

# Quick Guide to the Polymer Library

## Subject Content and Coverage

The Polymer Library (formerly Rapra Abstracts database) contains bibliographic details, summaries and extensive indexing on plastics, rubbers and polymeric composites covering all aspects of the business and technology of the materials, processes and products. The database covers the period 1972 onwards and contains around 1 million records.

## Access

Go to <http://www.polymerlibrary.com> and select Login and Entrance to database. Enter your User ID and Password if applicable!

## Search Screen

The search screen has a number of boxes in which to type your search.

The **main search query box** allows you to search in any part of the records. If you don't specify a field the following fields are searched: Title, Abstract, Index Terms, Non Polymer Terms, Locations, Trade Names and Copyquest/Accession order numbers. Alternatively you can specify a field e.g. *polystyrene:title* will only find records with the word polystyrene in the title.

Searches can be typed in normal language e.g. *recycling of polyethylene terephthalate bottles* or you can be more precise using Boolean logic e.g. *recycling and ('polyethylene terephthalate' or petp) and bottles*.

The system gives each hit a relevance score and the best records will appear at the top of the summary list unless you opt to display your results in date order. Stemming is used, meaning that the words bottle, recycled etc. have also been used in the search.

The **sub query boxes** allow searching in pre-set fields and further restrict the search statement of the main query box.

Date range allows you to specify the publication year of the documents, e.g. 2006 to 2007 will only provide documents published in 2006 or 2007.

Other sub-windows available are Company name, Trade name, Record type, Language, Author, Document type and Update.

## Summary Display

The summary display shows the Accession number, title, truncated abstract and publication year of the records satisfying your query. It will also state whether the original article is a 'short item' and whether there is a PDF download available. By clicking on the title a full display of abstract and bibliographic information is given.

## Document Delivery

You can order a copyright-cleared photocopy of the full original document, or in some cases download a pdf file of the full text document by clicking on the order button at the top of the abstract.

## Some Quick Tips

### Stemming

The system will automatically stem your results, so typing *recycle* would also find recycled, recycles and recycleable. To override this function see Phrase searching with single quotes.

### Truncation

Wildcards can be used to control the stemming of your search:

\* finds 0 to an infinite number of characters  
e.g. *extru\** will find extruder, extruders, extruded, extrusion etc.

\$ finds 0 or 1 character  
e.g. *bottle\$* will find bottle, bottles, bottled  
*mo\$d* will find mold or mould

? finds exactly one character  
e.g. *bottle?* will find bottled or bottles  
*medic???* will find medicine or medicate

### Phrase searching

'*injection moulding*' will find this exact phrase.  
*rubber adj seal* or *rubber-seal* will find these two words next to each other in this sequence, but also allows some stemming  
*rubber near seal* will find these two words next to each other in any sequence

### Boolean logic

Always use brackets to make the search logic unambiguous.  
*(PP or polypropylene) and moulding* is different from  
*PP or polypropylene and moulding*

### Company/Institution searching

Type the University, Institution or Company name in the Company Name field to find records with a mention of, an author affiliation with, or corporate editorship of a University, Company or Institution.

### Author searching

Type the author name in the Author field, e.g. '*Willoughby B*'

### Detailed Guide to Successful Searching

This free 4 page guide can be downloaded as a PDF from the 'Search Tips' page at [www.polymerlibrary.com](http://www.polymerlibrary.com)