Navigating the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Technical Reports Server (NTRS)

Scope of NTRS

The NTRS offers access to full-text versions of aerospace publications produced by NASA. The types of publications include: conference papers, meeting papers, journal articles, research reports, patents, images, and videos. All content is available free of charge to the general public through the NASA NTRS. The NTRS is maintained by the NASA Scientific and Technical Information Program.

Types of NASA report

Technical memorandums

Scientific and technical memorandums: Scientific and technical findings that are preliminary or of specialized interest, e.g., quick release reports, working papers, and bibliographies that contain minimal annotation. Does not contain extensive analysis.

Technical publications

Reports of completed research or a major significant phase of research that present the results of NASA programs and include intensive data or theoretical analysis. Includes compilations of significant scientific and technical data and information deemed to be of continuing reference value. NASA counterpart of peer-reviewed formal professional papers but has less stringent limitations on manuscripts.

Contractor reports: Scientific and technical findings by NASA-sponsored contractors and grantees.

Conference publications:

Collected papers from scientific and technical conferences, symposia, seminars, or other meetings sponsored or co-sponsored by NASA.

Special publications: Scientific, technical, or historical information from NASA programs, projects, and missions; often concerned with subjects having substantial public interest.

Basic NTRS searching features

Title, author, organization, publication date range, date acquired range, funding numbers, publication type, NASA centers, subject category, report numbers, keywords.

NASA Thesaurus

The NASA thesaurus is a compilation of authorized NASA subject terms used to index and retrieve materials in the STI Repository.

The controlled vocabulary includes aerospace engineering, as well as engineering, physics, the natural sciences (astronomy, astrophysics, and planetary science), Earth sciences, and biological sciences.

Terms are coded in bibliographical records as $2 nasat in the 650_7 field.

The NASA thesaurus contains over 18,400 subject terms, 4,300 definitions, and more than 4,500 USE cross references.

Advanced NTRS searching tips

Negative (-) negates a single word (NOT).

" wraps a number of words to signify a phrase for searching (exact match).

~N after a word signifies edit distance (fuzziness).

N is an integer denoting the allowed edit distance for matching.

~N after a phrase signifies slop amount (specifies how far apart the indexed search terms are in the document to influence relevancy).

"*"N is the maximum number of positions allowed between matching words.

Melanie Medsger, Technical Services Librarian, U.S. Government Publishing Office