

# Seeking Sources?

AISC's Steel Solutions Center has some ideas to help you track down hard-to-find references.

By Jason Ericksen, S.E.

You may be thinking, "OK, this list is great, but where can I find the USS Steel Design Manual? It hasn't been published since 1981!" The first step is to walk around the office and ask the packrats if they have it hidden somewhere. Since the list of resources was compiled by asking consulting engineers what they use, it is possible that someone has what you need.

Past issues of journals can be tricky to find, as well. After checking your company's library, check out the publishing organization's web site to see how they offer their journals. The American Society of Civil Engineers has a subscription service for their many journals, and AISC offers electronic copies of all *Engineering Journal* articles (going back to 1965) to its members for free. Other organizations may not be so generous, but give them a shot. Public libraries and university engineering libraries often have these journals, too. Though they may be covered in a layer of dust, this is a great way to avoid paying for that article you need. There is a search service on the web called Open WorldCat that can help you locate your book or journal and find out which libraries in your area have it. Visit [www.worldcatlibraries.org](http://www.worldcatlibraries.org) to learn about how to use this free and helpful service.

Information on where to find and buy is also readily available on the Internet if you know where to look or if you know how to do a Google search. Web site giants such as eBay, Amazon, and Barnes and Noble can locate new and out-of-print books. There are also some lesser known but excellent sites:

- Linda Hall Library of Science, Engineering, and Technology (books and journals) ([www.lindahall.org](http://www.lindahall.org))
- Powell's Books ([www.powells.com](http://www.powells.com))

→ AddALL Book Search and Price Comparison ([www.addall.com](http://www.addall.com))

→ Ade Books ([www.adebooks.com](http://www.adebooks.com))

And 256 of the 529 listed references can be obtained through AISC and our web site. AISC members already have free access to many of these resources through our ePubs program. This includes all Design Guides, *Engineering Journal* articles, and conference proceedings at [www.aisc.org/epubs](http://www.aisc.org/epubs). Non-member items, and the few items that are not free for members, can usually be obtained at [www.aisc.org/bookstore](http://www.aisc.org/bookstore). *Modern Steel Construction* articles back to 1996 can be viewed at [www.modernsteel.com](http://www.modernsteel.com), and reprints of *Engineering Journal* articles are available from our bookstore or at [www.aisc.org/EJreprints](http://www.aisc.org/EJreprints). If searching the site doesn't give you what you want, you can always contact the AISC Steel Solutions Center at [solutions@aisc.org](mailto:solutions@aisc.org) to help you find what you need from AISC.

The Steel Solutions Center is also developing a web page to help you in your searches that will include all the referenced web sites from the resource list. Look for more information in 2006 about when the site will be launched and where to find it. ★

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