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Prepped for Departure: Sources of Information for Aviators

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FORUM***PREPPED FOR DEPARTURE: SOURCES OF INFORMATION FOR AVIATORS***

Heidi Blackburn

While some may joke the only information a pilot needs to know is which way is up and which way is down, the information needs of the aviator are easily equal to the most advanced scholar, doctor, or lawyer. Much has been written about communication between pilots, crew, and air traffic control but little has been written about information needs once the pilot is on the ground. Professional organizations, government entities, and corporate vendors have a wealth of information to share with aviators, just as in any other professional field and keeping up with a highly evolving industry is important through product reviews, news briefs, and government regulation updates. Pilots may obtain information from six general categories; (a) publishers; (b) textbooks, handbooks and manuals; (c) scholarly journals; (d) databases and indexes; (e) websites and listservs; and (c) air shows and conferences. With a variety of information sources to choose from, making it simple for aviation instructors and students to find the resources they need to produce scholarship is important, especially since most of the information they are familiar with come from online sources. Subject guides offering links to government and professional websites, as well as professional journals, bridge the information gap from trade magazines to scholarly sources for aviation professors and students. Academic librarians often create such subject guides as quick starting points as a way to align the pilot with the research runway before he takes off, so to speak. Heidi Blackburn, undergraduate services librarian, prepared the following aviation resources guide with the consultation services of Capt. Mitchell Edwards, Civil Air Patrol, Air Force Auxiliary and Thomas Karcz, Assistant Professor, Department of Aviation, Kansas State University.

Library Databases**LexisNexis Academic** (Citations, Abstracts, and Full-Text)

Lexis/Nexis Academic is a full-text database focusing primarily on business, legal and news resources. Included in the database are law reports, company filings, journal and newspaper articles, broadcast transcripts, etc.

ProQuest Research Library (Citations, Abstracts, and Full-Text)

This is a good starting point for finding journal articles on almost any topic. Over 150 academic subject areas are covered, and many articles are full-text. Searches can be limited to scholarly, peer-reviewed journals.

Expanded Academic ASAP (Citations, Abstracts & Full-Text)

Includes many American Chemical Society journal references with abstracts. Keyword searching is recommended.

ABI/INFORM Trade & Industry (Full-Text)

Provides full text documents, as well as scholarly journals

including peer reviewed. Subject areas are: Accounting & Tax, Business/Dateline, Business/Global and Business/Trade & Industry. Enter subject, select one of four databases and go to search. Currency includes 7 days to one year. Also includes area for specific dates.

OneFile (Citations, Abstracts, and Full-Text)

A one-stop source for news and periodical articles on a wide range of topics: business, computers, current events, economics, education, environmental issues, law, politics, science, social sciences, technology, and many general interest topics.

IEEE Electronic Library Online (Citations, Abstracts and Full-Text)

Contains full-text of journal articles, conference papers, and technical standards from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and Institution of Electrical Engineers (IEE).

Prepped for Departure

Compendex (Citations and Abstracts)

The electronic version of Engineering Index, Compendex is the most comprehensive bibliographic database of engineering research available today, containing over eight million references and abstracts taken from over 5,000 engineering journals, conferences and technical reports dating back to 1969.

Internet Databases

Air University Library Index to Military Periodicals (AULIMP)

The Air University Library's Index to Military Periodicals provides citations and abstracts to articles, news items, and editorials from military and aeronautical periodicals covering all branches of the military. A few links are provided to full-text.

Department of Transportation Digital Special Collections

The DOT library has digitized numerous collections relating to airlines, trains, and other modes of transportation.

TRIS Online: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

TRIS Online provides access to almost 450,000 records of published transportation research. Over 470 serial publications are regularly indexed and abstracted for the database, and TRIS also provides links to over 9,000 full text public-domain documents.

National Technical Information Service (NTIS)

NTIS Database is the preeminent resource for accessing the latest research sponsored by the United States and select foreign governments.

ATA SmartBrief Newsletters

This website gives brief subject paragraphs on news that affect aviation, specifically commercial aviation. These paragraphs have links that can send you to the specific newspaper article. User must sign up to have newsletter delivered via email.

