the course of two years, an extensive project was undertaken to clean up records in the database and the collection. Of the approximately 18,500 records mentioned in the 2005 article (p.30), we have

reduced the database to approximately 11,000 records. In the process of this extensive effort, we accomplished the following:

- Identified duplicate records and combined them into one record
- Added ISBN and ISSN numbers to records when provided by the publishers
- Added extensive cross references to electronic equivalents and related titles
- Expanded Developer codes so the user could find other standards in the Library collection through links to the developer
- Added Language identification for those standards with English and French or Spanish text with the option to add other languages as they occur
- Expanded information about UL standards and their updates, improving their provenance
- Identified and relocated ISO standards to their own collection
- Identified and relocated standards that were international or from specific countries

The University Library has been acquiring and maintaining its collection of print ANSI standards by way of regular purchases and our *Standards-On-Demand* service, including a small but growing collection of ISO standards. Funding has significantly reduced the number of print standards we acquire; however, we are still active in purchasing on request of local researchers.

Searching Improvements

Individuals searching for standards in our library no longer go to a specialized search engine to find them. Standards within our local database are listed as “Text Resources” in our current search service, known locally as *Quick Search*. If an individual wants to see only standards within our ANSI database, adding the search term “01IASU_ansi” to their search string will result in any and all print standards in

our collection. For example, “wind AND 01IASU_ansi” will show only standards with the word “wind” anywhere in the record. (Figure 1)

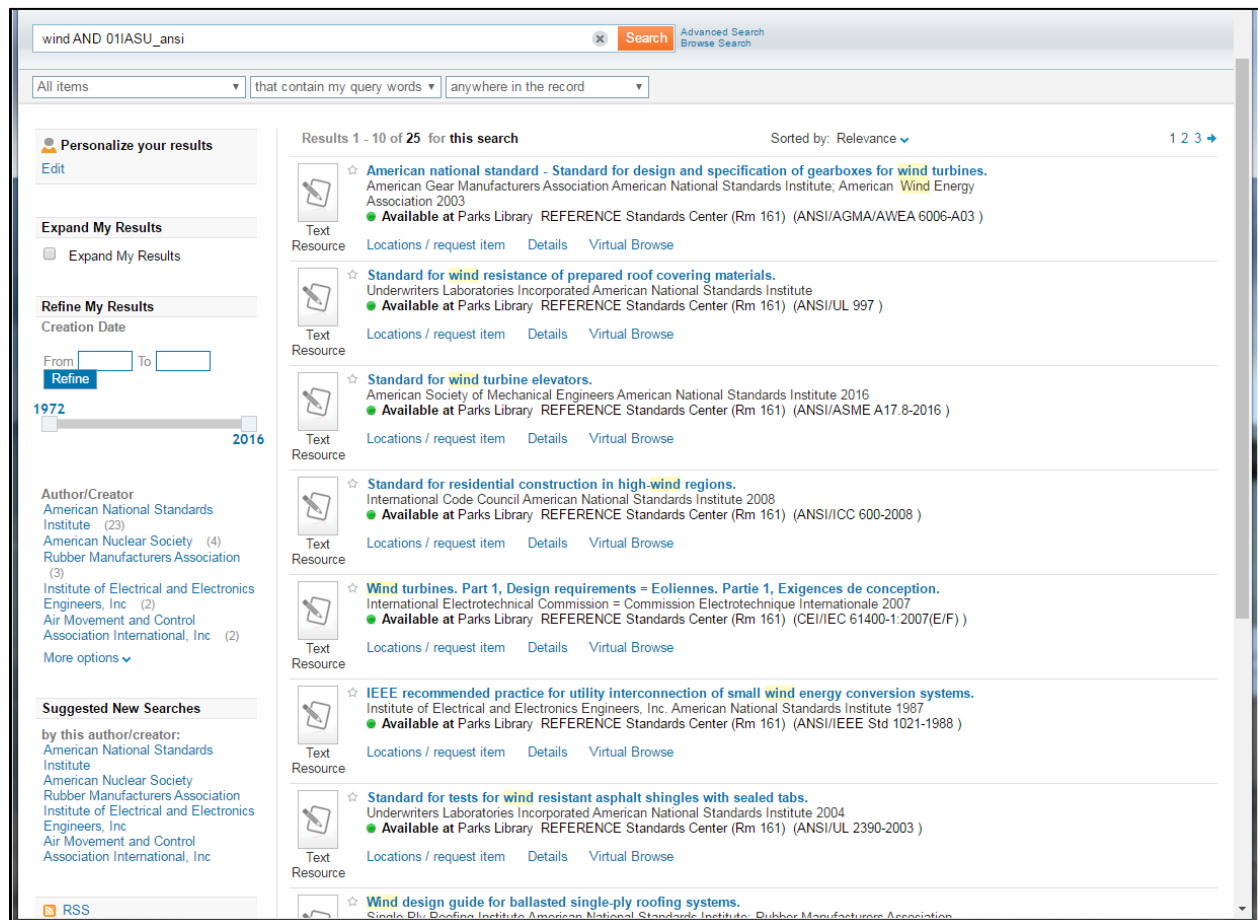


Figure 1: Searching ANSI Records "wind AND 01IASU_ansi"

Other standards

ISO Standards

Because of the increasing requests for ISO Standards, we have separated them from ANSI standards to form their own collection. Some of these items are also ANSI approved, however in the interest of space and similarity of titles, we have pulled them into the ISO collection. The label color is different from ANSI standards to identify it as a separate collection.

Other U.S. and International Standards

Standards that are not ANSI, ISO, or cataloged with a Library of Congress call number are placed in special drawers within the Standards Center after our ISO collection and their records are notated so our patrons can find them more easily. These are titles that have been requested through our On-Demand service and used frequently by researchers at the University.

Conclusion

With upgrades in technology, the ISU Library has been able to aggregate data sources to include local databases, including the ANSI Database. This upgrade has made finding industry standards in our collection much more seamless. Researchers now find relevant standards in their search results without needing to search for them separately or ask for assistance in finding them. The added information within the records also helps locate newer/older titles (especially useful when standard numbers have changed radically between editions) and researchers are referred to specific full-text online databases when appropriate. These new features ensure researchers have a higher success rate at locating the information they need and taken much of the guesswork out of knowing whether or not we have a specific standard.

Bibliography

Dowell, Norma J. "ANSI standards: creating a local, searchable database." *Collection Building* 25.1 (2005): 29-34.

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<<http://www.exlibrisgroup.com/category/SFXOverview>>.

Primo, ExLibris. *Iowa State University Advanced Search*. 2009. 17 April 2017. <http://iowa-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo_library/libweb/action/search.do?mode=Advanced>.

Further Reading, Web Links and Notes

Iowa State University Library. *ANSI Standards Search – ISU Holdings*.

http://db.lib.iastate.edu/elib_pac/ansi_search.jsp from the original article is no longer available since it is now searchable in our Quick Search engine.

Pellack, Lorraine J., "Industry Standards in ARL Libraries: A Survey of Electronic and On-Demand Purchasing." *Collection Building* 24, no. 1 (2005): 20–28.

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NOTE: The Iowa State University Library's collection of American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standards is freely available for use by walk-in patrons of the library. Finding ANSI Standards through the Library's Quick Search is available to allow patrons from within or outside of the ISU community to research what is available in the library collection. Individuals wishing to use the ANSI collection must come to the library to use them.