Construction Information Service

Practitioner Databases: Purpose

- Construction Information Service (CIS) is an example of a practitioner service
  - Designed by and for industry practitioners
    - Contrast this with the function of our academic, scholarly journal databases
  - Professional practice
    - The discovery and application of all relevant laws and regulations pertaining to the built environment
- Other practitioner databases relevant to architecture and the built environment:
  - Barbour Information Service: health and safety guides and professional documentation (model policies, employment forms, etc.)
  - Occupational Health and Safety Information Service (OHSIS): guidance on the application of workplace health and safety legislation
  - Building Cost Information Service (BCIS) produced by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)
  - isurv: RICS’ practical guidance on built environment projects, from town planning and building maintenance to professional conduct
CIS: Coverage

- Construction Information Service
  - Contains “key technical information critical to all construction projects”; contributed by hundreds of professional and official sources, from the Advisory Committee for Roofwork and the Wood Protection Association to all relevant governmental departments and agencies. Includes selected:
    - British Standards (BSI)
    - Joint Contracts Tribunal (JCT) standard forms and contracts (SBC, etc.)
    - NBS (National Building Standards) Building Regulations
    - EU directives and UK command papers and legislation
  - We subscribe to three supplements: Building; Civil & Structural; and Sustainability, Environment, Development & Planning
  - Also gives full-text access to selected eBooks and the Architects’ Journal (AJ)
  - Note: Available from on and off campus

Access
Access: The University Portal

The **Construction Information Service** database is accessed via the Portal’s **Library & Computing** tab.

The **A-Z directory of all the University’s databases**

Access: The Directory of Databases

Contains over a hundred entries, covering all the subjects taught by the University. This is where you will access all the practitioner databases (CIS, Barbour, BCIS, isurv, and OHSIS).
Before you can access many of our databases, you will be prompted to authenticate (i.e. to log-in). You do this by inputting your standard network username and password.

You might alternatively see the Portal login screen.

The CIS vendor’s intermediate sub-menu of databases (provides access also to OHSIS). Click on the View Product link.
CIS: Home Page

Offers browse, basic, and advanced search options. Enables you also to create your own account in which to save searches and selected results.

CIS: Search Functions
CIS: Search Options / Search Coverage

Allows you to specify the coverage of your search and review the supplements to which Greenwich does and does not subscribe.

CSI: Browse by Publisher

Over 500 general and specialist publishers, from the Building Research Establishment (BRE) with 1700+ documents to the Zero Carbon Hub with just 30.
Over 600 publication series, from British Standards (BS) to Building Regulations and the Health & Safety Guidance Booklets

Defaults to searching for all terms; alternatively, where relevant, and to improve the precision of your results, specify your term as an Exact Phrase.
CIS: Advanced Search

**Limit your search coverage to a specific field: Author; Title; Abstract, etc.**

Will tend to generate smaller, more accurate result sets

**Define all or part of a search string as a phrase using “quotation marks”**

For British Standards and other series’ document identifiers

CIS: Initial Results Display

**NBS Building Regulations**: “set standards for the design and construction of buildings, primarily to ensure the safety and health for people in or around those buildings, but also for energy conservation and access to and about buildings”

**Specify-it**: component and equipment supplier information for the construction industry

Where relevant, your results list will provide links also to the associated NBS and supplier databases
For some classes of document it is important to know if you are viewing the current version; and whether it supersedes any previous version(s). This is especially important for standards, regulations, and the commentaries upon them.

A descriptive Abstract, and a link to the Downloadable full-text (typically a PDF).

Subjects: A type of Keyword, that you might use to augment your search terms.

Not always as easy to navigate as, say, MyiLibrary eBooks! Use the Search facility to locate words and phrases.
Sign In to MyCIS: a free, additional service that might be beneficial if you are doing a lot of research within this extensive database.
MyCIS: Options

Key functions:
- **Save search** statements for subsequent re-use (especially useful for complex Advanced searches)
- Create multiple **folders** in which to store links to discovered documents;
- Use **Preferences** to control e-mail alerts on the status of folder documents

MyCIS: Saved Searches

The **Save Search** option (works with Basic and Advanced searches). These can subsequently be accessed and re-run as necessary.
Create Folders and add selected documents

MyCIS: Watch / Alerts

As this is a practitioner service, CIS will periodically remove redundant documents (what you save in the Folders are just links to those documents). It may in consequence be necessary to set up the Watch function for one or more folders. This will alert you to any imminent changes in the status of any document. Look for your Projects (Folders) list in the left-hand column.
Help!

The extensive CIS Help Index pages!
Library Staff

For help with identifying relevant databases and constructing efficient and effective searches, please contact your Faculty librarian:

Fraser Nicolaides

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I respond to enthusiasm.

Questions?

A PDF version of this presentation is available at http://libguides.gre.ac.uk/builtenv/inductions