



BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

Pathfinder

Your guide to finding information on Building Construction topics in the PTC Library

Finding Books

Begin your research by locating books with general information about your topic. Check the library's catalog to find books.

How to Do a Basic Search

Visit the Library Web site at <http://www.ptc.edu/library> and click on the **Library Catalog** link. Begin your search on the **Basic Search** page. Here, you can do different types of searches and access all types of information.

1. To begin, type a term in the search box.
2. To narrow a search, select one of the following options before clicking the **Search** button:
 - Keyword (word or phrase)
 - Author
 - Title
 - Subject
 - Series
 - Periodical title
3. Select a library to search in the **Library** box, or select **Piedmont Technical College Libraries** to include all branches in the search.
4. Select **PTC Libraries and E_RESOURCES** to search for electronic books in addition to print books.

Remember to write down the whole call number!

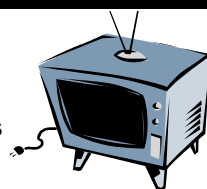
DVDs & Videos

The Library loans most of its DVDs and VHS tapes to students; those that may not be loaned are clearly marked.

Students may borrow up to 2 of these items at a time and keep them for one week.

DVD/VHS players are available for use in the Library's Viewing Rooms and at the Laurens County Higher Education Center's LRC on a first come, first served basis.

To find DVDs or Videos:



- Use the Power Search option in the library catalog.
- Select either *DVD* or *VHS Video* format before submitting your search.

Evaluating Web Sites

It is easy for someone with even a little knowledge about Web sites to post information to the Internet; and some sites are not well-maintained with current information. It is no surprise, therefore, that the sites that you come across will often contain inaccurate or out-dated facts.

Guard against misinformation by considering each of the following before using an online source:

- Does the Web address indicate that the site is commercial (.com), government (.gov), educational (.edu), or other?
- Have I heard of the people who offer this site?
- Am I expected to do, believe, or buy something?
- Is the source current?
- Is the information professionally presented?
- Does the provider acknowledge his sources?

If you are still in doubt after thinking about these points, then find other sources that back up what the site is saying.

Keywords

Use a variety of terms when searching for books, articles, e-books or Internet sites:

Architecture
 Blueprints
 Building
 Building Construction
 Building Laws
 Building Trades
 Carpentry
 Commercial Buildings
 Construction Industry
 Contractors
 Drafting
 Drawings
 Dwellings
 Estimates
 Framing
 House Construction
 Management
 Masonry
 Materials
 Modular Construction
 Prefabricated Houses
 Specifications
 Structural
 Subcontracting
 Terminology

Online Databases

Search our databases at <http://www.ptc.edu/library> for full text articles as well as details about print articles.

Academic Search Premiere. Outperforms other PTC databases; covers many topics.

Business Source Premiere. Business articles related to construction.

Military & Government Collection. Issues concerning government and military, including construction.

Regional Business News. Business articles about issues impacting specific areas of the country.

Business & Company Resource Center. Research a company or industry. Look for employers or construction related trends.

Custom Newspapers. Find national and state newspapers articles dealing with your topic.

Expanded Academic ASAP. Offers information on a more academic or scholarly level.

General Business File ASAP. Search for articles on the business issues tied to the construction industry.

Legaltrac. Research legal news related to construction.

Newsbank. Search for newspaper articles; includes *The State* and *Greenville News*.

Access these databases from home with passwords displayed in the PTC Pathway portal!

Good Web Sites

National Association of Home Builders
<http://www.nahb.org>
 National trade association tied to the residential construction industry. Offers news, suppliers, learning opportunities, etc.

AEC Job Bank
<http://www.aecjobbank.com>
 Helps to match employees with employers in the architectural, engineering and construction industries.

South Carolina Building Codes Council
<http://www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/bcc>
 Information for South Carolina builders and inspectors.

South Carolina Building Associations
<http://www.contractorfind.com/assoc/sc.htm>
 Contact information for local builders' groups.



Magazines & Journals

Magazines and journals that are likely to print articles about building-related topics include:

- Architectural Record
- Better Homes and Gardens
- Country Home
- E: The Environmental Magazine
- EC&M
- Family Handyman
- Mother Earth News
- Southern Living
- This Old House
- Woodworker's Journal
- Workbench

Don't forget to also search the library's online article databases!

Current magazines and journal issues are kept in the sitting area near the large windows. Older issues are housed on the short shelves at the back of the library.

Checklist

Have you done all that you can do to find information on your topic?

- ___ Encyclopedias
- ___ Books
- ___ DVDs
- ___ Video Tapes
- ___ E-Books
- ___ Online Databases
- ___ Print Magazines and Journals
- ___ Newspapers
- ___ Vertical File (Pamphlets)
- ___ Web Sites
- ___ Interviews

