Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals: Basics of Searching

Welcome to the Shore + Moffat Library’s tutorial designed to help you search for articles about architecture and design using the Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals.

The search tools to find articles are databases and indexes, not the library catalogue. Individual articles are not listed in the online catalogue.

I’ve created a series of tutorials to guide you through using the Avery Index, but in this first of the series, the Basics of Searching, you’ll learn how to locate the Avery Index, perform a basic search, save your search results, read a database article record, and locate an article.

Locating the Avery Index

The most direct way to access the Avery Index is from the University of Toronto Libraries’ homepage at http://onesearch.library.utoronto.ca/

Choose the “RESEARCH” tab at the top, hover over “FIND ARTICLES” in the pull-down menu, and click to select “ARTICLE DATABASES & INDEXES”.

Article Databases and Indexes by Title A - Z

The “Article Databases and Indexes by Title A – Z” (http://resource.library.utoronto.ca/a-z/databases.html?source=research) is an alphabetical list of the thousands of databases and indexes available through the University of Toronto Libraries.

Rather than going through this giant list, “SELECT YOUR TOPIC” by opening the pull-down menu, moving down until you see “ARCHITECTURE” and clicking on it, and then clicking on the blue “GO” button. You can use this same method for finding databases in other disciplines.

This (http://resource.library.utoronto.ca/a-z/subject.cfm?subject=7) is the list of all the major articles databases as well as other databases that have architectural content compiled by the faculty librarian responsible for architecture.

Another way to locate databases and indexes on a topic is through Research Guides also created by librarians. Think of Research Guides as your cheat sheet to jumpstarting research on your assignments. To find Research Guides, go back to the main University of Toronto Libraries’ homepage at http://onesearch.library.utoronto.ca/

Research Guides

Your access point for these research guides is this link here titled “RESEARCH GUIDES” on the main landing page for the library website. On the “Welcome to Research Guides page” at http://guides.library.utoronto.ca/researchguides you’ll find a research guide for every broad discipline or subject area taught at the University of Toronto, and an accompanying librarian. Your friendly librarians have also created a variety of research guides on citation, finding images, general research skills, ones for specific courses – so feel free to EXPLORE!

Let’s go to the research guide specifically created for architecture, landscape architecture, and urban design.

Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Urban Design Research Guide

This (http://guides.library.utoronto.ca/architecturelandscapedesign?hs=a) is the research guide for architecture, landscape architecture and urban design. You can see there is the name and contact information for the faculty librarian that serves the John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design. There is also information on how to find books
(http://guides.library.utoronto.ca/architecture/books) and find images (http://guides.library.utoronto.ca/architecture/images), tips for advanced searching (http://guides.library.utoronto.ca/architecture/searching), list of new books (http://www.daniels.utoronto.ca/resources/shore_moffat_library/new_books), recommended encyclopedias under the “REFERENCE” tab (http://guides.library.utoronto.ca/architecture/reference), and recommended databases for finding articles (http://guides.library.utoronto.ca/architecture/articles).

Find Articles Tab

The major index for architecture, the Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals, is a comprehensive guide to both the scholarly and popular literature on architecture, landscape architecture, and design worldwide. It contains citations to articles from more than 700 American, and international journals. The Avery Index is created by the Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library at Columbia University, and the Getty Research Institute. It is updated weekly.

To access Avery, click on the hyperlink http://simplelink.library.utoronto.ca/url.cfm/56123.

If you are using a computer on any of the three University of Toronto campuses, access is immediate. If you are off-campus, you will be prompted to submit your UTorID and password to authenticate your access.

Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals

Avery is that it is an INDEX only database, which means it only has citations to articles rather than the full-text of articles. The majority of journals and periodicals in the fields of architecture, landscape architecture, and urban design are available in print only, although occasionally you will find a link to a journal that is available electronically, but these a few and far between.

With the citation information from Avery you'll need to search the library catalogue to see if one of the University of Toronto libraries has that specific journal title, and you'll need to search for it on the shelf.

Perform a Basic Search

Let’s do a search together for articles about the new design for the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto by Daniel Libeskind. Type in libeskind in first search box, and royal ontario museum in second search box.

Avery doesn’t care about capitalization or punctuation, but spelling errors will give falsely give you back zero results, so do pay attention to your spelling. When researching building projects in the Avery Index, an “ANYWHERE” or keyword searches usually work best.

It is also good practice when using any database or catalogue to enter different keywords or phrases which represent your ideas in their own separate search boxes like I have done. Click on the “SEARCH” button to run the search.

Save your Search Results

We’ve retrieved information about twenty-two articles.

Rather than deciding on a one-on-one basis what articles may be of interest to you, you can check records, and create a selected Items list. Selected records will be highlighted light blue in results list.

Your selected items list will be saved only during your current browsing session unless you create a “My Research” account.

In the interest of saving time I’m not going to create an account right now, so let’s just go to our “Selected Items List” found on the top left.

Selected Items list
One advantage of creating a “Selected Items List”, is that you can execute different searches, and then come back to review all the items you are interested in. To learn more about a specific item, click on the journal article title to open the full item record.

Read a Database Article Record

The title of the article is “Daniel Libeskind: Renaissance ROM...” The article is published in the journal GA Document, in issue ninety-eight, from July of two thousand seven, and can be found on pages twenty-six to forty-three. You’ll need to note down all this information to find the journal record in the catalogue, and then the specific issue on the shelf.

This article was written by the project architect himself, Daniel Libeskind. These are standardized subject headings assigned to article that describe the content of the article.

The “GET IT! UTL” button retrieves your article

Locate an Article

So why are we seeing this Serial Solutions screen instead of the journal article?

If you remember what I said earlier, the Avery Index is not a full text database. It provides only citations to articles because the vast majority of architecture journals and periodicals are NOT available electronically. You need to search for the journal in print, noting that databases tell you what is out there in the world, not necessarily only what the University of Toronto Libraries system has.

Rather than running a “JOURNAL TITLE” search in the catalogue to find if, or which University of Toronto library has GA Document, Serial Solutions, which links between databases the University of Toronto Libraries subscribes to and the catalogue interface, can do it for you.

Click on the “SEARCH THE U OF T LIBRARY” link.

Catalogue Results List

Here is the brief view for the catalogue record for GA Document. Always check the full holdings since collections can be incomplete.

Click on the journal title to see the full record.

Catalogue Journal Record

GA Document is held at the Shore + Moffat Architecture, Landscape, and Design Library. It also looks like issue number ninety-eight is available in the library.

Journals are for in-library use only. You cannot check them out of the library, so you will have to scan, or photocopy the article you need when you visit in-person. Journals at the Shore + Moffat Library, unlike books, are shelved alphabetically by title, so you do not need to note the call number.

Need More Help?

If you have any questions, or need more help using the Avery Index, check out the Shore + Moffat Library’s tutorial page on the Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Urban Design Research Guide (http://guides.library.utoronto.ca/architecture/tutorials), or send me an email message at library@daniels.utoronto.ca, or come see us in person at the Shore + Moffat Library.

Be sure to check out the next video tutorial in the series. It will teach you advanced search techniques using the Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals.