

Indexers of the *ACRS Journal*

Note from the Managing Editor: This journal is now being indexed by Informit in Australia and SafetyLit internationally. We asked both of these organisations to provide an article about themselves, so that our readers have better knowledge of where and how to seek information through these channels.

Feel safer with Informit

by Amy Han, Marketing Assistant, RMIT Publishing

The *Journal of the Australasian College of Road Safety* is one of the leading sources of regional road safety information and research, but it is by no means the only one. Road safety information is available from a wide range of disparate, sometimes hard-to-find sources, and these, along with *JACRS*, are accessible through RMIT Publishing's Informit database service. For December 2010, the most viewed articles about road safety and the source and collection in which they are located are shown in Table 1.

RMIT Publishing, a business unit of RMIT Training Pty Ltd (a wholly owned subsidiary of RMIT University), partners with some of the most authoritative publishers and associations in Australasia to provide centralised access to current and archived research in engineering, health, business and public affairs. Specialising in online research content from Australia, New Zealand and the Asia Pacific region, RMIT Publishing has more than 500 regional partners and millions of users worldwide – from students, educators, academics and industry professionals to the business, government and health sectors.

RMIT Publishing collates and digitises content provided by partners and organises them into its Informit brand of research databases. Informit includes over 70 subject-based Collections (100% full text), Plus Text (a combination of full text, index and abstract data), Media and Index databases.

Road safety: In-depth perspectives

In December last year, a draft National Road Safety Strategy for 2011-2020 was released for public consultation. Upon release, the chairman of the of the Australian Transport Council, John Anderson, said that despite some decrease in road tolls since 2000, the level of yearly carnage on Australian roads was still far too high. While the new strategy aims to combat this, no one expects the toll to decrease dramatically overnight. The reality is, with Australia's vast landscape and urban sprawl only set to spread, road safety will remain in the Australian headlines for the foreseeable future. Consequently, demand for research that sheds new light on road safety debates is on the rise.

Table 1. Most viewed road safety articles in Informit – December 2010

Article title	Source title and Informit subject collection
Cycling injuries in Australia: Road safety's blind spot?	<i>Journal of the Australasian College of Road Safety</i> (Health Collection / Engineering Collection)
Victoria's unique approach to road safety: A history of government regulation	<i>Australian Journal of Politics and History</i> (Australian Public Affairs – Full Text)
Alcohol and the teenage brain: Safest to keep them apart	<i>Journal of the Australasian College of Road Safety</i> (Health Collection / Engineering Collection)
Road use, road safety and civil law in Australia	<i>Legaldate</i> (AGIS Plus Text)
AI Roadlines: Leading the way in line marking and road safety equipment	<i>Highway Engineering in Australia</i> (Engineering Collection)
The influence of occupational driver stress on work-related road safety: An exploratory review	<i>Journal of Occupational Health and Safety Australia and New Zealand</i> (Australian Public Affairs – Full Text)
Driving while disqualified or suspended under s 30 of the Road Safety Act 1986 (VIC): Abolition of the mandatory sentencing provision?	<i>Deakin Law Review</i> (AGIS Plus Text)
Road safety is no accident	<i>Health Promotion Journal of Australia: Official Journal of Australian Association of Health Promotion Professionals</i> (Health Collection)
Victoria's unique approach to road safety: A history of government regulation	<i>Australian Journal of Politics and History</i> (Australian Public Affairs – Full Text)

The screenshot displays the Informit search interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'Search', 'Titles', and 'Databases'. Below this, there are options for 'Sort Results', 'Fields to Display', and 'Records Per Page'. The search results are sorted by 'Newest First'. The search query is: `(road safety) OR (traffic safety) OR (road dangers) OR (pedestrian accidents) OR (road AND safety measures) OR FC=(road safety) OR (traffic safety) OR (road dangers) OR (pedestrian accidents) OR (road AND safety measures)`. The results found are 493. The search results list six articles from the Engineering Collection, including titles like 'Report Finds Barriers in PPP Procurement', 'Road Safety Measures for Mackay Region', 'New Road Safety Auditor Database', 'Brisbane City Council', 'New Heavy Duty L.E.D Strobes from Narva', and 'SafePole Set to Save Lives'. The search interface also includes a search filter panel on the right with options for 'Search', 'Indexes', and 'Thesauri'. The search filter panel has a search query input field, a dropdown menu for 'in' (set to 'Any field'), and several 'OR' search terms: 'traffic safety', 'road dangers', 'pedestrian accidents', and 'road AND safety measures'. There is a checkbox for 'Also Search Full Text of Articles' which is checked. The search filter panel also has a 'Limit To' section with checkboxes for 'Full Text Records Only' and 'Date Range' (set to 1970 to 2010). The search filter panel has a 'Search' button and a 'Clear search' link. The search filter panel also has a 'Recent Results' section with a table showing the search query and the number of records found (493).

Informit Search Interface

Figure 1. Example of a broad road safety search on the Informit database

Informit contains hundreds of clearly indexed articles and reports relating to road safety available as full-text PDFs. The Informit database is divided into a number of separate subject collections. Most of the road safety research can be found in the Engineering Collection and Health Collection, with some also available via the Business Collection, Humanities & Social Sciences Collection, Australian Public Affairs – Full Text, and AGIS Plus Text (Law). Informit enables searching across databases, titles and subjects, tailored according to need.

With respect to road safety, reports, news articles and research papers in Informit cover a wide range of topics: new developments and initiatives, education, public transport, drink driving, road toll, motorcycle safety, statistics, and injury prevention and rehabilitation, to name a few.

Broad searching

To draw out the most results, searchers can use search term variations – for example, ‘(road safety) OR (traffic safety) OR (road dangers) OR (pedestrian accidents) OR (road AND safety measures)’. This search returns over 200 results when searching the Engineering Collection alone. By selecting, ‘Also Search Full Text of Articles’, the results returned increases to nearly 500 articles, as shown in Figure 1.

Narrow searching

There is also the option of searching more narrowly for a specific topic – for example, traffic lane widths in relation to the safety of bicyclists. Here searchers are encouraged to experiment with a variety of terms in order to achieve the best results. As shown in Figure 2, searchers could start with ‘(safety) AND (cyclists) AND (lane)’ across the Informit Health and

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Query	Recs	Database
#1 safety AND cyclists AND lane	8	Engineering Collection

Informit Search Interface

Figure 2. Example of a narrow road safety search on the Informit database

Engineering Collections. Subsequent searches could include '(cyclists) AND (road)', and '(bicycle) AND (lane)'.

Users can stay up to date on the latest content relevant to searches by signing up for email alerts. Informit will save searches, and when new results are added, let the user know.

Searching by medium

With road safety a consistent topic in the broadcast media, the Informit TVNews database can be used to locate, browse and download individual news stories, including reports, documentaries and current affairs, from all Australian free-to-air networks since 2007. For example, a search for 2010 results for '(road accident) OR (road safety) OR (road death) OR (road toll) OR (car crash)' returns more than 300 items. Informit

TVNews is available for education purposes where an organisation holds a Screenrights licence.

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