Finding Conference Proceedings: Verifying a Citation

This screencast video will discuss why you may need to verify a citation from a conference paper or proceeding and resources that can be used to do so.

 [View of PowerPoint Slide]

Why Verify a Citation?

* Is the information you have correct?
* Was the paper/proceeding published?

A conference paper or proceeding citation may need to be verified to ensure that you have the correct information or determine if a paper has been published.

Clues that the citation may not be correct are a lack of matching results or inconsistencies in the year or volumes shown and your citation information.

Also, it’s not uncommon for a conference paper or proceeding to be cited, despite the fact that it was not formally published and may only have been available to conference attendees.

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Where to verify a citation?

* A Proceedings Index
* Conference Papers Index
* Directory of Published Proceedings
* Conference Proceedings Index
* A Subject Specific Database
* E.g. Compendex
* A Publisher or Association Website
* A Search Engine

E.g. Scirus

A search of relevant proceeding indexes, available online through the library, such as the Conference Papers Index, Directory of Published Proceedings, or Conference Proceedings Index can help you determine if the citation information you have is correct and if the paper has been published.

The Conference Papers Index and Directory of Published Proceedings are available under the library’s list of research databases and the Conference Proceedings Index is found within Web of Science.

To reach the Conference Papers Index, the Directory of Published Proceedings, or Web of Science, start from the library homepage @ www.lib.uwaterloo.ca

Then follow the link to Research Databases, sixth from the bottom on the right navigation menu.

Next browse research databases by title, by selecting from the alphabetical list.

Let’s look at the Conference Proceedings Index.

Select “W” from the browse list.

Scroll down the page to WOS.

Select the index by clicking on the title or find out more information about its coverage using the more link to the right.

Keep in mind that not all subject areas or years are covered by these resources.

To search WOS and the conference proceeding indexes for science, social science and the humanities for a citation, enter key title information in to the search box and select title from the drop down menu.

Unlike Primo, in many indexes or databases you will search by the paper and not the proceeding title.

I’ll enter keywords from a conference paper titled “Health Informatics in Canada: a vision for the next millennium”.

To increase the specificity of a search, you can provide additional information such as an author.

In this case the paper’s authors are “Alvarez” and “Zelmer”.

I’ll add “Alvarez” to my search select “author” from the corresponding drop down menu.

Click on the search button to see the results.

There is one result.

To view more detailed information, click on the title.

Here I can verify the citation information I have such as the title, author, and publication details.

I can also confirm that it is a proceedings paper that was presented at MEDINFO ’98 and published as part of a book series titled “Studies in Health Technology and Informatics” by looking at the Conference Information, Document Type, and Source headings.

 [Return to slides at Subject Specific Databases]

If a citation is not found using one of the proceeding indexes, a subject specific database that indexes conference proceedings, such as Compendex in the engineering field, can also be used to try and locate a conference paper.

[Open Compendex main search screen]

This is the search interface for the Compendex database.

The database can be accessed from the Research Databases page on the library website.

A Compendex search can be limited to conference material by limiting the document type.

This is done from the first drop down box under the “Limit By” heading.

Selecting the drop down menu will display conference paper and conference proceeding as the third and fourth options.

[Open new tab with detailed record of a conference article/proceeding]

If you conduct a general search that includes all document types, check the detailed record to see what document type you have retrieved.

The detailed record is accessed by selecting the “detailed” link to the left of the ‘’Get it @Waterloo” icon.

Document type is listed just above the publisher and abstract information.

This result is a conference article.

 [PowerPoint slide]

The publisher of a proceeding or paper may also provide access to the citation and publication information or sometimes even the full text of the item, through its website.

If the citation information cannot be found using these proceedings indexes, another option is to enter important information, such as title keywords and authors, into a search engine.

For example, Scirus is a search engine focused on the sciences.

If you are unable to confirm the citation using any of these methods, there is a strong possibility that it has not been published.

This video has demonstrated the use of online conference proceeding indexes, subject specific databases containing conference citations, publisher or association websites, and search engines to verify correct citation and publication information.

For additional help with finding conference proceedings:

View the other library screencasts developed for this topic

Refer to the Conference Proceeding Library Guide

Contact your Subject Librarian

Use “Ask a Librarian” found on the left navigation menu of the library homepage