



## Engineering Files Quick Comparison

### Inspec<sup>®</sup> (File 2), Ei Compendex<sup>®</sup> (File 8), NTIS: National Technical Information Service (File 6)

	Inspec (File 2)	Ei Compendex (File 8)	NTIS (File 6)
<b>Producer</b>	The Institution of Engineering and Technology (The IET)	Elsevier Engineering Information, Inc.	National Technical Information Service, U.S. Department of Commerce
<b>Coverage</b>	1898–present	1884–present	1964–present
<b>Content</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Astronomy &amp; Astrophysics</li> <li>• Chemistry</li> <li>• Energy &amp; Environment</li> <li>• Engineering &amp; High Technology</li> <li>• Fluid Dynamics</li> <li>• Medicine &amp; Biosciences</li> <li>• Nuclear Physics</li> <li>• Materials Science</li> </ul> <p>Major focus is in physics, electronics, computers and information technology, as well as significant coverage in materials science, oceanography, nuclear engineering, geophysics, biomedical engineering, nanotechnology, and biophysics.</p> <p>Contains bibliographic abstracts and indexing to journal articles, conference proceedings, books, technical reports, standards and dissertations.</p> <p>The 2009 reload resulted in enhanced database design and greater clarity in record output, particularly for scientific and chemical information, with superscripts, subscripts, bold and italics, and an updated thesaurus.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aeronautical &amp; Aerospace</li> <li>• Bioengineering</li> <li>• Chemistry</li> <li>• Electrical Instrumentation</li> <li>• Energy &amp; Environment</li> <li>• Engineering &amp; High Technology</li> <li>• Bioengineering &amp; Medical Equipment</li> <li>• Mechanical Engineering</li> </ul> <p>With 190 engineering disciplines covered from over 55 countries, Ei Compendex is the most comprehensive interdisciplinary literature database available to engineers. The database embraces all the fields of engineering: geological, biological, electrical, electronics and control engineering, civil, chemical, fuel, mechanical, automotive and robotics. It is an indispensable tool for professionals, librarians and researchers.</p> <p>Contains bibliographic abstracts and indexing to more than 5,600 scholarly journals, trade magazines, technical reports, monographs and conference proceedings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agriculture &amp; Nutrition</li> <li>• Biomedical Technology</li> <li>• Chemistry</li> <li>• Energy &amp; Environment</li> <li>• Engineering &amp; High Technology</li> <li>• Law &amp; Government</li> <li>• Medicine &amp; Biosciences</li> <li>• Nuclear Science &amp; Technology</li> </ul> <p>Provides summaries of U.S. government-sponsored research, development and engineering, plus analyses prepared by Federal agencies, their contractors or grantees. It is the means through which unclassified, publicly obtainable, unlimited distribution reports are made available for sale from such agencies as NASA, DOD, DOE, HUD, DOT and more. Also provides access to the results of government-sponsored research and development from countries outside the United States.</p> <p>Print counterparts include <i>Government Reports Announcements &amp; Index</i> and <i>Government Inventions for Licensing</i>.</p>
<b>Updates</b>	Weekly updates. Recent reload of database in May, 2009, in XML format. More than 10 million records as of November, 2008.	Weekly updates. Database reloaded in September, 2008, in XML format. More than 10 million records as of September, 2008.	Weekly updates. Contains over 2 million records as of November, 2008.

	Inspec (File 2)	Ei Compendex (File 8)	NTIS (File 6)
<b>Additional Search Information</b>	<p>Besides the regular indexes, Inspec also provides chemical substance indexing and numerical index terms.</p> <p>Use Explode (!) to include narrower terms. For example: <b>select biomedical imaging!</b></p> <p>Use the online thesaurus to find and check related terms. For example: <b>expand (solar cells)</b></p> <p>Find author affiliations in the Corporate Source field, and RANK the Corporate Source (CS) to uncover organizations involved in research and development of a technology.</p> <p>Search and SORT on the Number of References (NR=).</p>	<p>Several new indexes and other enhancements were added to the file, including Publication Date (PD=) and Publisher (PU=), and a Record Type (RT=) for abstract and citation.</p> <p>The Corporate Source (CS) field includes searchable corresponding authors (AU=).</p> <p>Perform competitive intelligence by RANKing Corporate Source (CS).</p> <p>Use the online thesaurus for products and techniques, for example: <b>expand (prosthetics)</b></p> <p>Use the /MAJ limit to restrict a search to major descriptors.</p>	<p>NTIS covers a vast array of disciplines (with very good coverage of engineering fields) and has material not found elsewhere.</p> <p>Use RANK CS to see which companies are conducting work on an area of interest.</p> <p>Enter <b>help codes 6</b> to see a list of Section Heading (SC=, SH=) codes.</p> <p>Expand sh=nn (where n is a number) to see narrower codes and terms.</p> <p>Search Subject Headings to establish a broad background and then use title and descriptor words for specifics. For example: <b>select sh=85h</b> <b>select traffic(w)management/ti,de</b> <b>select s1 and s2</b></p>
<b>Alerts</b>	Default Alerting frequency is weekly, with weekly, monthly, or biweekly custom scheduled Alerts also available.	Default Alerting frequency is weekly, with weekly, monthly, or biweekly custom scheduled Alerts also available.	Default Alerting frequency is biweekly, with weekly, monthly, or biweekly custom scheduled Alerts also available.
<b>Formats and Pricing</b>	See HELP FORMAT 2, HELP RATES 2 or the online Bluesheet ( <a href="http://library.dialog.com/bluesheets/html/bl0002.html">http://library.dialog.com/bluesheets/html/bl0002.html</a> ).	See HELP FORMAT 8, HELP RATES 8 or the online Bluesheet ( <a href="http://library.dialog.com/bluesheets/html/bl0008.html">http://library.dialog.com/bluesheets/html/bl0008.html</a> ).	See HELP FORMAT 6, HELP RATES 6 or the online Bluesheet ( <a href="http://library.dialog.com/bluesheets/html/bl0006.html">http://library.dialog.com/bluesheets/html/bl0006.html</a> ).

**Notes:**

- To execute a comprehensive search do a multifile search in the three databases together (i.e. **b 2,6,8**), and then remove duplicates.
- Use the thesauri in Files 2 and 8 to locate the controlled vocabulary for your topic. This will make for a more successful retrieval of relevant material. In File 6 search [Subject Headings](#) (SH=, /SH) to establish a broad background area; then restrict to Title and Descriptor words for specifics (/TI, DE). Expand the SH= field to see Subject Heading terms.
- Use database limits, such as /maj to restrict retrieval to the Descriptor term as a major topic in the article (Files 6,8), or /phys or /tech in File 2 to limit to the Physics or Electronics, Computing and Information Technology subfiles.
- When doing a business or medical search, remember that these files can have valuable material outside the realm of strictly engineering subject matter. Information abounds on medical devices, companies for competitive intelligence, educational statistical analysis, and the whole array of product development.
- Digital Object Identifier (DOI) links to publishers are available in Inspec and Ei Compendex, and NTIS provides record links to click and check for PDF fulltext download availability and purchase.

Contact the Dialog Knowledge Center  
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