

Communication Institute for Online Scholarship (CIOS) Search Tips and Database Descriptions

No other electronic resource on the World Wide Web provides more comprehensive coverage of the communication discipline. This database began in 1990, and is continually undergoing live expansions throughout the year. Both older and newer materials are added. This database does not contain the full text of articles. Based on my experiences with this database, the most helpful features include **ComAbstracts** and the **Visual Concept Explorer**.

ComAbstracts:

ComAbstracts is an OpenURL-enabled database of article abstracts, books, bibliographic records, and other sources of relevance to researchers, scholars, and students interested in fields related to human communication studies.

Searching ComAbstracts:

From the Search tab, go to Advanced Search. Use AND to combine your terms, and OR to search for either one or both of your terms. Use the * to search for multiple endings of a word. Synonyms for your keywords are automatically included in your searches (for example, a search for 'YOUTH' will also match 'TEEN' and 'ADOLESCENT').

Browse Index Terms: Through ComAbstracts you can access a thesaurus, which allows you to browse the index terms generated by CIOS.

SEARCH WIZARDS



: Include a series of topics that may be helpful for students, such as Preparing a Research Paper, or Referencing APA or MLA citations.

Visual Concept Explorer:

There are two ways to search the Visual Concept Explorer, you can either link to it from your search in ComAbstracts, by clicking on *Explore*, or by clicking on the link for the Visual Concept Explorer at the top of the page. The Concept Explorer suggests a variety of metaterms, index terms, and keywords to assist researchers in expanding their searches.

From a ComAbstracts record: Click on one of the suggested keywords, this will open a concept web. To add an additional term, type it in as a *New Concept*, or double click on one of the suggested terms. This will open up another window.

Starting in the Concept Explorer: To search using the Concept Explorer, go to New, Concept Analysis, Specify any Concept, Explore.

Starting a search in ComAbstracts from the Explorer: Right click on one of the terms in the web, and select Search.

Open Journals Index:

This is a massive collection of bibliographic information consisting of more than 37,000 references from the primary sources of professional literature in the communication field. The database will search through the indexes of journals to locate articles by particular people or to locate articles that contain particular words or phrases in their titles. Coverage of every title listed is regular and comprehensive.

Keyword Assisted Searches: An attempt by CIOS at subject searching. The list of keywords they have generated is very small and not very helpful. If a student was having difficulty thinking of keywords, you might consider sending them here.

Electronic Journal of Communications: Search through one of the world's first peer reviewed electronically distributed scholarly journals. The journal is full text via CIOS.

ComWeb MegaSearch: Search through a full text index of more than 20,000 web pages from communication (speech, rhetoric, journalism) related web sites.

Hotline Conference Archive: Search through a collection of e-mail notes (over 45,000) that have been exchanged by hotline subscribers over the years.

Idea Monkey: A new resource, that helps students pick a topic to research. Ideas are supplied from a database of questions.

White Pages: The CIOS White Pages are a searchable directory of contact and professional interest information for approximately 4,000 professionals in the communications field.

Created by:

Emily Hart

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