Web Resources

Airplane Manufacturers

Airbus

Boeing Company

Bombardier Aerospace

Cirrus aircraft

Cessna Aircraft Company

Diamond Aircraft

Embraer

Grob Aircraft Company

Mooney Airplane Company

Piper Aircraft

Flight Planning

NavMonster

FltPlan

AOPA Flight Plan

AC-U-KWIK

AirNav

CSC DUATS

DTC DUAT

Aviation Weather

AFSS

Pilot Brief

Aviation Digital Data Service (ADDS)

NOAA Aviation Weather Center

Aviation/Aeronautics/Aerospace Jobs

Aerospace Online

AeroIndustryJobs

Avjobs.com

Aviation News

Aviation Now

<http://www.aviationnow.com/avnow/>

AVweb

<http://www.avweb.com/>

Aviation Week

<http://www.aviationweek.com/avnow/>

Aviation Today

<http://www.aviationtoday.com/>

Aviation International News

<http://www.ainonline.com/index.html>

Aviation News

<http://www.aviationnews.net/index.html>

FAA News

<http://www.faa.gov/news/>

Landings

<http://www.landings.com/>

Plane News

<http://www.planenews.com/>

Aviation/Aeronautics Organizations and Associations

Regulatory and other government agencies:

CAAC (Civil Aviation Authority China)

Eurocontrol (European ATC)

FAA (Federal Aviation Administration)

JAA (European Joint Aviation Authorities)

NTSB (National Transportation Safety Board)

NWS (National Weather Service)

National and International Organizations:

AABI (Aviation Accreditation Board International)

AIAA (American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics)

ALPA (Air Line Pilots Association)

AOPA (Aircraft Owner Pilot Association)

ASF (AOPA's Air Safety Foundation)

ATA (Air Transport Association)

CJP (Citation Jet Pilots) Owner Pilot Association

EAA (Experimental Aircraft Association)

HAI (Helicopter Association International)

IAC (International Aerobatic Club)

IATA (International Air Transport Association)

ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization)

NAFI (National Association of Flight Instructors)

UAA (University Aviation Association)

WAI (Women in Aviation International)

Search Tips

1. Define exactly what you are searching for before beginning.

2. Select the keywords in your topic.

3. Be specific when determining keywords and terms to search.

4. Use the advanced interface of electronic databases and Internet search engines to help narrow your search.

5. Take notes during your research to keep track of where you have been, keywords searched, what worked and what did not.

Evaluation Checklist

Credibility	Is an author listed? What are the author's credentials? Does the author provide contact information? Has the author taken care to check for misspelling, poor grammar, etc.?
Accuracy	Is the date of the site current? Is the information complete and not too vague? Does the author acknowledge all views?
Reasonableness	Is the author fair and objective? Is the author concerned with the truth?
Support	Are the sources listed? Are there other resources with similar information?

Robert Harris, <http://www.virtualsalt.com/evalu8it.htm>

Prepped for Departure

Example Terminology

Civilian/Database Term	Pilot/Aviation Term
Air Pilots, Aviators	Pilots
Stewardess	Flight Attendant, Crew
Airplane parking lot	Ramp
Jet Lag	Aviation Medicine, Human Factors
Guidance Computer	Auto pilot
Landing strip	Runway
Map	Sectionals
Plane	Flight deck, Cockpit
Tower	Air Traffic Control Facility
Bow	Aircraft nose
Wheels	Landing gear
Street	Taxiway
Garage	Hangar
Ice Scraper	De-Ice equipment
Face mask	Oxygen mask
Pressure suit	G-Suit
Private/Private Aviation	General Aviation
Flight Show	Air Show
Pilot	Captain
Rough weather	Turbulence
Unmanned Arial Systems	UAS
Unmanned Arial Vehicle	UAV
Federal Aviation Administration	FAA
Federal Aviation Regulations/Aeronautical Information Manual	FAR/AIM
Push	Thrust
Falling	Stall
Rear wheel airplane	Tail Dragger
Tail	Empanage
Hood, engine cover	Nacell
Tail Fin	Vertical Stabilizer

Civilian/Database terminology collected from *ProQuest*, *LexisNexis Academic*, *ABI/INFORM*, and *Expanded Academic ASAP* databases (2011).

Heidi Blackburn holds a Masters of Library Science, and is a third-year Ph.D. student at the School of Library and Information Management at Emporia State University. She currently serves as the undergraduate services librarian for Kansas State University – Salina, where she teaches information literacy and research skills to students and faculty in the professional pilot, aviation maintenance, avionics and unmanned aerial systems programs. She served as a faculty representative for the Kansas State University Honor and Integrity Council, and as a member of the advisory board for Kappa Sigma Alpha. She recently received the Beginning Professional Award from the College and University Library Section of the Kansas Library Association.